



# STUDY GUIDE

## CHURCHILL: THE MAN WHO SAVED THE FREE WORLD

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**KEY TERMS:** free world  
tyranny

leader  
resilience

politics  
liberation

**NOTE-TAKING COLUMN:** Complete this section during the video. Include definitions and key terms.

**CUE COLUMN:** Complete this section after the video.

How did Winston Churchill first make a name for himself?

What about Winston Churchill made him 'the right man at the right time' to save the free world?

How did Mr. Churchill make money throughout the 1920's?

How exactly did Prime Minister Churchill save the free world?

Which German attack precipitated Mr. Churchill becoming Prime Minister?

## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

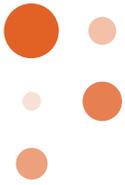
- At the beginning of the video, Professor Roberts reminds us that, “In May 1940, Adolf Hitler and his Nazi war machine were sweeping across the European continent. The future of the free world hung in the balance. An isolationist-leaning United States was an ocean away. There was one man who stood between Hitler’s seemingly invincible army and crushing defeat. That one man was Winston Churchill.” Why do you think that the conditions of the time were such that there was only one person standing in the way of Hitler’s ever-expanding tyranny? What do you think would have happened if Prime Minister Churchill hadn’t stoked the resolve of the British people to stand firm against the Germans? Explain.
- Professor Roberts goes on to share with us that, “From his early school days, Churchill recognized the power of words. Throughout his life, he used them with consummate skill. They never let him down. Though he never abandoned journalism and became one of the greatest historians of his age, Churchill used his family connections and his own fame to launch himself into politics. His confident manner and matchless oratory marked him as a natural leader.” What do you think Professor Roberts means by Churchill recognizing the ‘power of words?’ What other qualities do you think Churchill possessed that made him such an effective and successful leader?
- Later in the video Professor Roberts notes that for Winston Churchill, “His weapons were his pen, his voice and his words. I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat, he told the House of Commons in his first speech as Prime Minister. Things quickly turned from bad to worse... [but] Even as the war news moved from dangerous to desperate to disastrous, Churchill never wavered. In speech after speech, he infused the British with the spirit to fight on against Hitler’s monstrous tyranny.” In what ways might a voice and words be a ‘weapon?’ Explain. Faced with imminent defeat, how do you think Prime Minister Churchill was so successful in convincing the British to remain vigilant against the Germans?
- In further describing Prime Minister Churchill’s remarkable actions, Professor Roberts quotes Churchill as stating, “‘We shall not flag or fail,’ he said after Dunkirk. ‘We shall go on to the end. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be . . . we shall never surrender.’ The point about Churchill in 1940 is not that he stopped a German invasion, but that he stopped the British Government making peace.” Why do you think that Prime Minister Churchill adopted such a non-conciliatory position for Britain during the war? Why was it so important to stop Britain from making peace with Germany at that time? Explain.
- At the end of the video Professor Roberts explains that, “Had he [Churchill] not rallied the British people in the face of defeat after defeat, preventing Hitler from concentrating his full efforts on Russia, the entire history of the free world would have been much different. And, undoubtedly, much darker... For this and so much more, free people everywhere can thank the greatest man of his age – Winston Churchill.” In what ways, specifically, might the free world have been different, and worse, if Prime Minister Churchill hadn’t disrupted Hitler’s plans? Do you agree that Prime Minister Churchill deserves our appreciation and gratitude? Why or why not?

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: Appeasers

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Chamberlain’s secret bid to reach a deal with Hitler, revealed in newly released documents,” then answer the questions that follow.

- Who was Neville Chamberlain and what did he do? Who is George Steward and what did he do? Who was Sir Alexander Cadogan, and what dilemma did he face? How successful was Chamberlain’s appeasement policy? What happened to Chamberlain in the end?
- Do you think that Britain should have made peace with Germany? Why or why not? Do you think that Prime Minister Chamberlain directed Steward to meet with the Germans? Explain. Why do you think that the appeasers were not successful? Do you think that Prime Minister Chamberlain tried to make a pact with Hitler because he knew that Hitler was going to violate the peace treaty and make war across Europe? Explain. Despite vestiges of the horrors of the First World War, what other factors do you think motivated the appeasers, especially the Labour Party and the liberals, to attempt to avoid conflict with Germany?
- If you were a British subject at the time, would you have sided with the appeasers or with Prime Minister Churchill? Explain.



# QUIZ

## CHURCHILL: THE MAN WHO SAVED THE FREE WORLD

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1. How did Churchill first make a name for himself?

- a. As Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- b. As First Lord of the Admiralty.
- c. Through his writing and speaking throughout the 1920s.
- d. As a war correspondent.

2. Winston Churchill was half American.

- a. True
- b. False

3. Five months after Churchill was dismissed from the war cabinet he \_\_\_\_\_.

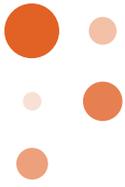
- a. became a journalist
- b. enlisted in the army
- c. became Prime Minister
- d. None of the above.

