

The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill Study Guide

The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill by William Manchester

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Plot Summary

The Last Lion Visions of Glory by William Manchester is a book about Winston Churchill and his family. It is a long but interesting book. The book tells the story of Winston's parents, Randolph and Jennie and what kind of marriage they had. Randolph is in the second stage of syphilis when he marries her. When he cannot touch Jennie any more she keeps company with other men. Randolph is a member of Parliament and holds the position as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Winston is a problem child—he is rebellious and has problems in school. Jennie and Randolph are often absent and he is raised by a nanny.

Winston's academic career is followed. He never expresses much interest in school until he is in military school. He has problems gaining entrance but he succeeds. His military career sends him to India, but he is more active as a news correspondent and spends his frequent leaves working as a reporter at conflicts in various parts of the world. He earns a little money at it. He covers the situation in the Middle East and in South Africa, where he is arrested and escapes from jail. Money is always a problem for the Churchill family.

His interest in politics is due to his father's position in Parliament and government. He loses his first bid for a seat in the House of Commons, but does not lose much after that. He wins his first seat in Oldham. During his career, he switches parties several times and is never afraid to say what he thinks no matter how unpopular. He is stubborn and sometimes difficult for those around him to work with. This is why he is often in trouble with the party leadership. He holds many different cabinet positions and many times loses them. After the loss of one during World War I, he joins his unit at the front in Flanders and lives and fights in the trenches with them. He is popular among his fellow soldiers.

Manchester traces Winston's political career with as much detail as he does his military and news correspondent career. The book has a lot of historical detail and facts which Manchester, an historian, is well qualified to present. He does a good job presenting the historical background of the situations in many of the countries, like South Africa and India. The reader does not have to wonder what he is talking about, because he sets the scenes for the action very well. There are a lot of quoted conversations and excerpts from letters written between Churchill, members of his family and friends and colleagues.

The book is long with many tedious facts. Manchester describes in detail the events that occur and the changes that occur in society in terms of history, culture, economics and politics, showing the depth of his research. The author's admiration of Winston Churchill is obvious and logical—Churchill was a great world figure.

Preamble: The Lion at Bay

Preamble: The Lion at Bay Summary and Analysis

The book opens with the British army retreating to the town on Dunkirk, on the English Channel. The British are basically alone. They cannot defend against the Germans if they cross the Channel at this point. The only hope the British have are the 220,000 Tommies at Dunkirk, and the King and the House of Commons have been warned of the impending doom and the inadequacy of the Royal Navy. The result is a volunteer flotilla of all kinds of boats that come to help. This effort helps save the British troops. The British have an enemy named Adolph Hitler and England need help fighting him. England needs a strong leader to combat the German problem. They have that leader in Winston Churchill.

When the German breakthrough occurs, seventeen year-old Mary Churchill is at the family's country home in Kent. She hears the announcement on the BBC that her father has been summoned by the king to form a government. Mary is proud of her father and feels he can save the country. Churchill is not the first choice of all of the politicians, but rather a compromise choice. Both Hitler and Halifax feel that the solution will be a negotiated peace. They even hold to these beliefs as Dunkirk is being evacuated. Churchill is the one who is against a negotiated settlement, feeling they should fight until one of them is dead.

"Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous states have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all of the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender," (Preamble, p. 6). Churchill tells his family and the nation to prepare for a long war. It is indeed a long haul as the Nazi threat spreads through the Balkans, Middle East and South and Central America.

The headquarters of the prime minister is located in a bunker two blocks south of Downing Street. It is known as the Annexe or the CWR, which stands for Cabinet War Room and Churchill hates the place. The family lives on the ground floor. During the raids, Churchill often runs out to look at the damages. Churchill has a strong preference for the past. He does not like a lot of the modern technology like planes and he makes that fact clear. He uses the old names for cities and countries whose names have been changed. He follows the custom of Victorian prime ministers and never attends Parliament. Churchill is chided by others for his preference for the past. As a newspaper reporter he is a published author of fifty-six books.

Churchill believes in victory or in fighting to the death. He is always interested in the martial arts but is always concerned with minimizing losses and lives. As a believer in

the principle of Chatham or the Elder Pitt, he feels the continental armies cannot overcome the power of the British navy in the First World War. His plan fails and he is driven from office over his plan for the Dardanelles. He is always a believer in his ability to control his own fate, even as a child. History has proven Churchill's plans for the Dardanelles were correct, just as he was right about many other things. However, he is not right about fascism in the beginning. He is friendly to both Hitler and Mussolini in the beginning but that changes.

Churchill's public life experiences its ups and downs, going through three distinct stages. The first is when his popularity increases from 1900 to 1915. The years until 1940 are undistinguished and marked with few successes. The years from Dunkirk onward are the most successful of his career and result in his attaining status as a legend. In spite of this he loses more elections than any other British politician and switches parties several times. Churchill always thinks of himself as the underdog since his days of abuse at his Ascot boarding school. This means he is always able to side with the underdog because he always views himself as one. Depression is a major part of Churchill's life just as it is a part of the lives of many other great people. Churchill becomes aware of the situation at the age of twenty.

Churchill is in and out of debt most of his adult life. When he is called upon by the king, he is so far in debt that he is contemplating resigning from Parliament. Luckily, a friend helps him out. He is at Chartwell on August 31, 1939 when Hitler invades Poland and is working on another book. He blames his weaknesses on his lack of a university education but he still makes a place for himself in history. As far as entertainment goes, Churchill likes to read and prefers British authors. He has his own taste in music and likes movies about the British navy.

Prologue: Land of Hope and Glory

Prologue: Land of Hope and Glory Summary and Analysis

During the year Winston Churchill is born, on February 4, 1874, the Second Ashanti War comes to an end as General Sir Garnet Wolseley torches the African city of Kumasi in central Ghana. Wolseley is a veteran of several other wars before the Second Ashanti War. He goes on to fight in the Boer War after the Second Ashanti War. He dies in 1913.

In the 1800s, the British Empire covers a sizeable part of the world amounting to one fourth of the land and the world's population. England, under Queen Victoria, practically rules the world. The British are loyal to their Empire even though most of the everyday citizens do not gain anything from it. Many do not know where many of the countries are. The British Empire begins with the discovery of Newfoundland in 1497. This leads to the chartering of the East India Company and a stream of

explorers who travel the world. The British explorers, missionaries, and merchants introduce the natives to new habits and customs and in turn, learn new habits and customs from the natives. The goal of the government is trade and to secure new areas for the merchants. This results in the colonies in America and the West Indies. One little trading post leads to the conquest of India and Canada is acquired by the Hudson Bay Company.

Once America is gone, the greatest of the possessions is the Indian Empire which consists of India, Burma, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. In order to secure their Indian Empire, the British have to control the southern part of Africa, Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, Port Said and Aden. They also hold Sarawak, the Straits Settlements and Malaya. Possessions like Australia, New Zealand and Canada govern themselves without much interference from the British. The Queen's possessions include protectorates, territories and Crown Colonies and are run by the local governor, His Excellency.

The Royal Navy is the strongest navy in the pre-Wright brothers' world with three hundred and thirty warships. There are more than one thousand new merchant ships per year. More than half of the world's merchant ships fly the British flag. The British are known around the world and disliked in many places. They give the appearance of being overbearing and superior. "Britons were so sure of themselves. Like today's Americans, who are also disliked abroad, their dominance was the consequence of a cluster of accidents, among them their tremendous deposits of coal and iron ore—one-third of all the miners on earth were British—and England's role as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. Thus, Britain had naturally become the world's manufacturer, merchant, shipper, and banker—the workshop of the world.' Not only were Britons certain that they would keep all they had; they expected more and more—'wider still and wider,'" (Prologue, p. 51). They never think they will lose the empire.

London, at this time, is the largest metropolitan area in the world. It is home to many expatriots and has the best ports, since it is the world's largest exporter. It is also the insurance and banking center of the world.

The communications industry is developing and cutting down on the amount of time involved in communicating with other parts of the world. There is a time lag that will soon be closed by cables. The communications are good enough for people anywhere in the settled empire to be well informed. There are newspapers and other timely publications keeping them abreast of news. The British, who live in many of the possessions, have to put up with the local conditions, especially if they are away from the population centers. Many British suffer health problems from living in the possessions, where running out of money is considered to be the biggest sin. The only greater one is cowardice since it is considered honorable to die in battle. At times there are attacks on the British posted in various parts of the world. This occurs in Burma, the North-West Frontier and Kabul, where the British are killed.

Serving at certain posts in the possessions is considered to be partly based on status and on what is known as the old boy network. Service is entered based on recommendations from the tutors at Oxford or Cambridge or one of those kinds of schools. The student takes the Indian Civil Service examination and, if accepted, is off to India for a career of service. It is harder to enter the Indian Civil Service than the Colonial Service. Members of these services more or less belong to a club of shared values. Some posts are considered to be hardship posts. Uganda and Nyasaland fall into this category. In Uganda, the English man has to walk eight hundred miles because there is no transportation. This results in additional home leave. Life is not as bad at other posts such as Kenya, where there are streams stocked with trout, racecourses and polo games.

Manchester spends the next few pages discussing life in London. He describes the conditions that exist in the late 1800s and how the different classes live. For example, a woman has a very hard time obtaining a divorce because she has to prove her husband is an adulterer and has deserted and harmed her. The author describes different places in London, such as the different clocks and clock towers, the various theaters and music halls. Daughters who do not marry are basically unpaid servants in the homes of their parents. Marriage is the escape. In the meantime, nobility live in great country houses and estates. During the season, they live in their London townhouses so they can attend all of the social events. The season coincides with Parliament being in session and begins with the Queen's all in mid-spring and ends with the Goodwood races in midsummer. Most of the upper class prefer their country homes to their city homes.

Winston Churchill does not have an easy lineage to trace due to the promiscuity of various family members. Many are distinguished by their military service. The first Duke of Marlborough has no sons so the title passes to his grandson, through his daughter, who married a Spencer. The name is not formally changed to Spencer-Churchill until 1817 when the fifth Duke of Marlborough makes the change. Randolph, Winston's father is the son of the seventh duke. Jennie is descended from a family that fought in the Revolutionary War. Her family is very well-to-do. She is nineteen when she first

meets Randolph and they are very quickly engaged. Randolph's parents do not attend the wedding.

Jennie is pregnant at the time of her wedding to Randolph. They rent a house in Mayfair and plan on staying there but Randolph's parents insist they come to their country estate so they can meet Jennie. They stay for several months. During a ball at their palace, Jennie goes into labor. A local physician delivers Winston Churchill at 1:30 a.m. on November 30.

Part One: Headwaters

Part One: Headwaters Summary and Analysis

Since Winston's birth is not expected, no arrangements have been made. There are no diapers, cradles or other baby supplies. Randolph's mother, Frances, Duchess of Marlborough, has to borrow supplies from the town's solicitor whose baby is not due for several months. The baby is baptized Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill on December 27. Soon after, Randolph and Jennie are back at their Mayfair home and hire Elizabeth Anne Everest to be Winston's nanny. Like most upper class parents, they have very little to do with their son. They do not even have the usual token meetings with the child. They are too busy with parties and other social activities, living beyond their means. Randolph's family is good friends with His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. Jennie fondly remembers those days and all the parties. This continues until Randolph has a falling out with the Prince and the Churchills lose their social position. The Prince merely announces he will have nothing to do with them or anyone who has anything to do with them.

The Randolph Churchill family eventually moves to Dublin when Randolph takes a post offered to him by Disraeli. The Churchills remain there for three years. The only source of affection for young Winston is his nanny. The Churchills' exile ends in the early 1880s. Randolph is elected to Parliament by the borough in which his family lives. The Randolph Churchill family moves from Dublin to St. James Street in London. Whatever home the Randolph Churchills live in, the house has a large nursery wing for Winston. His half-brother Jack appears when Winston is six. Randolph is forgiven by the Prince of Wales. This is the beginning of Randolph's political career.

Young Winston is a good student under the watchful eye of Miss Everest. He has his problems with arithmetic but is a good writer. He is enrolled at St. George's School near Ascot when he is seven. St. George's is an expensive boarding school where boys are prepared for attending Eton. Winston remembers hating the two years he spent at the school but he never lets his parents know it. He wants his parents to come and visit him while he is there, but they never do. In fact, Jennie very rarely writes him and when she does he finds her dinner party list scribbled on the back of the note. Winston, unlike Jack, is rebellious. His parents received reports of his behavior from the schoolmaster from whom Winston receives continual floggings. When Miss Everest sees the welts on his body she summons Jennie, who withdraws him from the school and enrolls him in a small school in Brighton.

The small school in Brighton is run by two sisters, Kate and Charlotte Thomson. They treat Winston well and he begins to respond to them. In some subjects he is at the top of his class, in most others he is near the top. He begins to enjoy school because they let him learn things he is interested in. Winston also begins to take part in sports. Jennie takes him with her on the royal yacht as the guest of the Prince of Wales where he embarrasses his mother with his behavior. Since his academic performance has

improved, he does not have to have a summer tutor and he is free to enjoy his time off from school. When Miss Everest contracts diphtheria, Randolph's mother brings the children to Blenheim.

Winston has the normal childhood diseases. He also contracts bronchial pneumonia at the age of twelve in 1886 and spends the rest of his life suffering from periodic bronchial infections. He is very ill with pneumonia and his family do not trust Everest with him.

Jennie continues to entertain and be active on the social scene. She believes Randolph will become prime minister. Many times she misses Winston's functions at school because of her social engagements. Jennie and Randolph travel at holidays, like Christmas, leaving Winston and Jack at home. Randolph suffers from venereal disease and cannot touch Jennie without endangering her health. As the disease advances, he leaves town for a while. By this time, Jennie knows of the disease and begins to keep company with other men. She has a long list of lovers by the time of her death. When Randolph catches Edward, Prince of Wales, propositioning Jennie, he throws the prince out of his house. Winston also knows about Jennie's affairs when he is a child.

When Randolph returns from Dublin, he serves as a Tory prime minister in the House. He challenges Disraeli's policies of Imperium abroad and Libertas domestically just as he is vocally against Gladstone's policy in Egypt. Randolph promotes what he calls Tory democracy which is a way to bring more everyday rank and file people into the party's inner councils. At this time the Irish issue is coming to a head as the Irish want Home Rule. When Disraeli switches his position in favor of Home rule, Randolph opposes the Irish. The bill for Home Rule is rejected in June 1886.

Randolph is appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer. Many people are appalled by the appointment because it is the second most powerful position in the government and they do not think he can succeed. They are correct. He makes some bad political decisions without consulting Salisbury and tries to keep his position by appealing to Queen Victoria. She invites him to dine at the palace on December 10. While there he writes his resignation on a piece of the Queen's stationery and it is accepted by Salisbury. "In fact, he had come closer to bringing Salisbury down than most commentators realized. It took the prime minister twelve days to find another Conservative willing to serve as chancellor. But with that, the crisis was over. Randolph was finished. In a moment of arrogance and folly he had gambled everything and lost. He was thirty-seven years old. He would never hold office again. Jennie was bitter," (Part One, pp. 148-149).

