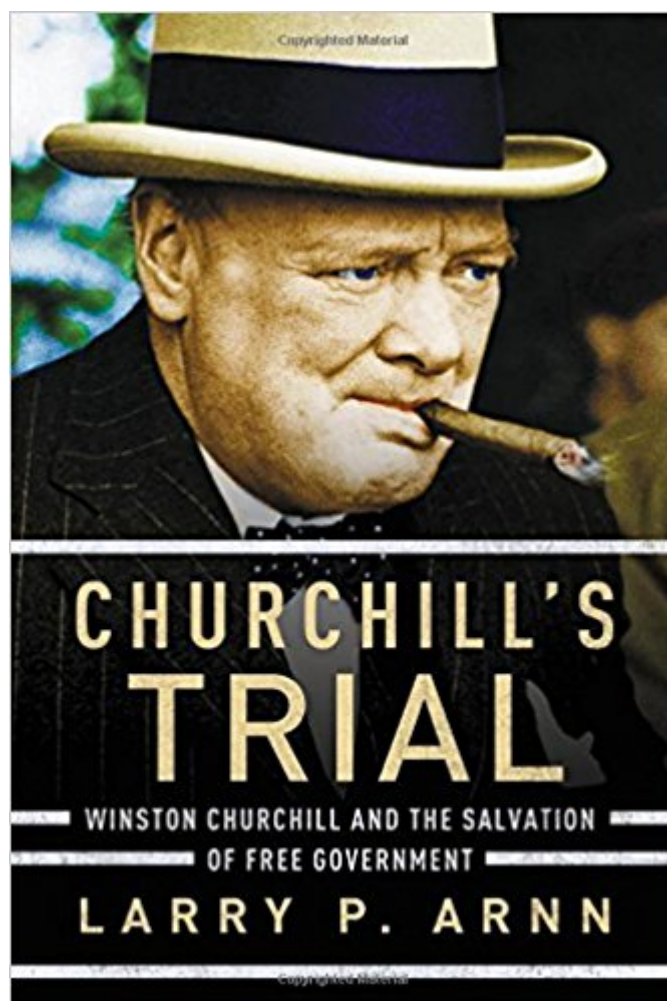


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# Churchill's Trial: Winston Churchill And The Salvation Of Free Government



## Synopsis

No statesman shaped the twentieth century more than Winston Churchill. To know the full Churchill is to understand the combination of boldness and caution, of assertiveness and humility, that defines statesmanship at its best. With fresh perspective and insights based on decades of studying and teaching Churchill, Larry P. Arnn explores the greatest challenges faced by Churchill over the course of his extraordinary career, both in war and peace—and always in the context of Churchill's abiding dedication to constitutionalism. Churchill's Trial is organized around the three great challenges to liberty that Churchill faced: Nazism, Soviet communism, and his own nation's slide toward socialism. Churchill knew that stable free government, long enduring, is rare, and hangs upon the balance of many factors ever at risk. Combining meticulous scholarship with an engrossing narrative arc, this book holds timely lessons for today. Arnn says, "Churchill's trial is also our trial. We have a better chance to meet it because we had in him a true statesman." In a scholarly, timely, and highly erudite way, Larry Arnn puts the case for Winston Churchill continuing to be seen as statesman from whom the modern world can learn important lessons. In an age when social and political morality seems all too often to be in a state of flux, Churchill's Trial reminds us of the enduring power of the concepts of courage, duty, and honor.--Andrew Roberts, New York Times bestselling author of *Napoleon: A Life* and *The Storm of War*—Larry Arnn has spent a lifetime studying the life and accomplishments of Winston Churchill. In his lively Churchill's Trial, Arnn artfully reminds us that Churchill was not just the greatest statesman and war leader of the twentieth century, but also a pragmatic and circumspect thinker whose wisdom resonates on every issue of our times.--Victor Davis Hanson, senior fellow, The Hoover Institution, Stanford University—In absorbing, gracefully written historical and biographical narration, Larry Arnn shows that Churchill, often perceived as inconsistent and opportunistic, was in fact philosophically rigorous and consistent at levels of organization higher and deeper than his detractors are capable of imagining. In Churchill's Trial Arnn has rendered great service not only to an incomparable statesman but to us, for the magnificent currents that carried Churchill through his trials are as admirable, useful, and powerful in our times as they were in his.--Mark Helprin, New York Times bestselling author of *Winter's Tale* and *In Sunlight and in Shadow*—Churchill's Trial, a masterpiece of political philosophy and practical statesmanship, is the one book on Winston Churchill that every undergraduate, every graduate student, every professional historian, and every member of the literate general public should read on this greatest statesman of the twentieth century. The book is beautifully written, divided into three parts—"war, empire, peace"—and thus covers the extraordinary life of Winston Churchill and the topics which define the era of his

