THE CHURCHILL PAPERS: A MODERN HISTORICAL EPIC

Presentation for the European Manuscript Librarians Expert Group Conference
Trinity College Dublin
26 May 2016
“For my part, I consider that it will be found much better by all parties to leave the past to history, especially as I propose to write that history myself”

Winston S Churchill, 23 January 1948
Memory of the World

The Churchill Papers

Documentary heritage submitted by the United Kingdom and recommended for inclusion in the Memory of the World Register in 2015.

Personal archive of Sir Winston Churchill comprising his personal, public, political and literary correspondence and papers, including his drafts and annotated notes for his celebrated speeches and broadcasts, correspondence with leading political, literary and social figures of the age, and papers about major events from the Boer War to the Cold War.

- Year of submission: 2014
- Year of inscription: 2015
- Country: United Kingdom
What is the Churchill Papers Collection?
“conduct has been exceedingly bad...”
Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization.

Upon it depends our own British life and the long continuity of our institutions, and our Empire.

The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us.

Hitler knows that we will have to break us in this Island, or lose the war.

If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be freed, and the life of the world may move forward into the broad and sunlit uplands.

But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, and all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age made more sinister and perhaps more prolonged by the lights of perverted Science.

Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty, and so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and Commonwealth lasts for a thousand years, men will still say,

'This was their finest hour'.
Search

This search found 170 hits:

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Results sorted by score

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<td>Newspaper cutting from the Dublin Evening Telegraph about Lady Randolph Churchill's visit to Dublin (Ireland). The article outlines Lady Randolph's life including her time at the Viceroy's Lodge before she married to Lord Randolph Churchill. Comments on her appearance in the Daily Chronicle in which she expresses her hopes for the Irish Peace Convention, contrasts Lord Randolph's opposition to Home Rule when proposed by [William] Gladstone with WSC's support for the measure, and summarises Lady Randolph's comments on the distinguished visitors to the convention, the attractions of Dublin and the decline of the city since the Union.</td>
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<td>CHAR 122555</td>
<td>Letter from George Wyndham, Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin Castle, to WSC, on WSC's lecture in Dublin.</td>
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<td>CHAR 21934</td>
<td>Letter from Vernon Thomason, Secretary of the Institute of Bankers in Ireland (3 Kilmore Place, Dublin), to WSC (Goswell, Ashfordstone, Leicestershire) on arrangements for WSC's speech at the Rotunda, Dublin.</td>
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<td>CHAR 22122-2</td>
<td>Letter from Lord Randolph Churchill (Vice Regal Lodge, Dublin, Ireland) to [Lady Randolph Churchill] including his satisfaction at the arrangements made in Dublin for him to become unalienated private secretary to his father (John, 7th Duke of Marlborough).</td>
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Upshot: numbers

Microfilm (2000-2005)
• Process: 5 years- 1-2 publisher’s staff, one Archives Asst and 50% of my time.
• 20,482 names into clearance database
• YES: 4195 letters of permission
• Untraced: 7,909 names
• NO: 14 copyright holders

Digital (2010-present)
• Process: less than a year, less than 50% of my time and about 50% of 1 staff at publisher.
• 20,482 names from clearance database
• YES: 2035 letters of permission
• Untraced: 9,945 names
• NO: 69 names
DIGITISATION
Praise for the Churchill Archive

"There is a wealth of material within the Churchill Archive. The richness and variety of documents form an invaluable resource, helping me to get students to engage critically and creatively with the period. I wholeheartedly recommend it." - Richard Toye, Professor of Modern History, University of Exeter, UK

Modern History: Documented and Digitized

Explore by Topic
Topics covering society, governance, politics, religion, war, and the public and private lives of Winston S. Churchill himself.

Explore by Place
Continents and countries, cities and settlements, seas and islands mentioned in the documents in the Churchill Archive.

Action this day
3 February 2016

1912: The cost of motoring: Churchill’s annual subscription to the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) was £10 10s.