When Winston is ten, his father has to choose another school for him. Most of the Churchills have attended Eton but Randolph thinks it is not right for Winston because of his problems from the pneumonia. They consider Winchester where Winston's cousin is enrolled. However, due to a family squabble and Randolph's brother's death, Randolph ends up sending Winston to Harrow-on-the-Hill. Winston begins to prepare for his exams. When he appears at Harrow for his exams, his mind goes blank and he finds he cannot answer any of the questions. In spite of this, he is accepted into Harrow and assigned to the lowest form. He is not well liked by the other students while at the



school. He has to fag (do menial tasks for the upper classmen) until he is seventeen. Winston is not happy at the school and develops a slight stammer. He also receives periodic floggings for his behavior, but nothings like the ones he received at Ascot. At one point Winston asks Jennie to introduce him to prominent people and their families. Jennie is more than happy to do this for Winston. He expresses an interest in politics because he wants to impress his father and follow in his father's footsteps. He tries to emulate his father's oratory style.

Winston is still his stubborn self. He learns what he wants to learn. Some of the classes is in are remedial. When his academic performance becomes so bad he is put on report, which means he has to have weekly meetings with the headmaster, even though Jennie tries to intercede. Jennie also constantly scolds him for his academic performance, but it does no good. Winston begins to write for the school paper, even though he is in remedial English class.

In the mean time, Winston's father Randolph decides to become a journalist. He goes to Cape Town for three months and writes articles for a paper. Some say he does this to distance himself from Jennie who is seeing younger and younger men. Jennie continues her social life while her husband is away in South Africa. She has the house full of guests continually and has no room for Winston, who wants to come home for a visit. It is the week of the horse races and Jennie has her race horse Abbess entered in many of the races.

Winston is sent to France for the summer to learn French. He does not want to board with a family. Instead, he is sent to Versailles at Christmas. During this time, Winston is studying for his exams for military classes at Sandhurst. He does well on the exam when he takes it. He does not get the congratulations from Randolph that he hoped for. Despite his performance on the preliminary entrance exams, he fails the main entrance exams. Randolph considers a career in business for his son, especially when he does not do well re-taking the Sandhurst exam. Randolph decides to let Winston try a third time for Sandhurst but hires a tutor to help him cram for the exams but it was not to be. Winston suffers a ruptured kidney. When he recovers, he works with the tutor and eventually scores well enough to enter at cavalry rank. Randolph is disappointed because he wants him to be in the Infantry because it costs less money. Before school begins, some students in the Infantry drop out, leaving open places available for Winston, who receives an Infantry cadetship. Winston enters the Royal Military College on Friday, September 1, 1893. He is assigned to "E" Company.

Once Winston is a cadet, his father fulfills certain social obligations he has to his son by inviting him for weekends with friends and fellow MPs. Winston enjoys the weekends but wants time with his father. The family experiences financial problems and sells their house on Connaught Place and moves in with Randolph's mother, Fanny, who hires Elizabeth Everest as her housekeeper. Woom has been with the Churchills for nineteen years and is like a member of the family.

Winston likes his years at Sandhurst. He enjoys the exercises and thinks they are fun, once he settles into the routine and stops arguing with the staff. The subject matter

includes fortification, tactics, topography, military law and military administration and he likes these much better than Latin and Greek. He likes horses and polo and organizes polo games when he can. The other cadets treat him as an equal, the main reason he is so happy at Sandhurst.

At this time changes are occurring in society. There are changes in fashion and in women's hair styles. Hatpins are very popular as are hats. Newsstands appear on London streets and there is an 85.4% literacy rate in the country as a result of compulsory education. Free libraries begin to appear as do many forms of reading material due to the invention of the printing press. Winston is an avid reader and there is much reading material to select from. There are also many music halls and Winston is fond of them and likes to visit them.

In December 1894, Winston is chosen to compete for the Queen's commission for the annual riding prize. Winston scores second out of two hundred. Winston graduates from Sandhurst at the rank of twelfth in a class of 130. At that point he learns his father is soon to die. Randolph is suffering from the advanced stages of syphilis. He has trouble speaking and problems with paralysis. Since Winston has never seen Randolph have seizures, he has a difficult time accepting the gravity of the situation. Jennie takes Randolph on an extended cruise to various parts of the world but his deteriorating condition makes it miserable for him. By the time they reach Madras, Randolph's condition is so bad that it is decided that they have to return to London. Randolph dies on January 24, 1895 and is buried three days later. His grandmother Clara dies in April and Elizabeth Everest dies shortly thereafter.

Jennie is forty years old when her husband dies. She has always hidden his true condition from public view. Jennie uses her contacts to help Winston secure a position with the Fourth Hussars, a position Winston wants.

Part Two: Stream

Part Two: Stream Summary and Analysis

The army of Queen Victoria has not changed much since Waterloo. Patricians lead the troops since it is thought the upper class makes better officers and leaders because they have a stake in the country. Public school students from good families are also accepted. The army will deteriorate if the officers are from the lower class. One's place of education can easily be determined by what terms an individual uses. The British army is the smallest in Europe, having only thirty-one cavalry units. The army is slow to accept change. They are the last on the continent to give up the use of muzzle-loading cannons. They do things the way they always have simply because that is the way they have always done things. Men have to have private means of support because the income is so minimal. Yet they are always staffed and in action somewhere in the world under Victoria. Winston is Second Lieutenant Churchill and sent to Cuba in 1895.

The Fourth Hussars have ten weeks left in preparation for their posting to India. Winston has to decide where to spend his time. Winston is not independently wealthy so he writes articles for the Daily Graphic. Jennie sends him ninety pounds for the trip to Cuba. Winston obtains the necessary permissions for his trip and he and a man named Barnes sail on the Cunard Royal Mail Steamship Etruria on November 2. Along the way, Winston visits New York and spends a week in the city being entertained by Bourke Cockran, one of Jennie's friends. Winston enjoys New York and the company of Cockran, whom he enjoys talking to. After leaving New York, they travel by train to Florida where they board a steamer to Cuba. They land in Havana on November 20.

The two report to the office of the British consul general and learn they have travel arrangements for the train trip to Santa Clara. Their safe passage cannot be guaranteed due to the presence of rebels. They travel to the headquarters of Captain General Arsenio Martinez de Campos. Winston happily writes of his experiences and the stories he is being told for the Daily Graphic and he travels as close to the front as he can. He sends five articles from there. They are at the battle of La Reforma and the fighting becomes so intense Winston and Barnes fight on the side of Spain. They are awarded decorations by Spain but they are not allowed to wear them. When they finish, they sail back to England on the Etruria.

"Cuba had been the first test of his courage and his sagacity. He had handled himself well under fire, inviting death near the firing line when, as a nonbelligerent, he might honorably have sought safety in the rear. His reportorial skills were already remarkable. On the other hand, he had failed to grasp the essential nature of guerrilla warfare, so important to an understanding of the century ahead. He had been, and in some respects always would be, a defender of the established order," (Part Two, p. 230). Cuba is where Winston develops his own view of the revolution and he will still be re-evaluating his views a year later.

After his return to England, Winston and his Fourth Hussars begin to prepare for the trip to India. He now has five ponies, some of which he is still paying for. His attitude toward bills was that if he does not pay them, he will have more money to spend. Both Winston and Jennie are hard pressed for money. Jennie borrows as much as she can. Winston is thinking a lot about his posting to India. His unit will be there for nine years and he is not happy about that now. He does not feel he is suited to be a professional soldier. He tries to obtain a job covering the upheaval in Crete for the Daily Chronicle but he has to provide his own transportation and he cannot afford to do so. He cannot find another job, although he tries and he has his friends and relatives try. Since nothing can be found, he and his fellow officers sail from Southampton on September 11, 1896. The voyage to Bombay takes twenty-three days.

The Indian Empire consists of 602 states the control of which has passed from the East India Company to the Crown. The states are ruled from London and the British view their rule as rescuing the Indian people from pagans and savages and providing them with a better way of life. Western justice is practiced since it is introduced and accepted and the Union Jack flies over all public buildings. Most of the British try to recreate little English communities in India instead of adopting Indian culture. Many of the British stay within their little communities instead of exploring the community around them.

Winston and his fellow officers spend some time in Bombay before moving to their permanent quarters near Bangalore. Bombay presents an assortment of architectures—Moslem, Hindu and Occidental with various styles. Winston is overwhelmed by Bombay and his first impressions are that he likes the place. He, like the others, hires a dressing boy. The officers leave Bombay and begin the journey to Bangalore. On the way they stop at Poona where Winston's shoulder acts up during a polo game. In Bangalore, Winston, Barnes and a man names Baring rent a large bungalow to live in. Once settled in, he writes his mother of his daily routine. He is not too concerned with money and lives beyond his means, borrowing from local moneylenders.

Winston keeps up his interest in polo while in Bangalore. Winston and his Fourth Hussars pool their resources to win the Indian Empire's Regimental Cup. Winston plays with the arm from his bad shoulder strapped to his body. He also acquires a knack for riding in horse races and this wins him a spot in the Turf Club in London where he is nominated by his second cousin. Another thing that happens soon after his arrival in Bangalore is the wakening of his intellectual curiosity. Winston begins to strengthen in vocabulary and to fill in other gaps in his knowledge. By the winter of 1896, right around his twenty-second birthday, he has Jennie send him books on economics, history, philosophy and other such topics. These are any of the topics he ignored while in school and would not learn. Now he is interested in them. Jennie sends him just about anything he asks for, in spite of the expense.

The climate in Bangalore is a little harsh for the British since there are no electric fans or air conditioning. There are also no refrigerators. Winston begins his only novel, Savrola, a novel based on politics and romance. The fighting taking place is at the North West Frontier which is not where Winston is. He asks Jennie to try to get him assigned there. He also wants to go to Crete to cover the war between the Greeks and the Turks and



asks Jennie to find a newspaper to hire him and to make the necessary arrangements, including a loan from Lord Rothschild. Jennie considers all of this to be another of Winston's wild schemes.

With the hot season due to start soon, the officers of the Fourth Hussar are offered three months privilege leave in England. Most of the officers decline, since they have just arrived, but Winston accepts. He sails from Bombay on May 8. Learning the war in Crete is settled, he dallies for a while in Italy and Paris, and arrives in England in time for the fancy-dress ball at Devonshire House. He looks for opportunities in London and other places. He goes to see a relative about running for Parliament, but no seats are vacant. He does manage to deliver some speeches.

While Winston is on leave, a Pathan uprising occurs in India on the North-West Frontier. Many of the clans that have always been independent are made British subjects and find strangers moving through their territory building roads and buildings. A mullah, called the Mad Fakir, convinces the tribes to fight the British. The agitation results in an uprising and the British announced they are sending three brigades to quell the uprising. Winston learns of this while attending a horserace and immediately wires General Sir Bindon Blood, who is in charge of the three brigades that he promised Winston he could join him in battle. Winston immediately departs for India, and when he arrives he finds that Bindon has no vacancies but Winston can come as a correspondent. Jennie makes the arrangements with the Daily Telegraph for him to get paid for the articles. An Indian paper agrees to something similar. Winston begins the more than two thousand mile train trip to the front. Arriving in Nowshera, he makes arrangements for the last forty miles of the trip.

Winston arrives and is greeted by General Blood. Winston goes with Blood and his twelve thousand men through the valleys, pursuing the tribesmen. The British burn villages and killed resistors. Winston goes with them into battle and sometimes ends up leading some troops, but not always speaking the same language as they do. By this time Winston is eyeing running for the House of Commons when he returns to England. Winston accompanies Brigadier Patrick Jeffreys and his troops when they clear the Mamund Valley. They waste the valley.

Winston sees more action with Jeffreys and General Blood has his leave from the Fourth Hussars extended for another two weeks. He returns to his own regiment on October 12 and learns that the by-line on his articles was "From a Young Officer" instead of his own name. He is a little upset when he finds this out since he wants his name known. However, Jennie tells him all of the important people know his identity. In spite of the good news articles, his escapades do not sit well with the army or his fellow officers. They do not like the special treatment he is receiving. When General Blood requests Winston be made his orderly officer, the request is refused. He is made a permanent correspondent by the Daily Telegraph but cannot always secure leave to travel to the battles.

"Calling him a 'publicity hound'—another epithet heard in the messes—seemed cruel. It was not, however, inaccurate. His correspondence admits of not other explanation. He

had no interest in a military career, and meant to use the service to advance his prospects in public life.... He wanted recognition, but he also expected to be paid," (Part Two, pp. 260-261). While stationed in India, he writes short stories that his mother submits to magazines for him. He also writes a book about his time spent with General Blood. The Story of the Malakand Field Force is well received and read by the right people, including the Prince. The Prince encourages Winston's military career, not understanding that Winston only wants to be where the fighting is as a news correspondent, not as an officer.

The situation in India settles down and the next scene of action is in Africa where Sir Herbert Kitchener has been in the Sudan for two years. Winston wants to go to Africa to cover the story but Kitchener does not like Winston and no matter how many strings Jennie tries to pull, Kitchener will consent. Jennie goes to Egypt to talk to him but he still will not agree. Winston also arrives from Bombay and finds hundreds of others on the same kind of mission. Lord Salisbury, who has read Winston's book and is impressed with it, writes a letter to Lord Cromer, the British agent in Egypt. Eventually, Churchill receives his assignment and goes to Cairo without having the final approval of the Fourth Hussars.

The British become involved in Africa over the martyrdom of Chinese Gordon in Khartoum. The Mahdi, who does the killing, dies himself five months later but not before choosing Abdullah Ibn Mohammed as Khalifa. He attempts a holy way called Jihad and is countered by the British and Belgians. After this there is a drought during which the Khalifa becomes very popular among the people. The British hold Egypt during this time and need the Nile clear but the French are there. Kitchener is on his way to Fashoda. There is the fear that a dam could be built which will block the water supply to Egypt.

Churchill makes the trip to Kitchener's camp. He travels to Aswan and then on to the Wadi Halfa. After that there is a four hundred mile train trip to Kitchener's camp. Churchill writes articles of the places and events he travels through. He is traveling to meet the troops of the Twenty-first Lancers in Shabluka and finds himself lost. He does not find their camp until the next day. All of the troops are in Shabluka by August 27 beginning their final advance the next day. As the march continues, there is no fighting. On September 1 they find the Khalifa's army near Omdurman and know a battle is imminent. Churchill informs Kitchener and is invited to dine with him and his intelligence chief. The battle takes place the next day with Churchill in the thick of it. He has to use his pistols instead of a sword because of his injured shoulder. The Lancers take casualties of twenty-two percent in the battle yet they take Omdurman.

Churchill writes of atrocities that occur that he blames Kitchener for. There are some Englishmen involved but most of the involved parties are Sudanese and Egyptians. This charge angers Kitchener who tries to order him to return to Cairo with a bunch of sick camels. When they meet the French, they negotiate their departure and Churchill is then ready to leave Kitchener and return to England. He feels that his duty in Egypt will help him win a seat in the House of Commons. After four years in the army, he is developing into a good writer, however, he believes he will die young, like his father. Back in England, he writes a book, The War for the Waterway, about his experience.

He continues to lecture while in England. He considers attending Oxford or Cambridge but does not have the money to do so. The Pioneer offers him a job writing letters while he is in London and he considers quitting the Army, but does not on account of the Inter-Regimental Tournament in India. Churchill returns to India for the polo matches. The night before the games are to begin, he falls and hurts his shoulder. He plays with his arm strapped to his side, despite his injury. His Fourth Hussars win the tournament. After the match he submits his resignation to London. He is now making a living by writing and returns to Egypt where Kitchener and his staff try to make things as difficult as possible for him. He meets with Lord Cromer to obtain information for his book, *The River War*.