statesmanship. --Lewis E. Lehrman, cofounder of the Lincoln and Soldiers Institute at Gettysburg College and distinguished director of the Abraham Lincoln Association

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Larry P. Arnn is the president of Hillsdale College. He has been published widely on issues of public policy, history, and political theory, and is the author of *Liberty and Learning* and *The Founders' Key*. He lives in Hillsdale, MI.

[Note: This book was provided free of charge by BookLook/Thomas Nelson Publishers in exchange for an honest review.] When I saw the chance to review a book about Winston Churchill from Larry Arnn, who I am familiar with from his online lectures for Hillsdale College, I was immediately interested, although I have read at least a few books about Churchill already [1]. This particular book, which does for Winston Churchill what an eminent political philosopher like Harry Jaffa has done for Abraham Lincoln, examines the words and behavior of Winston Churchill with regards to free government. This book, in its eloquent defense of the philosophical consistency of Winston Churchill, who was such a verbose writer that many people have been lost in trying to figure out what he thought about anything, given his tactical inconsistency in favor of a consistent set of ideals that sought for dignity and well-being, for an honorable peace, and for freedom that served the benefit of all. These are not necessarily easy principles to articulate and support, but Churchill's prolific speaking and writing and his passionate and forthright manner of

presentation certainly aided him in his political rhetoric. In terms of its contents, this book is divided somewhat complexly into several parts. After an introductory section that includes a note on style, a justification of the choice of Churchill as a model for analysis, and a comment on the trial that he faced over the course of his life in preserving freedom against both outright tyranny in the form of Communism and Nazism and the more creeping threat provided by socialism, the book is divided into three parts. The first part, with four chapters, looks at Churchill's view of war. This view is suitably complicated, looking at Churchill's experience in the Sudan and South Africa, as well as his elevated kind of strategic interests in World War I and World War II, as well as his concern over the more terrible kind of war fought in the modern world with industrial and nuclear forms of death-dealing. The second part of the book has one chapter that deals with the importance of the British Empire to Churchill's understanding of the British role as a major power in the world, which was in some way dependent on the resources of the Commonwealth. The third part of the book deals with the threats to free government found in peace, including Churchill's resolute opposition to socialism in England, what was meant by his statement that socialism would require some sort of Gestapo, namely in the increase of a nosy and increasingly intrusive bureaucracy, along with his desire for social reforms to ameliorate the conditions of people so that there would be no calls for the dangerous increase in power of authorities that simply cannot be trusted to act properly and with proper restraint. After this the book includes a conclusion that summarizes the contents of the book, a lengthy and appreciative acknowledgements section, as well as three appendices with notable political and philosophical works by Churchill himself: *Fifty Years Hence*, *What Good Is A Constitution*, and *The Sinews Of Peace*. For those people who appreciate the life and example of Winston Churchill, this book does an excellent job in showing the words of Churchill and how they served a political worldview that was hostile both to the domination of society by wealthy aristocrats or businessmen as well as the domination of society by unaccountable technocratic and bureaucratic elites. As an egalitarian scion of the aristocracy who was half-American and who loved both the traditions of the House of Commons as well as promoting modern technological feats like the tank, a patriotic Briton, a man who was courageous in warfare and yet determined to preserve, if at all possible, an honorable peace through strength, Winston Churchill was an immensely complicated man. The fact that he switched parties twice in his career, thought that he was over the hill and past his prime before getting his first opportunity to become Prime Minister during the darkest days of World War II, and who then won his first and only election as an old man after five disastrous years of Labor misrule in Great Britain only makes his career more approachable for those of us who are worried that we too are wasting the productive

years of our lives as backbenchers in obscurity. For as Churchill bemoaned the lack of heroes in his time and became one, perhaps the same may be true for some of us, if we do not grow weary in well-doing, and can endure the years of unjust obscurity that we are faced with.