Catalogue
Browse the complete Archive using a catalogue prepared by the archivists at the Churchill Archives Centre in Cambridge.

With over 70,000 entries you can locate references to individual people, subjects or events at the touch of a button.

Free Access for Schools

What’s New
New Essay on Churchill and the Islamic World
From CHAR 1/4/18, this is image 1 of 2 in this item, image 1 of the 1 you selected.

[Image of handwritten text]

This item is contained in the file:
CHAR 1/4 1 bound file (48 folios) Personal: Correspondence: Mrs Everest.
Churchill as Strategist in World War Two
Jeremy Black, University of Exeter

Churchill’s reputation as war leader is less secure in strategy and policy than in politics and rhetoric, and notably in the United States where Britain’s wartime strategy is frequently criticized. He had a difficult hand to play, not least because of the views of the United States and the Soviet Union, but sought to advance national interests and to protect the Empire, and did so with much greater success than could have been anticipated in 1941, let alone 1940. [1]

The Birth of the Anglo-American ‘Special Relationship’
David Woolner, Roosevelt Institute

The political relationship between Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt is one of the most celebrated in British and American history. The two men are widely credited with crafting the Anglo-American ‘special relationship’ that helped propel the Allies to victory during the Second World War. Yet, as this article shows, the relationship between the two men - and their two nations - was not without its difficulties. There were tensions; tensions over a host of issues from wartime strategy to the make-up of the post-war economic order. Nor did the two men always see eye to eye on the question of how best to deal with the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, the bonds that were established between Churchill and Roosevelt would

Women and Social Change
Lucy Noakes, University of Brighton

Here we focus on some of the resources that the Churchill Archive offers to social historians, particularly those interested in women, gender roles and social change in the first half of the twentieth century. Beginning with a brief overview of some of the major social changes of this period, we highlight some areas of the collection that are particularly relevant. These include ‘Women and Education’, ‘Women in the Workforce’ and ‘Women and the Military’. Unsurprisingly, the collection has particular strengths for the researcher interested in women’s changing roles in wartime, and for material relating to Women’s Suffrage, which Churchill first supported and then opposed.

Empire and Imperialism
Richard Toye, University of Exeter

Focussing on Empire and Imperialism, we’ve gathered together here relevant material within the Archive. The overview summarises the distinction between ‘formal’ and ‘informal’ types of Empire and also discusses the concept of ‘neo-imperialism’. It outlines some key aspects of Churchill’s involvement in the British Empire, ranging from his participation in minor colonial wars as a soldier and journalist, to his campaign against reform in India in the 1930s, to his policies as both Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the 1940s and 1950s, before highlighting materials in the Churchill Archive collection that are pertinent to the topic.
The Churchill Archive for Schools provides an expanding range of classroom-ready resources, specially written and developed by leading history educators to engage and excite as well as inform and challenge. Based around four broad themes in British and world history, the Churchill Archive for Schools also offers teachers and students an accessible entry-point to the complete Churchill Archive.

Explore the resources by theme:

**Key developments in modern world history**

The first half of the twentieth century was a period of momentous developments – the rise of Nazism, two world wars, the Cold War and nuclear weapons. Investigate these issues here.

Get started on the investigations

**Anglo-American relations in the twentieth century**

Just how special was the ‘Special Relationship’ between Britain and the US in the first half of the twentieth century? Explore the issues behind this question in our investigations here.

Get started on the investigations

Get access to the complete Churchill Archive for free

Find out more

How to get the most out of the Churchill Archive's resources

Read more

Using the Archive
The Churchill Papers are now accessed on-line, both within the Churchill Archives Centre and at 37 subscribing institutions worldwide. The Churchill Archive is published by Bloomsbury Academic. As expected, there was a healthy use of the collection at Churchill Archives Centre (both by researchers and staff). Between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015 there were 6711 records viewed and 6389 searches made (5044 searches from July 2013-May 2014).

### Google Analytics (worldwide usage)

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“The empires of the future are the empires of the mind”

Winston S. Churchill, 6 September 1943