Churchill's chance to run for office occurs in Oldham. One of the district's MPs die and the other resigns. Winston is one of the people chosen to run in the election, even though they believe they are sacrificing both of them since they see little chance for winning. They are correct, as Winston loses his first election for Parliament. After the election, he spends several months finishing his book by which time there is trouble in South Africa. He receives a good deal from Borthwick to cover the hostilities as a war correspondent. He now has his expenses covered. He sails from Southampton on October 14, 1899.

The South Africa problem involves two Boer republics known as the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Both have limited self-government. Natal and Cape Colony remain British. The problems arise when gold is discovered in the Transvaal—diamonds had already been discovered. Many British are in the Transvaal on business and some British, like Cecil Rhodes, want Britain to re-take the two Boer republics. The war begins on October 11, 1899 with the Orange Free State siding with the Transvaal. Churchill, who has on the same ship as Sir Redvers Buller, arrives in South Africa, and separates from Buller, who stays in Cape Town. Winston meets and teams up with J.B. Atkins of the *Manchester Guardian*. They decide to travel to the battle areas and set out for Ladysmith.

Churchill sees a train attacked as he is traveling with a British truck. The Boers are on a nearby hill. Three cars of the train are derailed by the attack and Winston is under gun fire for seventy minutes. Winston helps to evacuate the injured and then finds himself confronted by Louis Botha, who has Winston in his sights. Winston is captured and sent to the prisoner-of-war camp at Pretoria's State Model Schools. He demands to be released since he claims to be a non-combatant and member of the Press. Since there are reports of Churchill's actions during the battle and that he is up for the Victoria Cross, he is considered dangerous to the Boers who will not release him.

By the time he is about to be released, he has a breakout plan. He overhears other prisoners with their plan and asks to be included. He is unaware Joubert has ordered his release as they set their escape plan in motion. He wanders around Pretoria for a while, once he is clear of the prison. He jumps a train and rides out of town, not knowing where the train is going. He has to be out of the train car before the train pulls into a station and the bags are unloaded. Off the train, he cannot find another to jump onto. He wanders and finds a settlement and introduces himself. Luckily the house contains

British men who say they will help him. They hide him at the bottom of a mine. They give him food and provisions and tell him to stay there until they return the next day.

Back at the Pretoria prison, Winston's absence results in the issuing of warrants, as they think he has friends in the area. There is an order to arrest Churchill if he is found. Winston learns of this when the men return to the mine to bring him more food. He remains in the mine for four days and then hides in the office of John Howard, one of the men who helped hide him. Winston spends three days in the office while Howard develops an escape plan in which Winston hides in bales of wood in a railcar. Howard works out the details with a shipping agent and another member of the press, who helps him reach the British consulate.

Nine days after his escape he sails to Durban. He finds news of the war's progress is not good. General Buller allows Winston a commission without pay as an assistant adjutant to Colonel Julian Byng of the South African Light Horse regiment. This is against the army rules but Winston requests the commission. His newspaper does not mind. The new warfare with the new weapons means the battles are bloody. Botha and Buller have their conflict at Spion Mountain and Churchill says he never imagined anything like what he saw with all of the mutilations.

Jennie arrives in South Africa. She has organized a fundraiser with a hospital ship. After a visit, Jennie announces she is planning to marry George Cornwallis-West. The forty-five year old Jennie plans to marry a man her son's age. There are many members of the Churchill family in South Africa, including Jack who is injured at Hussar Hill. He is treated on the hospital ship his mother has brought. Winston is busy every day. The investment of Ladysmith is going on for almost six months when, on February 28, Winston rides into Ladysmith with the first two squadrons. They celebrate that evening.

Winston stays in Ladysmith. In the next month he writes another book, London to Ladysmith via Pretoria. As word of his escape from the prisoner-of-war camp spread, his book sales increase. He is planning to use this money to finance his campaign for Parliament. He is asked to run for a Tory seat in Southport, but he wants to run in Oldham and win to prove himself after his previous defeat there, when he returns to England.

Field Marshall Lord Roberts is planning to move into the Orange Free State, which he does successfully. Winston goes along and is almost captured by the Boers again, but a stranger helps him to escape. Johannesburg is taken on May 31 and Churchill is there with Roberts. From there they go on to Pretoria. Winston bicycles to Johannesburg to join Roberts. When they reach Pretoria, they go to the prison from which Winston escaped, and free the prisoners. Winston is recommended for the Victoria Cross but cannot receive it because he is a Press Correspondent. Even though it looks like the war is over, the fighting continues for another two years and in the end, the Transvaal and the Free Orange State are incorporated into the British Empire.

Winston returns to England before the end of the war. His books are selling well and he is now ready to enter public life. Upon his return to England, he finds his mother too

involved with her wedding plans to help him. He is very popular in England and in demand as a speaker. Even though eleven districts want him to run for office, he goes to Oldham and wins the seat he wants. Queen Victoria dies on February 2 thus bringing the Victorian era to an official end.

Part Three: River

Part Three: River Summary and Analysis

Parliament is officially opened by King Edward VII on February 14. The Queen has not officially opened Parliament during her reign. Edward announces that he plans to follow in his mother's footsteps. Manchester describes the Parliamentary halls and some of the procedure followed. Winston is familiar with the terminology and protocol of Parliament since his father served. The Tories are still in power and Robert Cecil, the Marquess of Salisbury is still the Prime Minister. Many members of his family hold seats in Parliament.

"Mastery of the House has been given to a few. Its moods arch the British spectrum, from cockney vulgarity through Midland's stolidity and Scottish skepticism to Welsh emotionalism and, in those days, Irish mysticism. It can be frivolous, irresponsible, and grave on occasions which any other body would treat with hilarity. No new member can be expected to hold it spellbound, but on the evening of February 18, 1901, when Churchill's maiden speech was scheduled, the chamber was full," (Part Three, p. 341). The gallery is also packed with Jennie and her four sisters-in-law in attendance. The press is also there. All are waiting to see what kind of beginning Winston makes.

Winston knows he never has had the training for public speaking. He self-trains in front of a mirror. Winston plans to speak about the war. The speaker before Winston, Lloyd George, attacks the government's policy in South Africa. Winston advocates a generous peace in South Africa even though he knows the offer might be rejected by the Boers. He receives favorable reviews in the press. Winston spends the next three months establishing himself in Parliament. He comes across as having an easy, witty speaking style and he never lets on many hours he spends practicing in front of the mirror. He is not intimidated by booing. The press makes comparisons between him and his father.

Winston is as rebellious as his father has been. On April 23 he lets it be known he does not favor large expenditures for the army since the navy is the major military organization and protection of the seas is required for commerce. He continues his attack on army expenditures. These are the kinds of positions that resulted in his father's resignation. Winston wins his battle against increasing expenditures for the army. He remains as stubborn as he always has been. Once he adopts a position, he will not change it unless he wants to.

Another issue involves tariffs. Winston rejects the move for tariffs, and the Tory position favoring tariffs eventually brings down Chamberlain and the Tory government. Britain is suffering from foreign competition at the time since Victorian prosperity peaked in the 1870s. Per capita income continues to grow but the British are having problems in foreign markets that are not yet felt at home. Winston continues to favor free trade, in spite of Chamberlain's call for protective tariffs on goods from outside the Empire. He

even writes Prime Minister Balfour on the subject and the Prime Minister is not happy about Winston's tactics.

Winston is accused of becoming involved in a move to unseat Balfour over the tariff issue. He denies any such plans. When his letter to Balfour fails, he writes one to Campbell-Bannerman looking for unity against the tariff plan. Campbell-Bannerman agrees with Winston. This gets Winston involved in the Opposition councils where he feels comfortable with their programs. He also supports Irish Home Rule. At this point, Winston considers switching parties since he thinks he will feel more comfortable as a Liberal but his support is still from the Conservatives.

Chamberlain becomes so involved in the tariff issue that he quits the cabinet in September, 1903. Balfour comes out in support of imperial preference or protective tariffs. There are problems in Oldham over Winston's position on tariffs. If Winston resigns, he will force an election in which he will run as a Liberal. Several supporters of free trade begin to resign from the party. The situation accelerates on March 29, 1904 when he rises to give his speech in Parliament and Balfour walks out. Winston comments on it and the rest of the cabinet walks out. The events are duly reported in the press.

Winston is entering his radical period and next comes out in support of trade unions. At one point, his mind goes blank when addressing the House. His family is worried because his father had the same thing happen and that had been the beginning of the end for Randolph. They suggest memory training but he says it is not necessary and the lapse will not happen again. He will always have a written text of his speech in the future, even if he rarely looks at it. In April he becomes a Liberal. He is welcomed by the Liberals.

Winston lacks a wife, which seems a prerequisite for success in Parliament. He proposes is declined by the actress Ethel Barrymore who says she could not deal with a life in politics. He next proposes to heiress Muriel Wilson, who also refuses him. Winston is not very experienced with the ladies and does not know how to make small talk. In 1904, his mother introduces him to Clementine Hozier, whom he eventually marries. Winston does not feel comfortable in the company of women and many attribute this to his mother's numerous affairs. His mother is not that different from other women of her class. The working class women are more concerned with feeding their families.

Most MPs are well to do and know each other from childhood on. The Tory party draws much of its support from the Church of England. Attitudes and conditions are changing during Edward's reign and there is more emphasis on class consciousness. There is more acceptance of radicalism. There are also new inventions like the airplane and railroads with sleeping cars. Motorcars appear in 1905. The world is changing as union organizers agitate for worker's rights. There is support for women's suffrage.

Winston, living in his Mayfair apartment, has a very full schedule. If he is not working, he is reading or writing. However, he also finds time for his hobbies, sports and traveling.

He also is seeing Clementine during this time. It is during this time that England emerges from the isolationist policies of the Victorian era. This starts a year after Victoria's death. England enters into a treaty to protect France against a German attack. London, at this time, is the largest city in the world in terms of population. It is the financial center of the world and thinks it is leading the way into the future. There are theaters, restaurants and hotels. There is also an increase in leisure time. British plays tour the continent, translated into the different languages.

Winston is working on developing his campaign as a Liberal candidate in Manchester. Balfour resigns his position as prime minister on December 4, 1905. Campbell-Bannerman is asked to form a new government. Winston is offered his choice of positions and asks to be named under secretary of state for the colonies. He will handle the affairs of the colonies in the House of Commons. His appointment outrages the Tories. Winston names Edward Marsh as his private secretary. The Manchester Midland Hotel becomes Winston's base for his campaign. The city of Manchester is a conservative stronghold. He is an exciting candidate and always draws crowds and is usually heckled by female supporters of women's suffrage. Winston and the Liberals win the Manchester election held on January 13. They are part of a Liberal landslide.

The use of Chinese coolies in the mines in South Africa becomes known along with the living conditions and the terms of their contracts. The practice is discontinued by Campbell-Bannerman. There is outrage in the press. There is a movement to censure a member of the House of Lords and Winston announces he will oppose censure. This causes further outrage. Lord Elgin, the secretary of state for the colonies has to let Winston handle affairs in the House of Commons. Winston has a role in helping draft the constitutions for the Transvaal and the Free Orange State. There is opposition from Balfour and others. Winston's views prevail and Botha becomes prime minister of first the Transvaal and then of the Union of South Africa. Botha recognizes Winston when they meet. Winston receives more status when he is appointed to the Privy Council without having cabinet rank.

In his role as the under secretary for the colonies, he travels to the colonies. He makes a long trip to Africa. His trip is very successful and he is warmly greeted everywhere he goes. On April 3, a sick Campbell-Bannerman resigns and a new government is formed by Asquith. Asquith offers Winston his first cabinet position as President of the Board of Trade. The formation of a new government means holding elections for the new ministers and Winston has to run again. Winston loses the election. He is immediately offered his choice of eight Liberal seats and chooses the one from Dundee.

He marries Clementine in August and they honeymoon in Blenheim, Africa and Venice. When they return, they move to a house on Eccleston Square, since Clementine is pregnant. The baby, Diana, is born in May. Their son Randolph is born two years later. Clementine is the one to watch the family finances and worry about money.

Winston becomes a vociferous supporter of workers and wins the support of Beatrice Webb. There are slums in Manchester and other places. He supports free meals for school children. In 1908 he is supporting a welfare state and arming against Germany.

England enacts a maximum workday and employment exchanges. There is legislation for unemployment insurance, National Health Insurance, which does not come into being until 1911. The composition of Parliament is changing but the House of Lords can still veto social legislation passed by the House of Commons. Lloyd George and Winston get minimum wage legislation passed. They introduce the People's Budget in 1909 as a way of combating poverty. The budget raises taxes on the rich which does not sit well with the aristocracy. The budget is passed in the House of Commons which creates a constitutional crisis since the House of Lords has never voted down a tax measure passed in the lower house. Winston looks forward to the battle.

The aristocracy turns against the Churchills because of the bill. Winston has Clementine's support in the matter. The King writes Winston trying to convince him to tone down his rhetoric. Instead, Winston writes Asquith calling for the dissolution of the House of Lords. Asquith instead calls for general elections which result in a reduction in the Liberal majority by 116 seats. Then King Edward suddenly dies on May 6, 1910 and George V becomes the new king. There is a second election with results similar to the first. The crisis is solved when Balfour resigns as party leader and the House of Lords narrowly votes for parliamentary reform, reducing their own powers.

The victory earns Winston a promotion to home secretary. This new post gives him power over anything affecting people living in England. He is also charged with signing execution warrants, which he does not like to do. He visits prisons and improves living conditions for the prisoners, having once been one himself in South Africa. During his tenure as home secretary, the labor movement turns violent as the coal miners in Rhondda, Wales riot. Others follow. In spite of the bad politics, troops are requested by the local police and sent to quell the riots. The Conservatives attack Churchill for not ordering the troops.

Winston's next problem involves a group of Latvian anarchists supporting their cause with robberies. Winston is informed they have the anarchists cornered in Whitechapel in a Sidney Street house. Winston travels to the scene in an official car and finds a gun fight in progress. He later admits traveling to the scene was a mistake and the press plays it up as the Siege of Sidney Street. This is followed by more labor problems involving the dockworkers. This quickly spreads to other transportation industries and mines. This causes the threat of famine as markets run out of food and close. This leads to calls for a national railway strike. Winston maintains it is a local police matter but on August 19 calls for troops. This causes the railway workers to accept their union and avert a national strike. He is criticized in Parliament for mobilizing the troops. In addition to this, Germany is threatening European peace.

"The speed with which Churchill's reforms were forgotten is puzzling. It is almost as though the radicals had felt uncomfortable with him in their midst. Henceforth he would be regarded as a conservative. He had always felt ties to the past, and there is an inevitable connection between a public man's performance and the psychic baggage which is his unshakable companion. But the politicians of the left had pushed him rightward, just as the Tories had pushed him in the opposite direction seven years earlier," (Part Three, p. 422). The political climate is changing in the nation.