Sir Winston Churchill is rightly regarded as one of the premier statesmen of the 20th century. His unflinching leadership during the second world war inspired his country during dark times and gained him the admiration of people around the world. The book *Churchill's Trial* takes a look at the career and driving forces behind this leader, from World War II and beyond. The book is divided into three sections which reflect the three major forces that Churchill faced during his career: the war years, the struggle to maintain the British empire, and the rise of socialist policies following the war. Churchill's work during the war is well documented, but I was more interested in reading about his attitudes following the war. Apparently, he believed that the countries in the British Empire would want to stay part of the empire "by principle and sentiment." Surprisingly, countries in the British empire contributed nearly a third of the soldiers and suffered nearly half the casualties of British forces in World War II. Certainly, the point can be made that Britain might not have been on the winning side in the war without the assistance of so many soldiers from the empire. At the same time, Churchill didn't believe that these countries had the ability to govern themselves. While this put him at odds with the United States, he held firm in his belief that Britain could best govern these countries, and that the people were incapable of doing it themselves. He was also of the viewpoint that maintaining order was the most important thing ("harsh laws are sometimes better than no laws at all"). While his viewpoints might seem at odds with modern ideas, the author does believe that British influence had a great impact on the establishment of modern democratic India and that, in the long run, the Indian people as a whole are better off than they might otherwise have been. During Churchill's lifetime, the Labour party was formed and governed Britain. He fought their ideals of nationalization for the rest of his life, even though he was to lose this battle. Churchill believed that Capitalism unequally shared the wealth, but that Socialism was more than happy to spread misery to everyone. He was also concerned that when problems arose in a Socialist society, that leaders would resort to a "Gestapo" to keep order. His opposition to Socialism was so staunch that he refused to work with any Socialists in cabinets or coalitions, except when the stresses of World War II required him to set his principles aside. He was gracious in defeat in 1945 when his party lost to the Labour party, but he was concerned that the British nation was changing in character (for the worse, of course!) due to the hardships caused by the war. At the same time that he opposed Socialism, Churchill did see the need for social and economic reforms, and even

supported some of these reforms. However he disliked the thought of big government and feared that it would not be able to better serve the needs of the people than the systems of rule that had come before. The book ends with some of Churchill's writings and speeches. Overall, the book is an interesting look at a well-known leader that helped to shape modern Britain. Disclaimer: I received a copy of Churchill's Trial from BookLook Bloggers in exchange for this review

This is not just a biography of a great statesman, it is also a history of the efforts of Great Britain to colonize and a study of a current U.S. political issue; that of Socialism which Churchill was strongly opposed to because he saw the failure of the policy wherever it had been tried. a lesson some people in the United States ought to be considering in the current election discussions. But the book is first and foremost a great biography.

A perspective of the life, beliefs, and driving values of Sir Winston Churchill supported by significant documentation. This is more than history it is an assessment of a man who the free world owes undying gratitude. The philosophy of right and wrong developed at a young age that sustain not only himself but the English Speaking world and what sets this segment of society apart from the rest of the world is invaluable to understand. Churchill's assessment of society applies as much, and likely more today, than it did during his lifetime. We must learn from history to prevent repeating the tragic mistakes of the past. Well worth the time and effort to read and spread Churchill's thoughts and actions to today's polarized societies.

WELL written, and such an interesting description of what Churchill was going through while trying to save Europe. Churchill was an interesting character and VERY bright. This gives a wonderful insider's look at what was happening to him before and during WWII. Some of it, you know. Other parts make this a don't miss.

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