

Sir Winston Churchill Career Timeline 1901-1965

1901: February 14. Churchill enters the House of Commons.

1904: May 31. Churchill quits the Conservative Party and joins the Liberal Party.

1905: December 9. Churchill is appointed Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, giving him influence in managing Britain's empire.

1906: January 13. Churchill is elected MP for Manchester, Northwest, for the Liberals.

1908: April 12. Churchill is appointed to the cabinet as President of the Board of Trade. He takes a prominent role in enacting social legislation creating trade boards, labour exchanges, and unemployment and sickness insurance. May 9. Churchill is elected Member of Parliament for Dundee, for the Liberals.

1909: November 13. Churchill is attacked by Miss Theresa Garnett, a suffragette, with a dog whip at Bristol railway station due to his stance on Women's Suffrage.

1910: February 14. Churchill is appointed Home Secretary. Churchill incurs great controversy when he sends army troops and Metropolitan police to Tonypandy, Wales, to maintain order during a mining strike. November 18. Black Friday. 300 women march on Downing Street for women's suffrage. Police brutally suppress the march with what was considered to be excess violence.

1911: October 23. Churchill is appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, making him the political head of the Royal Navy. 9 per cent of the total industrial population was involved in strikes of various length, as compared with 2.6 per cent for 1902.

1914: Britain declares war on Germany on August 4, 1914.

1915: February 19. The Royal Navy begins their campaign in Gallipoli, Turkey. May 25. Churchill is dismissed as First Lord of the Admiralty, and blamed for the failure at Gallipoli. November 11. Having been sidelined in his cabinet role Churchill resigns from the government.

1916: January 5. Churchill rejoins the Army and takes command of the 6th Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers in France.

1917: July 17. Churchill leaves the Army. As Minister of Munitions, he pushes forward production of new tanks.

1918: November 11. World War One is ended with an armistice.

1919: January 9. Churchill is appointed Secretary of State for War and Air. Churchill attends the Paris Peace Conference and unsuccessfully presses for greater military intervention in the Russian Civil War against the Communists.

1921: February 13. Churchill is appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies. He is a member of the Cabinet committee that negotiates a treaty with the leaders of the Irish Rebellion.

1922: November 15. Churchill is defeated in the general election at Dundee.

1924: October 29. Churchill is elected as a Member of Parliament for Epping. November 6. He rejoins the Conservative Party and is appointed Chancellor in Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin's government.

1926: May. During the General Strike, Churchill edits the British Gazette, a newspaper published by the government. Churchill was accused of using this position to present a biased version of events against the striking workers.

1927: January 14. Visiting Rome, Churchill meets fascist Italian leader Mussolini. He admires him.

1929: May 30. Although Churchill is re-elected as an MP, the Conservatives lose the election.

1931: January 27. Churchill resigns from the Conservative shadow cabinet over policy for India. He opposes India's calls for independence, calling Gandhi "a seditious Middle Temple lawyer."

1932: He is received at the White House by President Hoover following a lecture tour.

1933: November 7. Churchill warns that Germany has already begun to rearm in the House of Commons. He was one of the few British MPs to raise concerns about Hitler at this time.

1934: March 8. Churchill urges an increased spending on stronger air defences, seeing this new technology as vitally important to British security.

1935: October 29. Germany makes a diplomatic protest to Britain over an article written by Churchill on Hitler that was published in the *Strand*. Entitled 'The truth About Hitler', Churchill wrote "*history will pronounce Hitler either a monster or a hero.*"

1938: October 5. Churchill denounces the Munich Agreement in the House of Commons as "a defeat without a war." The Munich Agreement was an international treaty which allowed Germany to take control of the Sudeten region of Czechoslovakia.

1939: September 1. World War II begins. Britain declares war on Germany on September 3. Churchill appointed the First Lord of the Admiralty.

1940: May 10. Neville Chamberlain resigns and Churchill is appointed Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.. December. Churchill agrees the 'Lend-Lease Agreement' with America, which meant the US would provide essential materials which Britain could pay for after the war was over.

1941: June 22. Germany invades USSR. Britain offers aid to the USSR. August 14. Britain and America sign the Atlantic Charter, an agreement setting out agreed goals for after the war. December 7. Churchill learns of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, Hawaii and speaks with Roosevelt by telephone. Britain now has two major allies in the war.

1942: March. Sir Stafford Cripps is dispatched by Churchill and the cabinet to India to negotiate a constitutional settlement, responding to unrest in India as they demanded independence. August 12. Churchill arrives in Moscow for meetings with Soviet leader Joseph Stalin to discuss war plans.

1943: January 14-24. Churchill and President Roosevelt decide on a policy of “unconditional surrender” for the enemy. November 28-December 1. At the Tehran Conference Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin meet together for the first time to discuss war strategy and post-war Europe. In the British colony of India some 3 million Bengali people die as a result of famine.

1944: June 6. The Normandy landings saw Allied troops advancing into southern and Western Europe for the first time in the war. October 9-19. Moscow Conference with Joseph Stalin, Churchill agrees to ‘zones of influence’ in Eastern Europe, giving Stalin control of several nations after the war.

1945: February 4-11. Churchill attends Yalta Conference with President Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin to plan for the future of Europe post-war. May 8. Churchill announces the end of the war in Europe in the House of Commons. July 17-25. At the Potsdam Conference, Churchill meets with President Harry Truman and Stalin to discuss surrender terms for Japan and post-war boundaries for Europe. July 26. The Conservatives are defeated and Clement Attlee succeeds Churchill as Prime Minister. Churchill is re-elected as a Member of Parliament and becomes Leader of Opposition in the House of Commons.

1946: March 5. Churchill delivers the “Iron Curtain” speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. The speech signified the changing relationship from allies to adversaries between Western democratic countries and the Communist Soviet Union. September 19. After receiving an honorary degree at Zurich University, Switzerland, Churchill delivers a speech urging the creation of a “kind of United States of Europe.”

1951: October 25. Churchill is re-elected as MP for Woodford, becoming Prime Minister again.

1953: April 24. Queen Elizabeth II awards the Knight of the Garter to Churchill.

1955: April 5. At the age of eighty, Churchill resigns as Prime Minister. He declines the offer of a dukedom from Queen Elizabeth II to remain as a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons.

1964: July 27. Churchill attends the House of Commons for the last time. November 30. Churchill makes his last public appearance on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

1965: January 24. On the seventieth anniversary of his father's death, Churchill dies in London. January 27-30. Churchill lies in state at Westminster Hall as 300,000 people file past. January 30. A state funeral for Churchill is held at St. Paul's Cathedral.