Winston meets Kaiser Wilhelm in 1906 and in 1909 he is asked to visit Germany. He is advised not to engage in any political discussion. Both the Germans and the French decide not to cause trouble in Morocco but the Germans send a ship to the area when the French enter Morocco. Wilhelm has his eye on the Congo, not Morocco. While the Germans and the French are haggling, the Italians invade Tripoli which results in the Balkan War of 1912-1913. The Russians, Austro-Hungarians and others are drawn to the area. The Germans do not think the British will intervene because of their ship, the Panther, in the area.

Churchill and other British reevaluate their position. Winston is leaning toward supporting France if there is a German attack. There is also talk of England joining France and Russia in a triple alliance against the Germans and also aiding Belgium. Plans are formulated for different scenarios should they arise. There is a lot of debate about intervention. Asquith places Winston in charge of the navy. As First Lord of the Commons, Winston decides who christens ships and has the use of a steamship, which is where Winston has his office. The residence Admiralty House is also a part of the First Lord position. The bad part is that he receives less in monetary salary because of the perks.

Germany has built a strong navy with battleships. They already have the strongest army in Europe. The Kaiser has even sent a copy of his new naval program to England who send Lord Haldane to Germany to talk to the Kaiser in the interests of peace. Germany wants a pledge of neutrality from Britain in the event of war. Winston meets with retired Admiral Fisher for three days to learn his views and advice about the German situation. In 1912 the war staff is formed. Following Fisher's advice, he selects Admiral Sir Francis Bridgeman as first sea lord and Admiral Price Louis of Battenberg as second sea lord. In May Winston takes a working vacation on the steamship and meets Fisher in Naples. Winston, who does not like flying, is taken for a sea plane ride and decides he likes flying. Clementine does not want him to fly any more than absolutely necessary but Winston wants flying lessons.

There are death threats against Winston at various times. This happens when the union movement becomes violent and in regards to the Irish Home Rule issue. Jennie and Winston travel to Ulster for a rally. The rally has to be moved from Ulster Hall to Celtic Park. The Churchills return home after the speech after being pelted with dead fish. The Irish crisis continues to worsen. It is in its second year now and there is a suggestion to allow the Ulster counties to have the option of being excluded from Home Rule. Home Rule is passing in Commons but not in the House of Lords. The possibility of partition is also discussed. The Parliament seeks to find a workable solution for the Irish Home Rule problem. While this is going on the Orangemen's Ulster Volunteer Force enlists more than fifty thousand men and arm them. The Irish Nationalist Volunteers is the group for the Catholics. Finally, two months before the bill will be considered again, the government promises Ulster it will opt out of Home Rule for six years.

Finally, Winston decides to send warships to Ireland but they never get there. They have massive resignations of the naval officers and general staff until the prime minister cancels the orders. The Home Rule bill passes for the third and final time on May 26.

Home Rule is now law and everyone waits for the shooting to begin. The King calls for a meeting on July 20 and it is decided to allow Ulster to opt out. While at a meeting on July 24 to review the discussion at the King's meeting, they receive word of the ultimatum issued in response to the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Bosnia. This leads to the opening of World War I.

Clementine and the kids head for the Norfolk coast where they have a rented house called Pear Tree Cottage. Winston joins them for the weekend. There is no phone at the cottage but their neighbor has a phone. He learns the Austrians will not accept the Serb response and sever diplomatic relations. Both countries mobilize their armies. Winston immediately returns to London. They have their ships ready to move but have orders preventing them from sailing. They have a big meeting on Monday July 27 to discuss the situation. British ships around the world are put on alert to be prepared for the outbreak of hostilities.

The war begins the next day, on Tuesday July 28. Austria-Hungary bombs Belgrade. There are meetings concerning which countries will join with which countries. The British take stock of the situation. The Turks have ordered and paid for two battleships but the British now will not let them take delivery. The ships have been appropriated by the British for their own needs, which sends the Turks into the arms of the Germans. The Russians begin to prepare for war against Austria-Hungary while the Germans prepare to enter on the side of Austria-Hungary. Soon after, Germany declares war against Russia. They know France will be next and that there is already fighting in Belgium.

When the deadline for the ultimatum to the Germans arrives, Churchill sends a message to the navy ships to begin hostilities against the Germans. He then leaves for the cabinet room since the custom is to report to the prime minister.

Part Four: Cataract

Part Four: Cataract Summary and Analysis

Six million European soldiers are mobilized the first week of World War I. Spy stories abound. Even Winston hears of such stories from Clementine living on the Norfolk coast. British warships are on patrol and there are mines in the Straits of Dover. There is a blockade of German and Austrian ports. British seaplanes hunt U-boats. British planes attack the zeppelin sheds in Germany and shoot down aircraft. Germany announces it will sell Turkey two ships to replace the two England withheld. The two ships are staffed by German crews and cross the Black Sea to Russia which causes Russia to declare war on Germany. Turkey might have sided with England if the ships had not been withheld.

Clementine and the children return to Admiralty House in late August while the British navy is busy attacking German ships. Britain loses three ships in a U-boat attack which begins a string of attacks on British ships until Winston orders the Grand Fleet to sea. British ports are attacked by German ships and British freighters are sunk on the high seas. The British are also attacked in their possessions in various parts of the Empire. The British population thinks their navy is invincible and is shocked at the events. Winston is blamed for being a civilian instead of a military professional. At this point there are comments that the British will not be able to stop a German invasion of England.

Prince Louis, the second sea lord, becomes the scapegoat for all of this. The king requests Prince Louis change his name to Mountbatten. Winston wants the retired Lord Fisher to return to active duty. Fisher is seventy-four years old at the time. Prime Minister Asquith finally agrees. They then face the opposition of King George V who finally agrees to the commission, but not happily. Winston and Fisher get along and work well together.

The British War Office believe Belgium will be the battleground. They are not expecting heavy casualties. On August 24, three weeks into the war, Winston learns Namur has fallen. There are reports of the numerical strength of the German who just keep coming in waves. The newspaper headlines indicate this every day. Many young men enlist to help the British war effort. In France the staff has a plan called Plan—a march to the Rhine through Alsace-Lorraine in the event of war. The Plan is and more than ten years old. It does not take into account that the German population exceeds that of France and that there have been changes in warfare technology. The Germans also have a plan called the Schlieffen Plan which is almost as old as the French Plan it anticipated. It calls for drawing the French into Lorraine and then enveloping them through Belgium. The French and others do not pay attention to facts. All of the newer German railroad converge on Aachen and the frontier with Belgium. When war begins, they marched into Lorraine and the trap. By August 23, the French order a retreat since Plan XVII has failed.

As the French retreat, the Germans follow, pushing them further and further into France. Belgium is overrun with Germans and the Belgian king and all of his troops retreat to Antwerp. There is no serious threat to Antwerp during the first two months of the year even though it is periodically bombed by the zeppelins. On September 5 the Kaiser orders Antwerp taken no matter the cost. The British consider the situation and how vital Antwerp is to them. There is a relationship between Antwerp and the other Channel ports that Winston has not considered.

Winston goes to Dunkirk to supervise the landing of the British infantry. He goes with Sunny, the colonel in chief and takes enough vehicles and trucks to keep all of them in comfort for their short trip. Winston also goes to France where he has to embark on a wide detour to avoid Kluck's forces. He returns to Dunkirk in four days. His traveling is not sitting well with the cabinet, as Clementine warns him. By this time, Winston is beginning to understand the strategic value of Antwerp to the region. Kitchener tells Churchill Antwerp will soon fall and Winston says they have to hold the city. There is the fear Kluck will seize the channel ports before the British can do anything. Winston manages to sway Kitchener to his side. The government in Belgium is thinking of moving the seat of government to Ostend before Antwerp is taken.

Winston travels to Cardiff for a recruitment rally and is consulted about the concern that if Antwerp falls, Kluck will go through to Calais, leading to an invasion of England. Winston agrees to go to Antwerp to assess the situation. He meets with the Belgian king and premier and promises to provide troops and ammunition for them to hold the city. The troops land in Belgium and two naval brigades are sent. Winston writes Asquith asking for permission to resign from the cabinet and permission to lead the troops, asking for a commission with the necessary rank and powers of a commander. His request is denied but he stays there while the British troops fend off a German attack.

British general Rawlinson arrives alone in Antwerp without his troops, who do not come ashore. Winston wires London that they are evacuating Antwerp, leaving the eight thousand British troops to hold the position as long as they can. The troops will then follow. Winston leaves Antwerp and arrives in Dover and learns Clementine has given birth to a girl. Soon the Belgians surrender. As the story of the last minute meeting that sends Winston to Antwerp is known, there are different versions that circulate and criticism of Winston for going to Antwerp. "Because the strategic consequences of Antwerp were being worked out in high secrecy, Churchill would not defend himself in public or in the House. In private letters he pointed out that he had acted with the fullest authority and could hardly be held responsible for the French failure to reinforce the garrison....The real justification for Antwerp, however, was that, far from being an exercise in futility, it had provided an invaluable contribution to the Allied cause. Asquith knew it, and once his private grievance had healed, he wrote that Churchill, by delaying the fall of the city by at least a week, had 'prevented the Germans from linking up their forces,'" (Part Four, p. 504).

Winston delays the fall of Antwerp for a week and this is enough time to allow the French and British armies to establish positions to the northwest, but this is not known publicly at the time. The Belgian army is with Rawlinson and escapes with him along the

Flanders coast. This allows them to fight for the next four years. Since none of this is known publicly it appears Winston is running around interfering in military affairs.

The Allies find the Kaiser has strong defenses. Troops are continually shipped to the front. On an average day, the combined totals for both sides are more than 2,500 killed, 9,000 injured and 1,100 missing. These figures are only for the western front and the War Office refers to them as normal. By the end of 1914 the combined casualty figures for England and France approach one million casualties. The Russians also suffer heavy casualties of a million men.

In September 1914, the Germans, in response to the British turning back a Turkish torpedo board, keep the lighthouses lights off and announce that the Channel is closed. This is done in violation of international law. The Turks, who guard the entrance, find their ships shelled by the British. On November 25, at the British War Council's first meeting, an attack on the Gallipoli peninsula is urged. A successful attack would leave the Dardanelles in Allied hands and strengthen their position at Constantinople. Greece, they are told will not take part in the attack. Winston at first opposes the attack and later changes his mind.

The Turks let it be known they will destroy Constantinople if the British go there. They have already wired certain key building with dynamite. Turkey do not have a strong military even though they are militaristic. Since Mustapha Kemal does not like the Germans, he is banished from Constantinople and is in charge of the defense of Gallipoli.

There is a debate going on between the Easterners and the Westerners in which Kitchener gets himself caught in the middle. The Westerners believe the war can only be won in France. The Easterners believe the war will be won in Asia Minor, the Balkans, Italy or the Baltic. War plans are drawn for operations in various locations under the order of the War Council. Neither the military nor the civilians know what the right answers are. The War Council approve an assault on the Dardanelles. Fisher keeps having second thoughts about the Dardanelles plan. He feels they should just keep blockading because they might be playing into the hands of the Germans who want to engage their fleet. Winston draws up a table comparing the strengths of both the British and German navies and he and Fisher present the situation to Asquith. Asquith decides the Dardanelles plan will continue. Asquith notes there is growing tension between Winston and Fisher and the Dardanelles plan becomes known as Winston's plan. Kitchener does not think that the Turks will not defend Gallipoli and feels they will evacuate.

The attack begins on February 19, 1951 when British battleships shell the Turkish forts at the mouth of the straits. There is little resistance by the Turks. When the Marines land they find the area basically deserted. Carden, who leads the assault, tells London they will reach Constantinople within two weeks. After this, King Constantine of Greece switches sides and joins the Allies for the attack on Constantinople. A coup in Greece results in Greek neutrality in the situation.

The attack begins on March 18, 1915 as various British and French warships sail into the Narrows on their way to Constantinople, which they will reach in twelve hours. The British minesweepers go ahead of them, taking out mines. An evacuation is taking place in Constantinople. However, the British do not send enough ships to take the city which would not have been able to defend itself. If they had attacked again on March 19, they would have found Constantinople undefended, but they do not attack again and they do not know of the situation in Constantinople until years later.

After the attack, the French want to send more ships but Fisher does not. Churchill is told that if he is going to attack, then to do it immediately. If he is not going to take Constantinople, then he should not risk having the ships sunk. There is thinking that Gallipoli should be cleared first. If they take Constantinople first, they will not be able to fortify the peninsula. The delay costs the Allies 250,000 lives by the end of the year and England is now committed in the Mediterranean.

The Turks have a reprieve when Constantinople is not attacked and they overtake Armenia. There is a tremendous increase in the morale of their troops. Their spies watch the British in Cairo. The Turks move troops in for reinforcements since they have five weeks time to do so. They assume the high positions looking down on the beaches. The British have their troops in the area but they do not have permission to attack. Winston's brother, Jack, is serving under Hamilton in the region and he writes Winston, telling him how entrenched the Turks are. Forty-five thousand men are lost in the first month and they have to wait for reinforcements.

A new plan of attack is formulated by the group in the straits and sent to London for approval. While the plan is discussed in London, word comes that the Turks have sunk a British ship with a submarine in the Narrows. Kitchener wants to order the ships home to England. They recall the battleship Elizabeth, leaving the others in the area. Fisher resigns over the Dardanelles situation and refuses to withdraw his resignation. He refuses to serve with Winston.

The British are also facing problems in France and the press reports that it is because of a lack of munitions. They blame it on opening a second front in Gallipoli and Churchill is the man they blame for it. He is often absent for the Admiralty. He is involved in negotiating a treaty with Italy at the time, but the government cannot make that information public. Asquith lets Winston know he is forming a National Government and Winston can have a post, but he will not be first lord. Winston replies he will not accept any office resulting in his being cut off from the war. The English are looking for a scapegoat and Winston is being blamed for everything that has gone wrong. Winston, of course, is very depressed about the situation.

Winston ends up with a post as chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, where his only job is to appoint magistrates. He is promised a seat on the War Council, now called the Dardanelles Committee if he accepts the Lancaster post. Winston and Clementine move from the Admiralty to his brother's house and on weekends Winston takes his family and his brother's family to a house in the county called Hoe Farm. In the

meantime, Winston loses another battle over the use of tanks. He does not want them revealed so early.

At Hoe Farm, Goonie, Jack's wife, introduces Winston to painting. It is to become a hobby he enjoys immensely. He moves from watercolors to oils when Clementine buys him the supplies he needs. A neighbor, Hazel Lavery, who is an artist, helps him. Painting helps Winston with his anxiety and depression. He is a good artist. Winston is also able to spend time with his three children and his brother's two children.

He still attends meetings of the Dardanelles Committee. They send five more divisions to Gallipoli while Winston favors more support for the army in France. The Committee begins to consider pulling out of the Dardanelles based on Kitchener's evaluation. Winston formulates a plan when Bulgaria enters the war as a German ally but it is rejected. The Committee does not grasp his insight and considers him superficial and a gambler. Winston suffers from a lack of credibility. Kitchener suggests Winston visit the Dardanelles and Gallipoli which he is happy to do. He takes out an insurance policy and leaves a note for Clementine in case he is killed during the mission but the Conservatives are against the trip and Asquith agreed with them.

Hamilton is relieved of his duties on October 16 and replaced with General Sir Monro. Monro's first task is to determine whether or not they should abandon the area. Kitchener visits the area and recommends they evacuate. The Dardanelles Committee is renamed the War Cabinet and Winston is not included on it. Winston submits his resignation on November 11 and it is formally accepted the next day. The Manchester Guardian publishes an editorial saying Winston's departure is a loss for the nation and they do not recognize how his plans would end the war if they were followed, in both Antwerp and the Dardanelles.

