

## Winston Churchill – His 50 most famous quotes...

Written by Andy Owen



To my mind, Winston Churchill was the greatest Briton of all time.

By a long, long way...

Seems like I'm not on my own with that view, either. In a recent nationwide poll, organised by the BBC, 'Winnie' was voted the greatest Briton – well ahead of Diana, Darwin, Shakespeare, Newton, Elizabeth I and Cromwell.

More than a million people voted in the poll.

He was a Member of Parliament for sixty-four years – and still Prime Minister at the age of eighty. He was a giant of a man, even in old age - and his output was undiminished by decades of brandy and cigars.

Obviously, his popularity soared during the Second World War. His extraordinary inspiration and leadership from 1939 -1945 galvanised the nation and the world.

He gave Britain the strength to stand alone against the might of Hitler and the Nazi war machine. His impact must never be forgotten.

Of course, given the world in which we now live, the snowflakes won't have Churchill at any price.

They take every opportunity to slag him off, calling him a bombastic showman and a capitalist class warrior.

They defaced his statue in London, which was not only disgraceful, it was totally unforgivable.

Winnie made mistakes, of course he did. Some of them, such as Gallipoli, were disastrous. But, he didn't hide away.

He took full responsibility for the mistakes he made. As we all should, when we cock up.

You learn more from your mistakes, than you ever do from your successes.

But one thing about him, we should never forget. Without him, we would all be speaking German now. As would all of Europe – and probably a massive chunk of the rest of the world.

Here are my 50 favourite quotes from the great man. Be inspired.

**"Strategy is all very well, but it pays to give thought from time to time to the results."**

***"It is no use saying, 'We are doing our best.' You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary."***

**"Success is not final: failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."**

***Lady Astor: "Winston, if I were your wife I'd put poison in your coffee."  
Winston Churchill: "Nancy, if I were your husband I'd drink it."***

**"When the eagles are silent, the parrots begin to jabber."**

***"If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time—a tremendous whack."***

**"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."**

***"Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones."***

**"Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing has happened."**

***"Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality that guarantees all the others."***

**"If you are going through hell, keep going."**

***"You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life."***

**"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."**

***"If you have ten thousand regulations you destroy all respect for the law."***

**"It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried."**

***"We (The British) have not journeyed across the centuries, across the oceans, across the mountains, across the prairies, because we are made of sugar candy."***

**"The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries."**

***"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 the 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."***

**"Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free and life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fall, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth lasts for a thousand years, men will still say, 'This was their finest hour!'"**

***"Never give in—never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."***

**"To build may have to be the slow and laborious task of years. To destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day."**

***"This is no time for ease and comfort. It is time to dare and endure."***

**"Tact is the ability to tell someone to go to hell in such a way that they look forward to the trip."**

***"Continuous effort—not strength or intelligence—is the key to unlocking our potential."***

**"When you have to kill a man, it costs nothing to be polite."**

***"A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on."***

**"We contend that for a nation to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."**

***"The Americans will always do the right thing... after they've exhausted all the alternatives."***

**"An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile—hoping it will eat him last."**

***"Some see private enterprise as a predatory target to be shot, others as a cow to be milked, but few are those who see it as a sturdy horse pulling the wagon."***

**"The Germans have received back again that measure of fire and steel which they have so often meted out to others. Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."**

***"You ask, what is our policy? I will say; 'It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us: to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy.' You ask, what is our aim? I can answer with one word: Victory—victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival."***

**"If you will not fight for right when you can easily win without blood shed; if you will not fight when your victory is sure and not too costly; you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may even be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves."**

***Bessie Braddock: "Winston, you are drunk, and what's more you are disgustingly drunk." WSC: "Bessie, my dear, you are ugly, and what's more, you are disgustingly ugly. But tomorrow I shall be sober - and you will still be disgustingly ugly."***

**"When you get a thing the way you want it, leave it alone."**

***"Broadly speaking, the short words are the best, and the old words best of all."***

**"Everyone is in favour of free speech. Hardly a day passes without its being extolled, but some people's idea of it is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone else says anything back, that is an outrage."**

***"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."***

**"Kites rise highest against the wind, not with it."**

***"I am easily satisfied with the very best."***

**I am ready to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter."**