For the first time in ten years, Winston is out of government. He tries to obtain a command but cannot. He has his commission in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars which are stationed in France and he decides to join them. He departs several days later as Major Churchill. He is warmly greeted by the commanders and opts for assignment commanding a brigade. They make the necessary arrangement for his training. He is to be assigned to the grenadiers' Second Battalion serving under Lieutenant Colonel George Jeffreys. When he meets Jeffreys, Jeffreys makes it clear he has not been consulted in the matter and tells Winston what he can and cannot take with him. Clementine sends him a note telling him that withdrawal from the Dardanelles is official.

In spite of everything, he still has some special privileges on the front. He acquires what he needs to make his living conditions bearable and becomes popular with the other soldiers. He asks to be assigned to the front lines and his request is granted. He is accepted and liked by the troops in Flanders. Many people are impressed with his service in the trenches at Flanders.

Winston receives an appointment as a brigadier general. There is opposition to his appointment in London. He is not allowed to have a brigade, only a battalion. He returns to London periodically on leave and on one occasion addresses Parliament.



He exchanges words with Balfour over his suggestion that they recall Fisher as first sea lord. He also decides to leave Flanders and the army as soon as he can. He risks political suicide, as Clementine tells him. He sends his resignation to Kitchener, who accepts it.

When he returns to London he is invited to join the Opposition. He is still popular with the people, but not as popular as he had been before his speech in Parliament. He is verbally attacked in Parliament. The British sustain terrible losses along the Somme River and Winston favors that they break off the engagement. Clementine tells him how he comes across and offends people. She tells him to be careful whom he associates with. He does not address the House much now and he considers returning to Flanders. He begins to write articles for the Sunday Pictorial. He receives an income for this which he needs, since he has Jennie and his brother's family living with him.

At the beginning of 1917, Clementine tells Winston that he has to clear his name over the Dardanelles situation. Asquith, through Bonar Law, agrees to release all of the papers. In July, Asquith says he has to delay the release of the papers. This leads to the establishment of a committee led by Lord Cromer to investigate the Dardanelles operations. This does not satisfy Winston. The hearing begins on August 17 and for the next five months, Winston handles his defense. Asquith resigns and the new government is headed by Lloyd George. On December 17, four members of the new cabinet tell George they will refuse to serve if Winston is included in the cabinet. Winston is offered a peerage as Lord Beaverbrook. He accepts it but always regrets it.

In December, when the Royal Commission issues its report on the Dardanelles, Winston is basically cleared of any wrongdoing. The Commission blames Asquith and Kitchener. There are no accusations against Churchill in the final report. He did nothing wrong. This clears him in the eyes of the House but not totally in the eyes of the public. He is still the emotional scapegoat even though he is now respected in Parliament. He declines the duchy of Lancaster position when Lloyd George offers it to him. The United States declares war on Germany.

On June 17, 1917, Winston is appointed the Minister of Munitions. There is an uproar over his appointment but he is busy running for by-election in Dundee. Winston buys a cottage in the country near East Grinstead in Kent. Clementine is pregnant again. He wins the election in Dundee and is returned to the House while he works at the Ministry of Munitions. He reorganizes the Ministry, reducing the number of its departments from fifty to twelve. When munitions workers threaten to strike in Leeds, Winston has the prime minister threaten them with conscription and that is the end of talk about strikes. The output of the munitions factories increases during Winston's tenure.

Britain and the Allies take heavy losses in Flanders, as do the Germans. At the end of 1916, Lloyd George says England is going to lose the war. In November, troops are rushed to Italy to help support the Italians against the Germans. Then the Russian Revolution takes place. The Russians, having lost nine million men in the war, want peace and negotiate a peace treaty with Germany. Russia is now out of the war. The German troops that have been fighting the Russians are now free for duty in other

places. Hindenburg promises the Kaiser they will soon be in Paris. The Allies need the help of the United States.

In March, 1918, George asks Winston to travel to France to survey the situation on the front. The problem area is south of Ypres near the Oise River. This is where they expect the Germans to attack. Winston is on the front lines when the attack begins with more than five hundred thousand Germans advancing. The British are pushed backwards and contact between the British and is cut off. Winston returns to London to report on the events. He attends a War Cabinet meeting and they know they are going to sustain huge losses. News from the Western Front grows bleaker with Foch now in charge of the Allied forces. Winston is asked to return to France to find out their plans for counter-attacking. Paris is being shelled at the time Winston is there. He travels to the front to see the conditions and returns to Paris. He believes the war is coming to a climax.

The Americans generals Pershing and Triss arrive for meetings with Clemenceau and George. There are 480,000 American troops on the way. Winston and the British party return to London after the meeting. By the weekend, the situation in France is changing. The Allied line holds and the Germans are prevented from breaking through.

A second German offensive comes a few days later near Flanders, along the River Lys and the German break through the British line. There is now a threat of losing the Channel ports. He feels the German Ludendorf will try to separate the British and the French. If they succeed, the Channel ports and England will be threatened. Winston feels they have to hold their positions. Winston's Ministry of Munitions supplies the troops with munitions and he establishes his own quarter at the Chateau Verchocq. Ludendorf's objective now is to destroy the British army. There is a mutiny among the French troops at this time which leads to a change in the French command.

The Americans correctly predict Ludendorf will attack at the weakest point, north of Aisne where the French have their least reliable troops and the British troops go for a rest since it is a natural stronghold. The Germans already have four thousand heavy Krupp guns hidden there. The attack begins there on April 25. Just as the Germans are forty-five miles from Paris, the Americans arrive. The marines hold the line for five days and then counter-attack, causing a German retreat. This is the end of Ludendorf's blows since more than ten thousand American soldiers arrive every day.

Back in England, Jennie marries Montagu Porch who is three years younger than Winston. He is a member of the Colonial Service. He is home on leave from Nigeria when they marry. Jennie marries into money. She assumes she will return to Nigeria with him but she is denied a passport. Winston's family moves into his aunt's house where their daughter Marigold is born. There is now air service between London and Paris so Winston flies back and forth.

"Squire, a poet and literary critic, had missed the one source of Churchill's political strength which, one feels, he should have identified immediately. It wasn't courage; bravery is common. What distinguished Winston was his remarkable mastery of the language. As he used it, the English tongue was a weapon and a benediction. It

fascinated him; he adored it, and could spend hours musing over its charms and the ways to employ it with maximum effect" (Part Four, pp. 646—647).

The British tank is unveiled against Ludendorf on August 8, 1918, leading to a British victory and a shift in momentum to the Allies. By August 26 the British have regained all they lost in Flanders. The Allied line consists of ninety-four miles held by Pershing with the French at the center and the British to their left with Belgian King Albert on the sea. By November, the German have no front, Ludendorf is replaced and the troops mutiny when told to fight to the death. Bulgaria, Turkey and Austria surrender. Winston is invited to join a special cabinet to work of the terms of the peace. On November 10, Germany surrenders.

A man lies in a Pomeranian military hospital sobbing about the surrender. He feels betrayed and is full of hatred. His name is Adolf Hitler.

Part Five: Oxbow

Part Five: Oxbow Summary and Analysis

The crowds in London are jubilant with the end of World War I. On November 21, the cruiser H.M.S. Cardiff sails to a rendezvous twenty miles out with a German ship commanded by Admiral Ludwig von Reuter. The Cardiff escorts the German vessel to May Island for a meeting with the British high command where the German flag is lowered at sunset. Britain seems to have survived the war intact. It suffers a loss of wealth but its factories and infrastructure are intact.

The peace conference is held at Versailles where the League of Nations is created. Woodrow Wilson is opposed to territorial acquisitions and insists upon self-determination. The British Empire acquires 988,000 square miles of new territory, many of the former German possessions as well as the Middle East. They attribute it to the Royal Navy and the blockade starving the Germans into surrendering.

"Seven months later, on a prearranged signal from Admiral von Reuter, German crews pulled the sea cocks of his 10 battleships, 9 armored cruisers, 8 large cruisers, 50 torpedo boards, and 102 submarines, sending them to the bottom while the horrified, helpless British officers and ratings looked on....It was for everybody—a defiant gesture declaring that Germany had surrendered but had not quit" (Part Five, p. 660). This event occurs one week before the signing of the peace treaty at Versailles, much to the chagrin of the British.

The peace treaty places huge demands on the Germans, mostly at the demand of the French. The British prime minister tries, but fails to prevent this. The British do not appreciate the American President's belief in self-determination nor the right of people to rule themselves. This is a threat to British imperialism. Another threat to the British is an agreement about naval power. The British navy has been the strongest and largest navy in the world. Now it will share that honor with the United States. A new agreement determines by ratio what the various nations can have. The Royal Navy even has to scrap some of her ships to comply with the terms of the agreement. England can no longer afford to rule the seas as she did before the war.

The British Empire begins its decline. Some of the former colonies become self-governing, like Canada. By 1910, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are also self-governing. They are now called Dominions and when they declare war, they each point out it is their individual decision and they are not following instructions from London. India now wants independence but does not receive it at this time. One of the only real heroes of the war is T.E. Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia, for his work in the Middle East. Mahatma Gandhi is another who has a following.

The British image has been altered by the time of the Armistice, although nobody realizes it. The Dominions let it be known that they are independent. The big test comes



in Turkey. The Dominions are split on their support of the British and they let it be known that they will not automatically join England in every war the English get involved in. Most British subjects are not interested in imperialism. These changes do not sit well with Winston Churchill. The British subjects seem to reject all of the things he values and cherishes. He really believes the British will return to their old values given enough time. He cannot understand why the possessions want independence.

Churchill feels the Versailles Treaty is not a negotiated settlement. Its terms are basically dictated by the war's victors. Atrocities have been committed on both sides, not just on the German side. He is not in favor of the huge reparations imposed on Germany and he let his constituents know this fact in the khaki election that follows the Armistice. He is re-elected in Dundee. His supporters believe he should have a position in the government. He becomes the secretary of state for war and air. His first crisis involves the discharge of the soldiers. There is rioting by soldiers wanting their discharges. Before Winston takes charge, an order is issued allowing discharge only for those who have jobs. The Bolsheviks call for soldier uprisings and the agitation is causing problems. Winston decides the discharges will be based on age, length of service and wounds, because they still require troops in the territories.

Within eight months of Winston's assuming office, seventy percent of the soldiers have been demobilized. However, he believes England has to have an army in the post-war world. He correctly sees Bolshevism as the new threat to Western civilization. After Russia's withdrawal from the war, a civil war takes place between the Red Russians and the White Russians. Winston is a foe of the Russian revolution and tries to prevent the Russian expansion. The British prime minister decides to withdraw British troops from Russia and not to interfere in Russian affairs. The French send troops to Russia but they mutiny and have to be evacuated. Russia expands and takes over neighboring countries.

Churchill wants to reinforce the British troops in Russia to prevent the slaughter and expansion. His plans for intervention are challenged and voted down. He openly opposes his party's prime minister on the issue. He helps arm the opposition to the Bolsheviks and supports the British volunteers who go to fight them. Winston writes articles about the Bolsheviks and has them published. Lloyd George authorizes a blockade of Petrograd but will not allow troops to invade to support the White Russians who are fighting the Bolshevik Red Russians. Eventually the British and French agree not to oppose the Bolsheviks or to intervene. They watch as the Russians move into Poland and then enter into a provisional peace treaty. The fighting continues until the 1920s.

Winston almost resigns when England negotiates a trade agreement with the Russians beginning a new rift between Winston and Lloyd George. As it turns out, Winston's Russian policy is a total failure because it opposes his own government's policy. His policies are not popular because the population does not want any more war. He soon leaves the war ministry to become Colonial Secretary and he is now a powerful and popular speaker in Parliament.

As Colonial Secretary, Winston has to deal with problems in India. One involves a massacre, as British troops, under the command of Brigadier General Reginald Dyer, open fire on a crowd of Indians gathered to protest a British decree. The result is 379 dead and more than fifteen hundred wounded. Dyer is promoted to major general and made inactive. The incident is debated in the House with Winston involved. He distinguishes himself with his speech, even though the House votes to support the government and not discipline Dyer.

As Colonial Secretary he faces the problems in Ireland and the Middle East. Hejaz has Husein as its sovereign but as a result of the peace treaty, France receives Syria and Lebanon; Persia, Iraq, and Palestine are under British control. King Faisal has been declared the King of Syria, but neither England nor France will recognize him. French troops force him out of Syria. His brother Abdullah raises an army to go to Damascus. Next an Iraqi uprising occurs. There are also riots in Jerusalem. The British government supports a Jewish homeland in Palestine based on the Balfour Declaration of 1917. Winston inherits this situation. He has not always favored the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. His views change by the time he becomes Colonial Secretary and he commits to it and fighting for it when other British ministers want it repudiated. They feel the Arabs supported the British in the war and deserve the support of the British in this issue.

Winston decides to visit the area. The delegation that accompanies him includes T.E. Lawrence. At the time, Chaim Weizmann, a Jewish leader in Palestine, wants the Jewish state's boundary extended to include Transjordan. He also wants the Southern frontier extended. Churchill remains noncommittal. He favors including the Negev Desert in the Palestine Mandate but he is not in favor of including all of Transjordan. Churchill's ship arrives in Cairo with protests taking place. Dignitaries from the Middle East arrive at the Semiramis Hotel, where Churchill is staying. His real purpose is to help select kings for Iraq and Transjordan who will be allies of the British. They take Lawrence's suggestions and approved of Abdullah in Transjordan and Faisal in Iraq. Churchill also agrees to withdrawing British forces from Iraq.

With business attended to, Churchill decides to relax and paint. Lord Allenby holds a farewell ball for them the night before their departure. Winston makes an appearance at the ball and then departs early. He spends the evening in discussions with Sir Herbert Samuel of Jerusalem and at midnight they all board a train for Gaza. They meet more demonstrations there, along with violence. Winston quickly learns that creating a Jewish state will not be easy. He plants a tree at Hebrew University and speaks in support of the Balfour Declaration to both Jews and Arabs. He holds to this position when he is back in England. He allows kings for the Arabs in Iraq and Transjordan. Now Britain has to carry out its promise to the Jews.

As violence continues to escalate in Palestine, Churchill begins to write a constitution for Palestine which will not allow the Arabs to prevent Jewish investment or immigration. By July, all of the hurdles for a Jewish state have been cleared yet it does not come into being until 1948. The British continue to rule because of all the problems.



As problems continue in the Middle East, Winston gives a speech in 1921 in which he says they will never have a successful Middle East policy without a settlement with Turkey. The Treaty of Versailles stripped Turkey of its possessions, including the Arab states. The dictator is Kemal Ataturk, General Mustapha Kemal during World War I. Some of Turkey's former possessions have been given to Greece. Winston urges Lloyd George to negotiate with Kemal and finds Kemal willing to enter into negotiations. George refuses, even when the Greek government falls.

Kemal consolidates his power and is elected president and vows to retake all of their former possessions. While he is working on this, Turkey is invaded by the Greeks. There are massacres committed by both sides. Then Kemal tries to take the straits and the Dardanelles. The French and Italians withdraw, which leaves a few thousand British, not enough to defend against the fifty-two thousand Turks. British ships are sent to the area. Kemal is sent an ultimatum to withdraw from the neutral area or British reinforcements will be sent. Kemal refuses. After two weeks of tension, Kemal agrees to respect the neutral zone and withdraws his forces. The Treaty of Lausanne is negotiated the following year and Turkey receives Eastern Thrace, the straits and Constantinople.

Ireland is the other big issue facing Winston and England. The British never see any parallel between the Middle East problem and their own situation with Ireland. Winston inherits the problem when he takes over the Colonial Office. The Irish group Sinn Fein want independence from England. In 1916 the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) plan an Easter rebellion in conjunction with German agents but they are caught before the event can take place. This leads to the execution of some of the leaders and the imprisonment of Eamon de Valera, who was of American birth. In the 1918 election, the Sinn Fein candidates win the seats for Ireland but refuse to go to London. They establish their own assembly, the Dail Eireann with the now released de Valera as president. De Valera is smuggled into New York by Michael Collins of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

The IRA is a violent organization. They are responsible for eighteen murders in 1919. The violence grows worse the following year. At one point there is a plan to kidnap various British ministers, one of whom is Winston. The Irish problem is discussed extensively. One of the questions is who should deal with the problem, especially in the area of retaliation. The British conclude they do not have anyone in Ireland that can deal with it.

The problems are not only in Ireland. At this time, throughout Europe there are groups of disbanded armies. Germany has the problem of Corporal Hitler organizing groups of veterans. Britain trains eight thousand former soldiers in the IRA methods so they can use them against the IRA. They become known as the Black and Tans or just the Tans. The Tans accomplish nothing but cause more violence.

On December 23, 1920, the Government of Ireland Act passes. The law divides Ireland into two states. Eire has twenty-six counties and Ulster has six counties. Each state will have its own legislature but the British will still be in charge of customs, defense and



foreign affairs. Eire holds election on May 21 and elect the Sinn Fein to 124 out of 128 seats. The violence continues and there is talk of negotiations. They send Sinn Feld founder Arthur Griffith along with Michael Collins to the meetings in London. Winston finds he enjoys the discussion with Michael Collins and they became friends. The negotiators reach an agreement but it is immediately rejected by de Valera so Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland have no pact. De Valera will not accept Dominion status because he wants a republic.

When Griffith and Collins return to the Dail, they explain to their colleagues the pact contains the best terms they can get. The Dail passes the treaty by a very slim vote and de Valera resigns. Griffith replaces de Valera and Collins is elected head of the provisional government. De Valera goes underground and violence resumes. A year later the Colonial Office learns that Collins and de Valera met and signed an agreement stating there would be sixty-four seats for the Free State in the Dail.

Winston and others earn places on IRA hit lists. Winston has a police escort whenever this happens. The problems continue as buildings are burned. The Free State, before it is over, will execute seventy-three IRA men. Collins is slain in an IRA ambush when he is thirty. When the Dail adopts the constitution, the Free State is admitted to the League of Nations. They settle their boundary dispute with Ulster. This is in 1922.

Elections in England are bringing socialists into government. Churchill is not happy with the situation and does not see them as legitimate heirs to the Liberals. Due to the situation, Winston again switches parties and becomes a Conservative again. He is now fifty years old and still the subject of debate in England. People have opinions about him whether they are for him or against him. In addition to his problems with the socialists, daughter Marigold dies before her third birthday. Soon after, Clementine's mother dies and then Jennie dies.

Winston is still an avid writer. He writes books and manuscripts and the family needs the income from his writing for their support. Clementine worries his free-lance writing will be an obstacle to his aspirations for higher offices in government. Winston decides to write a book about the war. It will take more than eight years to write and will be five volumes. His deadline is December 31, 1922 and he is paid in advance for the publication rights. There is concern in government that he is using government documents. The book is called *The World Crisis* and it sells very well.

When his cousin dies, Winston inherits several thousand pounds. They use the money to buy Chartwell. Clementine and the kids love the country house from the moment they see it. They rent a neighboring house to live in while Chartwell is remodeled. Winston does a lot of the work himself. They refer to the house as *Cosy Pig*. Even Winston tries to curtail their expenses in order to pay for Chartwell.

In October, the government loses a vote of confidence and elections are held. Winston wins a seat from Epping, which he holds for the rest of his life in government. When the boundary is changed in 1945, it becomes known as Woodford. The new government forms with Baldwin as prime minister. Churchill receives an appointment as Chancellor

of the Exchequer, a position he holds for five years. This results in the Churchills moving to a new residence at No. 11 Downing Street. He wears his father's Exchequer robes to his first official function.

Exchequer and Winston are not made for one another. He has too little interest in high finance to perform the Treasury functions the Exchequer demands. Lord Boothby becomes his private secretary. He later agrees he was the worst Chancellor of the Exchequer England ever had. There is a change going on in economics. The classical view of economics is on its way out and Keynesian economics is on its way in and Winston is caught up in this debate. The battle rages about balancing the budget, which is impossible in post-war England.

April 28, 1925 is Winston's first Budget Day in the House of Commons. His family is present in the gallery for his two and one half hour speech. When his proposed budget is studied, they find it varies from the traditional Tory approach, reflecting Winston's belief in productivity as the key to financial health. He proposes a return to the gold standard and a cut in services, particularly on the military. This brings on a battle between Winston and the Admiralty. Baldwin has to intervene and eventually restores some of the funding to the military.

Winston is opposed to rearmament, even as late as 1929. He believes Germany will not rebuild their military. In spite of his objections, there is some expansion of the military and they receive their percentage of the budget. Due to Winston, England is back on the Gold Standard, which they left during World War I. This results in the resignation of Keynes and others from the board of the Bank of England. However, the Gold Standard has many supporters because of its potential for economic growth. They are trying to re-establish England's pre-war prosperity and think they can do so by maintaining a parity value between the British pound and the U.S. dollar.

This is a period of labor unrest in England. The unions, especially the coal miners, want higher wages. Eventually the standoff results in a call for a General Strike. There are twenty-two unions that have merged to form the Transport and General Workers Unions. Their general secretary calls for the General Strike. When the talks break down, six million workers go on strike. Churchill prepares a government emergency plan in 1926 for the situation and it goes into effect. There is little violence during the strike as Lords, troops, and upper and middle class subjects pitch in to help deliver fuel and food. Winston helps man the printing presses for a newspaper. The General Strike ends a week later when the union capitulates on May 12, 1926. Winston believes the coal miners have legitimate grievances and is not on the side of the owners.

In the three years following the General Strike, Winston is very popular with the upper and middle classes. He excels in his Budget Day speeches during this time. During this period, the only rival to his ascension to prime minister is Neville Chamberlain. In spite of his thirty years in government, he has no real power base or national following. He presents his last budget on April 15, 1929. During his term, many state benefits programs come into being.



During this time Mussolini rises to power in Italy. Churchill, like many others, is taken in by the Italian Fascist dictator. He thinks Mussolini is the antidote to Russian socialism. His views do not play well in the press, where he is attacked. Winston travels through Europe, meeting with Duce and the Pope. Financially, the situation is better for the Churchills because of his income from his writing. His two older children are away at boarding school.

There is another General Election in 1929. The political climate has changed and Churchill and Baldwin both warn the voters they are choosing between socialists and modern conservatives. Either Churchill or Chamberlain will be Baldwin's successor. They need to have Winston out of Exchequer to clear a path for Chamberlain. Labour wins 288 seats in the election with the Conservatives having 260 and the Liberals 59. Churchill wins his own re-election bid but resigns his position at the Exchequer, which means his family has to move from No. 11 Downing Street. They rent a house and Winston leaves for Canada, leaving the moving details to Clementine.

Winston, his brother Jack and their two sons depart on August 3, 1929 for Quebec where they are warmly greeted. They travel across the continent by train in the private railcar of Charles Schwab. They cross into America on the West Coast and travel through California. After touring California, they travel by train to Chicago and then onto the East Coast where he visits Wall Street. Wall Street is experiencing its downward slide which leads to the Crash and eventually the beginning of the Great Depression.

The British subjects are not as interested in their Empire as in the past. The privileged class is beginning to experience guilt about their position. Hitler is in power in Germany at this time. Most British reject the values and symbols of Victorian England.

Like Gandhi, many British subjects receive their education in England, and then return to their homes full of ideas for change and reform. The Raj has become unpopular and the movement is on for Indian independence. Hinduism is based on caste, which is a form of class. One lives his life in the caste he is born into. Gandhi is a believer in non-violence and civil disobedience. At one point, Gandhi is sentenced to six years in prison and is out in two years. The Hindus team up with the Muslims in the struggle for independence.

The Indian situation is debated in Parliament and discussions are going on when Churchill returns from the United States on November 5. Winston, like many others, does not favor independence for India. He is drawn into the debates and writes articles about the subject in which he states flatly he does not favor home rule for India. He feels the Indians need British rule to prevent fighting and slaughter. Gandhi leads his famous Salt March in which he marches to the Indian Ocean. He feels salt should be given freely to the population instead of sold through the Raj's salt monopoly. Gandhi is arrested before reaching the Indian Ocean so the march continues without him. There are riots and massive arrests.

Winston's position puts him in an awkward position with his party. He eventually resigns as a result. Neville Chamberlain is appointed to fill Churchill's position. Winston still has



his position in the House. At this time, the effects of the American stock market crash begins to be felt in Europe. It begins in Vienna when Credit-Ansatt closes. This is Austria's largest bank. Wall Street is the center of the world financial community: when it falls, it takes the rest of the world with it. The panic spreads as declining sales are met by laying off workers. This leads to lower levels of spending and more unemployment as the downward spiral continues. Britain leaves the gold standard as unemployment soars. Winston, like others, criticizes the Exchequer. A general election is held which the government wins with a Tory sweep. They make it clear there was no place in the new government for Churchill. Winston retires to his country home.

In Germany, Adolph Hitler begins organizing his movement after the Versailles treaty. As long as Germany has prosperity, the Weimar Republic remains calm. Hitler is paroled from prison at the end of 1924. He appears at a rally, violating his parole. He is enjoined from public speaking. Since there are only 27,000 Nazis at this time, there is a big recruiting drive on. They have various sub-groups for children, women and intellectuals. Heinrich Himmler is active in the movement. Hermann Goring actively solicits funds from his family's wealthy friends. Joseph Goebbels works on the party newspaper. Hitler gives himself the title of Fuhrer.

The prospects for the Nazis brighten when the German economy begins to falter from the stock market crash. They are hit harder than other countries because they have been receiving massive American aid which is halted. Banks begin to fail. In the September 14, 1930 elections, the Nazis come in second to the Social Democrats. Economic conditions continue to worsen through 1930.

While most of the world does not take Hitler seriously, Churchill does. Hitler senses he has his worst enemy in Winston Churchill. Winston understands is the product of the Versailles Treaty. Winston fights the movement to reduce military spending in 1930 but is not listened to. Winston does not believe Hitler will not wage war, as he proclaims.

On December 12, 1931, Churchill is on a lecture tour of the United States. Clementine and Diana are with him. He had planned to make the trip earlier but was held up with matters in Parliament. While in New York, Winston is hit by a car. When he recovers enough to travel, they go for a vacation to Nassau and Winston experiences a bout of depression. He is back in New York by mid-January. He returns to England sailing on the Majestic.

Characters

Winston Churchill

Winston Churchill is the main character of the book. He leads England through World War II and the battle against the Nazis, brought in as a compromise choice by King George. Churchill has always been a well traveled brave adventurer. He travels to Cuba, India, on the Nile, South Africa, the Sudan, Iran and other places. He fights at the Battle of Omdurman in 1898. He is elected to Parliament at the age of twenty-five. In many ways, Churchill is a relic of an earlier time. He would have sent his troops into battle wearing red coats if he could have. He does not fancy progress and is not happy about flying but is interested in rockets in the 1930s. He makes it clear he fancies the past. He works as a newspaper reporter before entering government service and is one of the highest paid reporters of the time. He publishes fifty-six books during his lifetime, most of which are about war. He serves as the Home Secretary prior to World War II. When the war begins, he is first lord of the Admiralty and responsible for intervening in Norway. Many of his forays fail during the war, but many of them are successful. His career has its ups and downs and he runs for and loses more elections than any other politician. He changes parties several times and opposes the cradle to grave social welfare legislation of the Labour party. Winston institutes many social reforms during his years in Parliament.

Churchill is born on February 4, 1874. His parents more or less ignore him as he grows up. His nanny is his confidante. He is sent to a boarding school in Ascot where he is mistreated by the students and staff. When he attends Harrow, he learns he had a fantastic memory and a flair for languages. Churchill always believes he is the master of his own fate, even as a child. He is also an avid polo player and always suffers from bouts of depression which he refers to as "Black Dog". He deals with the depression by keeping active and even as a child he believes there is some special role for him. His wife Clementine describes him as someone who is always ministered to, first by his nanny, and then by various valets and servants.

Randolph Churchill

Randolph, the father of Winston, meets Jennie when she is nineteen years old. They are quickly engaged and married when she is pregnant with Winston. After his wedding, he settles into a house in Mayfair, and then he and his wife are summoned to his parents' country home, where they remain until baby Winston is born. He then returns to Mayfair with his wife and child. Randolph's family is good friends with the royal family, until Randolph's falling out with the Prince of Wales. The younger Churchills are basically social exiles after this and Randolph takes a post in Dublin, Ireland and moves his family there. Three years later they are back in London and his rift with the Prince is settled. He is elected as Tory prime minister and attends Parliament. During this time his syphilis continues to worsen. He is in the third stage when he marries Jennie and he



cannot touch her without endangering her health. The disease progresses and he dies in 1895.

Jennie Churchill

Jennie is Winston's mother. She is an American from a wealthy East coast family and meets Randolph at the age of nineteen aboard a shipboard party given by the Tsar of Russia. Jennie and Randolph are quickly engaged and Jennie is pregnant with Winston when they are married. She remains with her syphilitic husband until his death in 1895. Jennie is very active on the party scene and leaves most of Winston's upbringing to his nanny, whom Winston is very close to. Jennie puts herself ahead of Winston, whom she lets be seen in shabby clothes, while she wears diamond hair pins. Jennie does not take much interest in him until he begins his career, then she helps by pulling strings for him. When Winston fights in the Boer War, she outfits a hospital ship through fundraising and goes to visit him while he is on duty. Only forty when Randolph dies, Jennie remarries a man her son's age and is on her honeymoon when Winston wins a seat in Parliament. Jennie dies at the age of sixty-seven.

Clementine Churchill

Clementine is Winston's wife. Winston and Clementine are introduced by Winston's mother. She is the daughter of landed gentry, even though they are not overly wealthy. She receives her education at the Sorbonne and her views are more to the left than those of the Liberals. She is a strong supporter of women's suffrage. She meets Winston for a second time in March 1908 after his African trip. Winston proposes to her in August and they are married on September 12. They honeymoon in Blenheim, Africa and Venice while Winston works on his book and other papers. Winston calls her Cat or Kat, and she calls him Pug, Amber Pug and Pig.

Benjamin Disraeli

Disraeli is a British statesman who becomes the Earl of Beaconsfield. He is the prime minister when the questions of Irish Home Rule come up. At the last minute he switches his position in support of Home Rule. Disraeli, known as Dizzy to his friends, dies in 1881.

Adolph Hitler

Hitler is the Nazi leader of Germany and a foe of the British. Hitler, unlike Churchill, thinks there will be a negotiated settlement to avert World War II. At the end of World War I, he is in a Pomeranian military hospital when he hears of Germany's surrender. He is full of hatred and feels betrayed.



Robert Cecil

Robert Cecil, Marquess of Salisbury is a British Prime Minister at the time of the Irish Home Rule issue. He knows Randolph Churchill wants his job so he appoints him as Chancellor of the Exchequer and waits for him to fail, which he does. The conservatives and Salisbury are rejected in summer of 1892. He is still the Prime Minister when Winston is elected.

Admiral Sir John Arbuthnot Fisher

Fisher is a retired British Admiral is consulted about the impending German problem prior to World War I. He serves as first sea lord and gets along well with Winston until the situation in the Dardanelles. He resigns when he sees what is happening there.

Elizabeth Anne Everest

Elizabeth Anne Everest is hired as a nurse and nanny for Winston when he is one month old. She is unmarried and from Kent. She is to be the one comfort and confident of his childhood. Winston is always close to her and her picture remains in his bedroom until the day he dies. Winston calls her Woomany.

John Maynard Keynes

Keynes is an English economist who breaks with classical views and establishes a new school of economics. He believes the level of spending determines the level of economic activity in an economy and government intervention is required in the economy.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman

Bannerman, known as C-B, is the leader of the Liberal center party. If the Liberals come to power then C-B will become Prime Minister. When Balfour resigns in December 1905, C-B is asked to form a new government when he becomes prime minister.

Arthur J. Balfour

Balfour is a relative of Cecil's and is the leader of the House. He will become the Prime Minister when his uncle Robert Cecil retires if the Tories remain in power. He is referred to by his initials, AJB. Balfour resigns in December 1905.



William Gladstone

Gladstone is a British statesman and politician. Gladstone receives his chance to form a government in the summer of 1892, when Salisbury and the Conservatives are rejected by the voters.

Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria is the ruling British monarch during most of the 1800s and much of the book discusses events that occur during her rule. Winston Churchill takes many of his beliefs and customs from those that prevail in Victorian England.

Sir Herbert Kitchener

Kitchener is the officer in charge of the Egyptian and African campaigns Churchill covers. Kitchener fights the appointment of Churchill until the end. Kitchener becomes known as Kitchener of Khartoum or K of K.

Alexander von Kluck

Kluck is the German commander who forces the French out of Lorraine and back through France. He is one of the German commanders in Europe in World War I.

Douglas Haig

Haig is a Scottish military professional. Haig meets Winston in Flanders and then works with him when Winston is the Minister of Munitions. He dies in 1928.

Stanley Baldwin

Baldwin becomes prime minister in 1924 and appoints Winston to the position of Chancellor of the Exchequer.

King Edward VII

Edward is the son of Queen Victoria and he becomes king upon her death. He rules for nine years.



Mary Churchill

Mary is seventeen at the start of the book, the youngest daughter of Winston Churchill. Mary is called "Mary the Mouse" by her family and friends.

Diana Churchill

Diana is the daughter of Winston and Clementine Churchill. She is nicknamed the gold-cream kitten.

Marigold Churchill

Marigold is the fourth child of Winston and Clementine Churchill. She is nicknamed the Duckadilly. She dies before her third birthday.

Randolph Churchill

Randolph is the son of Winston born two years after their first child, Diana. is nicknamed the Chumbolly and the Rabbit.

Jack Churchill

Jack is the younger half-brother of Winston Churchill. Jack is six years younger than Winston.

King George VI

King George VI becomes the king of England after the abdication of Edward VIII.

King George V

George V becomes the King of England in 1910 after the death of Edward VII.

Field Marshal Lord Roberts

Roberts is the commander in South Africa. Winston rides with him as he takes Ladysmith, Johannesburg and Pretoria.



Edward Marsh

Marsh becomes Winston personal secretary when Winston receives an appointment as the under secretary for the colonies in 1905.

Herbert Asquith

Asquith becomes prime minister when Campbell-Bannerman resigns. He appoints Winston to his first cabinet post.

Sarah Churchill

Sarah is Winston and Clementine's daughter and is nicknamed the Bumblebee.

Paul Kruger

Kruger is President of the Boer Republics at the outbreak of the Boer War.

Louis Botha

Louis Botha is the leader of the Boers.

Kaiser Wilhelm

Kaiser Wilhelm is the ruler of Germany during World War I.

Margot Asquith

Margot is the wife of Herbert Asquith and the mother of Violet.

Violet Asquith

Violet is the daughter of Hebert Asquith.

Benito Mussolini

Mussolini is the Fascist dictator of Italy.



Objects/Places

Dunkirk/Dunkerque appears in non-fiction

Dunkirk (Dunkerque in French) is a fishing town on the English Channel where the British army retreat to.

English Channel appears in non-fiction

The English Channel is the body of water separating England from France and Europe. It is the location of the opening scene of the book.

Chartwell appears in non-fiction

Kent is the area in England where the Churchills had a country home. The name of the country estate is Chartwell.

Chequers appears in non-fiction

Chequers is the name of the country home of the prime minister.

London, England appears in non-fiction

London, the capital of England, is the scene of some of the action of the book, since it is where the prime minister's residence and Parliament are located.

Dublin, Ireland appears in non-fiction

Dublin, Ireland becomes the home of Randolph, Jennie and baby Winston after their exile by the Prince.

St. George's School appears in non-fiction

St. George's School is an expensive boarding school Winston Churchill is enrolled in when he is seven years old. It is not far from his Mayfair residence.

Brighton appears in non-fiction

Brighton is the site of a small school Winston is enrolled in when he is withdrawn from St. George's.



Blenheim Palace appears in non-fiction

Blenheim Palace is the country home of Randolph Churchill's parents.

Harrow-on-the-Hill appears in non-fiction

Harrow is a school Winston is sent to when he is ten years old. At that time the school is in the country. Its location is now a part of Greater London.

Sandhurst appears in non-fiction

Sandhurst is a part of the Royal Military College in the village of Camberley which Winston enters on September 1, 1893.

Grosvenor Square appears in non-fiction

Grosvenor Square is where Randolph's mother's house is located. This is where the family moves when Randolph sells the house on Connaught Place to save money.

Cuba appears in non-fiction

Cuba is the scene of fighting by the Spanish. On leave from his own unit, Winston goes to Cuba to cover the battle for a newspaper in 1895.

New York appears in non-fiction

New York is the place of Jennie Churchill's birth and upbringing and is visited by Winston in 1895 when he is on his way to Cuba.

India appears in non-fiction

India is the site of the Indian Empire and one of the first postings Winston Churchill receives.

Midland Hotel appears in non-fiction

The Midland Hotel in Manchester is the base for Winston's first campaign as a Liberal candidate in Manchester.



Hoe Farm appears in non-fiction

Hoe Farm is the country house Winston rents for weekends with his and Jack's family after his dismissal as first lord.

Flanders appears in non-fiction

Flanders is on the front lines in France where Winston serves with his unit, the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, after he leaves government.

May Island appears in non-fiction

May Island is an island in the Firth of Forth where the British and Germans meet ten days after the Armistice ending World War I. This is where the German flag is lowered.

Russia appears in non-fiction

Russia is an ally of Britain in World War I when the Bolshevik revolution occurs. They sign their own peace with Germany and withdraw from the war.

British Empire appears in non-fiction

Various countries of the British Empire are mentioned with some of the book's action taking place in them.

Themes

A Yearning for the Past

A recurring theme throughout the book is Winston Churchill's yearning for the past. He prefers Victorian England, and he is very open about his preferences. He adopts many of the mannerisms and customs of the Victorian era, using many of the terms and phrases that prevailed then. It is said he preferred the British troops go into battle wearing red jackets rather than khaki.

Even though Churchill is intrigued by rocketry, he does not like flying. He prefers the pre-Wright brother world. Flight makes the world seem smaller, and he does not like this. Churchill also does not always use the modern name of cities and countries. He refers to them by the names they are known by during the Victorian era. One of the customs of the Victorian era he follows as prime minister is to never attend Parliament. He also follows the Victorian tradition of wearing a frock coat to events at Buckingham Palace.

It is well known Churchill prefers the Victorian era to the modern era. Many of his colleagues joke about the fact and know his attachment to the Victorian era grows stronger as he grows older. In spite of this, he understands modern warfare and its use of weapons.

Ambition

One of the biggest recurring themes throughout the book is ambition. The reader sees first the ambition of Randolph and then the ambition of Winston. Winston is not ambitious when he is in school. He has little interest in academics until he goes to military school which is why he does poorly in school. He never attends university. He becomes interested in academic subjects when he is serving in India. He sends Jennie lists of books she would have to buy and send him. He is basically self-taught in many subjects, including oration.

His ambition becomes evident when he starts planning how to use his military service and career as a writer to enter politics. Politics is his dream and he is willing to sacrifice to achieve his dream. He makes a name for himself as a war correspondent, working for various newspapers while he is in the service. He plots his moves, trying to figure out how to make himself worthy of being elected to the House of Commons. His ambition is behind many of the risks he takes and the things he does. His ambition pays off because he usually gets what he wants.

Standing up for Your Beliefs

Winston is always rebellious and outspoken. He says what he thinks. He is also very stubborn and not very open to changing his position due to the persuasion of others. He is outspoken enough to get himself into conflicts in the press and in the Parliament. He is often at odds with the prime minister over controversial issues and he very rarely backs down. He holds his ground and speaks his mind on subjects that are often controversial.

Many times he is incorrectly portrayed in the press over events. The situation in the Dardanelles during World War I is one such time. The result is he lost his cabinet position and decides to join his Hussars unit posted at the front in Flanders. He is in bad standing with the politicians and the public until a Royal Commission investigates the situation and clears him of wrong doing.

As Chancellor of the Exchequer he presents budgets that are not always popular. At one point he cuts military spending so much that there is an uproar that has to be settled by the prime minister. He always tries to be fair, as in the labor strikes when he feels the coal miners have a legitimate complaint. He never is portrayed as trying to hurt anyone. However, he always stands up for what he believes, even if it costs him his cabinet posts.

Style

Perspective

William Manchester is a well known historian and author. He works as a news reporter and is the author of many books. He writes his first book after the end of World War II in which he served. Most of his books are non-fiction but he did write a novel. The majority of his books are historical in nature, such as the book on the Kennedy assassination. Manchester is known for the depth of his research and his attention to detail. His books, like *The Last Lion*, are full of historical details as Manchester presents the facts in their proper historical perspective. This makes the reading material much more enjoyable for the reader who learns history while reading the book. The reader does not have to wonder what happened in a particular place or at a particular time because Manchester has already included them as facts.

Manchester's writing style and attention to detail have a favorable impact on the reader. It keeps the reader interested in the subject and makes the book read almost like a novel. The book does not become boring as many historical books do. The reader is always waiting to see what happens next. However, he could have included fewer excerpts from letters and correspondence. This slows the book down a little and there is quite a bit of reading in the book. Manchester's intended audience is anyone with an interest in history or the events of the period. With Manchester's background, the reader can be assured the events are factual and true. With Manchester's easy style of writing, the book is enjoyable and an easy way to learn.

Tone

Manchester writes the book in an objective tone from the third person point of view. He presents the facts very objectively without trying to force any points or views on the reader. There are a lot of facts presented in a book of this kind. Not only does Manchester not try to force a point of view, he also does not let the reader know his own personal opinions on any of the issues. He also does not come across as being judgmental in any way.

The objectivity of the writing style basically gives the reader the facts in a non-emotional way and lets the reader make up his own mind. He does not ever criticize Churchill for any of his positions even though many other people do. He just presents the facts with a lot of details and allows the reader to draw his own conclusions. The affect on the reader is that the reader begins to think about the different issues and decides on his own if he does or does not agree with Churchill or whatever the issue is.

For the most part, Manchester's approach stimulates the reader to think about the issues if he wants to. Even this reflection is not forced on the reader. The reader does not have to consult other information sources because of the amount of detail

Manchester provides. In all ways, the reader is favorably impacted by Manchester's style. Manchester makes it easy to learn.

Structure

The format of the book is quite simple. There is a Preamble, Prologue and five parts. For the most part, the five parts are chronological, even though they jump around within each part. The Prologue and Preamble are not chronological and jump around quite a lot. They are very lengthy for a Preamble, forty-one pages, and a Prologue, sixty-eight pages, but they are packed with details and history. They basically serve as an introduction for the lives of the Churchills.

The book contains a Chronology at the beginning listing various events and the dates of their occurrence. There is a table of contents called an Array and there is also a List of Illustrations and a List of Maps. The pictures are sprinkled throughout the book and the maps are very helpful in the discussion of events during the war. The Acknowledgements are at the end, followed by a lengthy section of Source Notes and an Index. The Index is useful in looking up names.

The book is well written but the reader can become bogged down in some of the details. There is a great deal of attention to what songs were popular and when, and who said what to whom in the copious excerpts from correspondence. The simple format works well for a book of this length. The reader does not have to backtrack to check on events.

Quotes

"England's new leader, were he to prevail, would have to stand for everything England's decent, civilized Establishment had rejected. They viewed Adolf Hitler as the product of complex social and historical forces. Their successor would have to be a passionate Manichaeian who saw the world as a medieval struggle to the death between the powers of good and the powers of evil, who held that individuals are responsible for their actions and that the German dictator was therefore wicked," (Preamble, p. 4).

"And so he saved Western civilization when men considered its redemption worth any price. The Nazi stain was spreading into the Balkans, into the Middle East, into Brazil; the German-American Bund was staging mass rallies in Madison Square Garden; the New York Times reported in front-page headlines: URUGUAY ON GUARD FOR FIFTH COLUMN, NAZIS TAKE BOLD TONE IN ECUADOR, AND ARGENTINE NAZIS RALLY. Men who think of themselves as indispensable are almost always wrong, but Winston Churchill was surely that then. He was like the lion in Revelation, 'the first beast,' with 'six wings about him' and 'full of eyes within,'" (Preamble, p. 7).

"That had been the story of much of his public life. His career passed through three stages: from 1900 to 1915, when his star rose to a dizzy height; from then until 1940, when he achieved little and failed often; and from Dunkirk to the end, when he became a legend. The legend obscures what was a patchy record. Again and again he was rejected by his countrymen; he never won their love and confidence until they faced disaster. His following was limited to a few personal friends. He lost more elections than any other British politician of his time. Twice he switched parties, and although he would end up leader of the Conservatives, he spent three-quarters of his political life battling Tory leaders. His brilliance was recognized from the first, but he was regarded as erratic, unreliable, shallow, impetuous, a hatcher of 'wildcat schemes,'" (Preamble, pp. 20-21).

"Joyously human, anachronistic and wise, capable of willful misjudgment and blinding vision, dwarfing all those around him, he was the most benevolent of statesmen and the most gifted. Today the ordinary Englishman lives a better life than his fathers did, and for that he is largely indebted to Labour. But the extraordinary man has a harder time of it. He is trapped in regulations, his rise is impeded; his country pays a price. And even the masses seem to sense that while the socialists love ideas, Churchill, the unrepentant Victorian Tory, loved life. Since that love was balanced by a hatred of injustice, the average Briton owes him more than a higher standard of living. He owes him his very liberty," (Preamble, p. 39).

"It was the Tory journalist John Wilson of Blackwood's Magazine who first observed, in 1917, that 'the sun never sets upon the Union Jack.' At any given moment, wherever dawn was breaking, Britain's colors were rippling up some flagpole. If one could have ascended high enough in one of those balloons which fascinated Jules Verne and were actually used in the Franco-Prussian War, the view of Britain's colonial sphere would have been breathtaking. Victoria reigned over most of Africa, both ends of the



Mediterranean, virtually all that mattered in the Middle East; the entire Indian subcontinent, from Afghanistan to Thailand, including Ceylon, which on a map appeared to be merely the dot below India's exclamation mark but which was actually the size of Belgium; Malaya, Singapore, Australia, islands spread all over the Pacific and the Atlantic, and Canada. The Canadians, proud of their loyalty to the Queen, issued a stamp depicting a world map with the Empire's lands colored red. It was a study in crimson splotches. Although the British Isles themselves were dwarfed by czarist Russia, and were smaller than Sweden, France, Spain, or Germany, their inhabitants ruled a quarter of the world's landmass and more than a quarter of its population—thrice the size of the Roman Empire, far more than the Spanish Empire at full flush, or, for that matter, than the United States or the Soviet Union today," (Prologue, p. 44).

"The Victorian age was the Indian summer of homage, before wars, depressions, and nuclear horrors had destroyed faith in all establishments. The social contract was everywhere honored. England was guided by the self-assured men of the upper classes. They thought themselves better than the middle and lower classes, just as those classes assumed that they were better than the fellahin and the dusarwallahs. In both cases the presumption was rarely challenged," (Prologue, pp. 55-56).

"The casual promiscuity of the English patriciate over the centuries suggests the need for caution in tracing the bloodlines of Winston Churchill. He himself, while researching his biography of the great duke—the income from which went far toward supporting his family in the 1930s, when plea for resistance to Hitler made him a political pariah—found 'disquieting' evidence of 'a rather shady phase' in the 1500s, when the duke's great-grandmother so forgot herself in the early years of her marriage that she presented the family blacksmith with a sturdy son. On a loftier scale, the duke's sister gave birth to a bastard son of James II, and the family genes were quickened by the passionate George Villiers, the first Duke of Buckingham and the confidant of two Stuart sovereigns, whose descendants included both Pitts and several mistresses and lovers in royal households. So although it is theoretically possible to trace our Winston Churchill's lineage back at least to 1066, here and there skepticism is advisable," (Prologue, pp. 92-93).

"Volatile Ireland was enjoying one of its periods of quiescence. The problems were there, and Randolph, for whom these were maturing years, began a serious study of the social unrest. Jennie didn't. During her three years there it is doubtful that she saw a typical Irishman, except when trampling potato fields beneath the hooves of her favorite stallion. The Dublin she beheld was a creation of the Angle-Irish aristocracy. To her surprise and delight, she found it very like Mayfair: balls, theaters, dinner parties every evening, amusing friends to be made, and splendid steeplechasing, point-to-points, and foxhunting. Winston's picture of her in Ireland was 'in a riding hat, fitting like a skin and often beautifully spotted with mud. She and my father hunted continually on their large horses; and sometimes there were great scares because one or the other did not come back for many hours after they were expected,'" (Part One, pp. 115-116).

"Jennie had been sacred, and was doubtless relieved, but if gratitude meant changing her life-style, she wouldn't have it. These were the busiest years of her life, and she was enjoying them immensely. In those days an ambitious woman - and she was very ambitious - could express her drive only by advancing her husband's career. In the year of Winston's pneumonia, Anita Leslie writes, 'Jennie took it for granted that her husband would reach the post of Prime Minister,' but she was leaving nothing to chance," (Part One, p. 133).

"I want you to seize my point because it explains what I have always meant when I speak of myself as a Tory-democrat. The best class and the lowest class in England come together naturally. They like and esteem each other. They are not greasy hypocrites talking of morality and frequenting the Sunday school while sanding the sugar. They are united in England in the bonds of a frank immorality," (Part One, p. 144).

"Actually, it would be only a short time longer. But Winston had been kept at such a distance from his family that he knew nothing of the tensions within it. He couldn't understand the niggling over money. He was keenly aware of his father's reentry into politics. He did not, however, grasp the futility of it," (Part One, p. 185).

"These zany costumes had become preposterous with the invention of smokeless gun powder in 1886, but the British didn't like smokeless powder, and wouldn't accept it until their enemies had shown them how effective it could be. It was new; therefore, it was suspect. So were the breech-loading fieldpieces Krupp had introduced; Britain was the last European power to abandon muzzle-loading cannon. So were carbines; those issued to one cavalry regiments were dumped on the stable manure pile. The Duke of Cambridge protested that he wasn't against change. He favored it, he said, when there was no alternative," (Part Two, p. 220).

"Excitement could be found in just sitting on your veranda at teatime, sipping whiskey in the heat, your legs propped up on the long arms of your wicker chair, awaiting the first mango showers and watching the fading of daylight, so unlike the long blue twilights of England, when the sun plunged behind the Arabian Sea with dramatic swiftness, and darkness fell on the vast Hindustan plain before you could grope your way inside," (Part Two, p. 236).

"Kitchener, after all, had only twenty thousand men, counting his Egyptian Camel Corps and the disaffected Sudanese he had enlisted. What the Khalifa did not realize was that the new technological superiority of European armies—resulting from such innovations as shrapnel, magazine rifles, and Maxim guns—had rendered his passionate masses, clad in their patched blue-and-white jibbas, or smocks, waving their obsolete weapons and their banners inscribed with passages from the Koran, almost meaningless," (Part Two, p. 269).

"Here, surely, was temptation. Less than six months earlier, against all odds, Winston had fled prison just north of here. Then he had been merely a war correspondent. Now he held a Queen's commission. He would have to travel in a civilian suit. In his pocket

he would be carrying an urgent report from one British commander to another. Even the debonair Frenchman—if indeed he was what he said he was; Winston, with his own atrocious French, was no judge of that, and no one else here had ever laid eyes on the man before—conceded that armed Boers were thick in the streets. A simple search by any one of them and Winston would be shoved against the nearest wall and executed by an ad hoc firing squad. Nevertheless, he agreed. He took the plan to Hamilton, who, amused, gave him a copy of the dispatch he was sending by orderlies the long way. Changing clothes, Winston shoved it into the jacket with his Morning Post and cycled off with his carefree guide," (Part Two, p. 326).

"Another vernal politician would have congratulated himself for having scored an important point, counted his change, and returned to the fold. But once Churchill had taken a position, no one but himself could persuade him to abandon it. He would be among the last of the Edwardians to appreciate the menace of the Kaiser. In the House he distrusted every authority except his own—as, when he finally came to power, he would ruthlessly crush everyone who revolted against him. Yet such was his charm and intellect, even in those early days, that he could always find recruits to his cause, sometimes against their own best interests," (Part Three, p. 350).

"Yet this view of Churchill may have been exaggerated. Like most men of affairs, he had learned to use his time efficiently, and in London he was all business. But he was not what today would be called a workaholic. Many of his leisured friends, it must be remembered, did not work at all; very little dedication was necessary to impress them. His appetite for statecraft did not prevent him from playing when he chose. He followed the races—at a Warwick Castle house party he astounded his fellow guests by reciting the names of the last fifty Derby winners and their breeding—and he always found time for polo, boar hunting, duck shooting, and holidays abroad," (Part Three, p. 377).

"The big issue facing the new monarch was the unresolved People's Budget. The Liberals urged him to appoint enough new peers to swing the House of Lords' vote their way. He hesitated, and the country prepared to go to the polls again. Andrew Bonar Law, who would succeed Balfour as the Conservative leader, tried to exploit Churchill's gambling instincts by proposing that he and Winston run for the same constituency in Manchester, with the understanding that the loser would stay out of the next Parliament. Winston declined to abandon his safe seat, preferring to spend his time and energy campaigning for other Liberal candidates. He was a political celebrity now," (Part Three, p. 412).

"In time all of these would be avenged. Von Hipper would be intercepted on his next sortie and so badly mauled that he would never reappear on the high seas. Von Spee and his entire squadron would be sunk in the waters off the Falkland Islands. An Australian cruiser would annihilate the Emden. Only the U-boats would venture to take the offensive after that, and while their toll was spectacular, their torpedoing of American merchantmen trading with England would eventually bring the United States into the war. But in late 1914 all that lay in the future. The Admiralty's initial defeats shocked Britons. They had thought their navy invincible," (Part Four, p. 485).

"In assuming that statesmen could conduct the war, Winston was dwelling in a world of illusion. The politicians having lost control of events and precipitated a general war, the professional militarists of every belligerent nation were in the saddle. The office classes were declaring that no one should have a voice in the war unless he had spent forty years in uniform—which, as B.H. Liddell Hart acidly observed, would have disqualified Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Cromwell, Marlborough, and Napoleon. Antwerp, they said smugly, was an example of what you might expect if civilians were in command. The British public believed them. It was generally assumed in England that Churchill had been responsible for a pointless bloodletting in Belgium," (Part Four, pp. 505-506).

"Silence descended upon the strait. As the weeks passed, the Turks realized that they had been granted a reprieve. In time they persuaded themselves that they had triumphed. The Westerners, to whom they had felt inferior, had been routed. Islamic xenophobia stirred in them; they wanted to express their savage new strength on any available enemy. The Armenians were available. They were Christians, they were clever, they prospered as moneylenders in cities and villages, and they were suspected of sympathizing with the Russians. Rumors spread. They were sending information to the czar's troops, it was said; they were smuggling in arms and plotting a revolt. So a pogrom began. The men were tortured and shot; the women were recruited for harems; the very young and very old were sent down the roads to Syria, Persia, and Mesopotamia, where robbers stripped them naked and left them to die of hunger and exposure. Before it was over, 750,000 Armenians were dead," (Part Four, p. 550).

"In fact, his military thought was on a plane so extraordinary that others simply could not grasp it. In his multivolume history of the Great War he dwelt upon the significance of maneuver, which, he wrote, may assume many forms, 'in time, in diplomacy, in mechanics, in psychology.' Only when military and political thought were joined could leaders discover 'easier ways, other than sheer slaughter, or achieving the main purpose.' As he conceived it, the 'distinction between politics and strategy diminishes as the point of view is raised. At the summit true politics and strategy are one.' Thus, the internal political complexes of the Balkan states, in his mind, were linked to events on all European battlefields. Because these states were politically weak, the opportunities there are should be seized. Others, lacking his imaginative grasp, dismissed him as superficial. Actually he was plumbing depths whose very existence was unsuspected by them," (Part Four, p. 569).

"It was one thing to be slandered by Balfour, Bonar Law, and Lord Derby. That was politics. The Tories were only giving as good as they had got from him But to be distrusted, suspected and even condemned by men who had long been friends as well as colleagues was beyond his understanding. It was not, however, beyond Clementine's. Others fawned on him and then cut him behind his back. She told him, and wrote him, that he was sometimes curt, insensitive, and inconsiderate; that he was too given to extravagant overstatement; that his manner was dictatorial and often insulting. It was not enough to be right. His assumption that he alone should stand at the center of events, she said, offended men whose own achievements entitled them to share the stage and disagree. He lacked patience and tolerance. He was often strident and scornful, and because this had alienated first-rate men he was driven to seek the

company of others, who, as she saw it, could do him no good and might bring harm," (Part Four, p. 605).

"Now England consented to observe the ratio of 5 (Great Britain), 5 (United States), 3 (Japan), 1.75 (France), and 1.75 (Italy). Imperial warship designs were discarded; the agreement stipulated the size and type of every vessel. There would never be another Queen Elizabeth. After the pact, the Royal Navy was required to scrap 657 ships, including dreadnoughts, battleships, and cruisers—much of the Grand Fleet's backbone. The Admiralty pledged itself never to build a naval base at Hong Kong. England's absolute command of the seas, so vital to the Empire, was over. Britannia no longer ruled the waves, not because world opinion objected, but because, having spent £5,000,000 a day during the war, it simply couldn't afford to," (Part Five, p. 662).

"Squaring off against his part's prime minister was not, however, food politics. Neither was it wise. He was repeating his mistakes of 1914 and 1915. He had been right about Antwerp and the Dardanelles, but wrong in trying to direct the campaigns from the Admiralty. Only the man at No. 10 Downing Street could make policy. Churchill had lacked the power to override doubters then, and he lacked it now. And now, as then, his high profile guaranteed that, should the attempt to destroy the new masters of the Kremlin fail, he would be blamed, nevertheless, he persevered," (Part Five, p. 680).

"Had George Gallop been conducting his polls then, and had Britons been asked their judgment of Churchill, there would have been very few No Opinions. Nearly everyone had decided views about him, which he relished, though he was ever alert to the possibilities of slander and libel," (Part Five, p. 755).

"The prickly marriage of convenience between Asquith's Liberals and Ramsay MacDonald's Labour government lasted less than a year. In the suit for divorce, bolshevism was named as correspondent. MacDonald had recognized Lenin's regime, lent it money, and dropped charges against a Communist editor who had incited mutiny among British troops. Asquith thereupon withdrew his support; and Labour lost a vote of confidence, 364 to 198. The campaign which followed became known as the 'Red Letter Election' because a few days before the polling the Foreign Office published a letter allegedly written by Grigori Zinoviev, president of the Third International, calling on British socialists to organize an armed rebellion. Labour bitterly renounced it as a fake. Churchill shed crocodile tears," (Part Five, pp. 782-783).

"'Baldwin,' in the words of one British historian, now 'adopted a policy of masterly inactivity.' Churchill's delight in battle puzzled him; essentially gentle, he himself shrank from discord almost as a matter of principle. Yet he snorted when told that Beaverbrook had remarked: 'Churchill is the real power in the Government.' He knew this to be quite untrue. Beyond casting his vote, Winston had played no role in the severance of negotiations after the Mail incident. Later, Baldwin had excluded him from the select cabinet council which met daily to discuss supervising strikebreaking tactics. But Winston kept trying to intervene, and his combative stance loomed ever larger in the public view. Baldwin didn't want to offend him—Churchill was now next in line for the

prime ministership, and his militancy was winning grudging converts among some Tory diehards—but he did want him out of his hair," (Part Five, p. 799).

"In every age, there are certain articles of faith which society accepts unquestioningly, with or without evidence; often, indeed, in the face of inconvenient facts. The faith may be religious, moral, or political. During the last quarter of the twentieth century it has become political. Creeds, like streams, gather strength as they narrow, thriving on bigotry—at present, liberal bigotry. In our time the institution of European colonialism is condemned as an abomination. No defense of it is admissible. The transformation of former colonies into emerging nations is regarded as inherently benign, one of the few great achievements in a troubled century," (Part Five, p. 834).

Topics for Discussion

What did Churchill mean by the term "Black Dog"? How did he deal with it?

Winston Churchill had a strong preference for the Victorian era. How did this preference manifest itself?

What was Winston Churchill's attitude toward his military career? How did he approach his posting to India?

How did Winston make the decision to go into politics? What plan did he follow?

What role did Winston play in World War I?

Describe the situation in the Dardanelles. Why were there so many problems?

What was Winston Churchill's position on the Russian Revolution?

How did Churchill lose his cabinet position in the end?