4. As the news of World War II moved from dangerous to desperate to disastrous, Churchill \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. considered negotiating with Hitler
- b. never wavered
- c. resigned as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- d. crumbled under pressure

5. In WWI, which country did Churchill perceive as the weak link in the German alliance against the allies?

- a. Hungary
- b. Italy
- c. Russia
- d. Turkey



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2033502/Revealed-Chamberlains-secret-bid-reach-deal-Hitler.html>

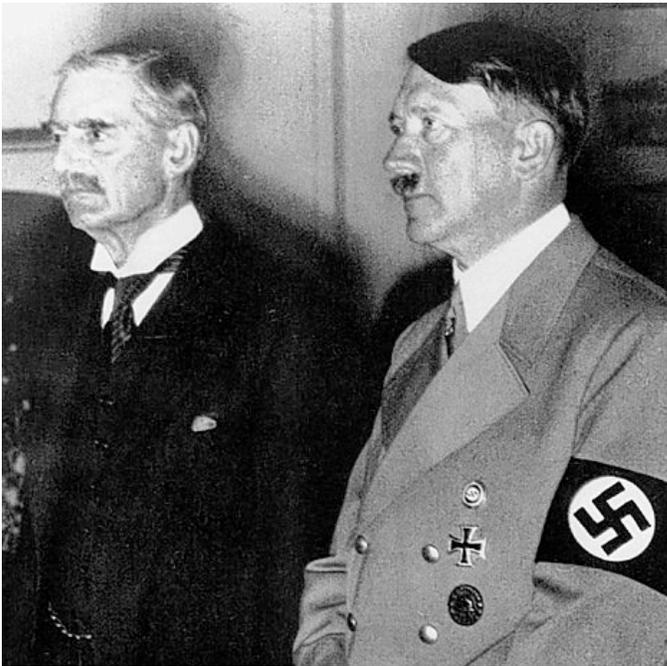
## Chamberlain's secret bid to reach a deal with Hitler, revealed in newly released documents

By Abul Taher for The Mail on Sunday  
Updated: 19:19 EST, 3 September 2011

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain held secret talks with Hitler's henchmen to work out ways of making the Nazis look more sympathetic to ordinary Britons, classified documents released last week reveal.

The cloak-and-dagger meetings in London came shortly after Chamberlain signed his disastrous appeasement deal with Hitler in Munich in September 1938, declaring 'peace for our time' on his return to Britain.

The meetings were held without the knowledge of the Cabinet and Foreign Office. Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax only learned of them later because of an MI5 mole in the German embassy.



Secrets: Recently released documents show Neville Chamberlain (left) tried to reach a deal with Adolf Hitler (right) over how the Nazis could look more sympathetic to Britons

Two newly-declassified documents show Chamberlain was ready to make more deals with Hitler after Munich, which would have the 'happiest and most far-reaching effects for the relationship between the two countries'.

The papers reveal Chamberlain told Hitler that it would have ‘the greatest effect on public opinion in England’ if, in the event of war, they had a pact in place not to use poison gas, not to bomb each other’s civilians and to spare cities with cultural treasures.

The meetings took place between Chamberlain’s press secretary George Steward and his counterpart at the German embassy, Dr Fritz Hesse.

MI5 monitored a two-hour meeting between the two on November 23, 1938. When Hesse returned to the German embassy, he prepared a memo for the German Foreign Minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop.



Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain arrives at Heston Airport from Germany after talks with Adolf Hitler in 1938

A copy of the memo was smuggled out of the German embassy by the MI5 mole and given to Sir Alexander Cadogan, permanent under-secretary at the Foreign Office.

The translated document and Cadogan’s memo on it were released last week by the National Archives.

In his subsequent memo, Cadogan agonises over whether he should tell Lord Halifax about the clandestine meeting. He fears it might make Halifax resign and cause the

Government to collapse, forcing a General Election at a time when the Nazis are poised to wage war across Europe.

Cadogan writes: ‘Supposing however that the PM was forced into having a General Election, what would happen then? It is extremely probable that if the S of S [Secretary of State Lord Halifax] resigned on a “Defence of the West” policy, or something like it, coupled with a real rearmament effort...a substantial number of ministers would resign with him.’



Notorious visit: Neville Chamberlain leaves the UK for Germany in 1938

In the smuggled MI5 memo, Hesse tells von Ribbentrop that Chamberlain wants to finalise a deal personally with Hitler which could ensure ‘complete secrecy on the English side’ until the agreement is signed.

Eventually Cadogan did tell Halifax about the meeting between Steward and Hesse. Halifax confronted Chamberlain, who appeared ‘aghast’ and said he would ensure such meetings never happened again, said historian Richard Cockett, author of a book on Chamberlain’s media manipulation.

But Mr Cockett added that the just-released documents reveal that Steward had been authorised by Chamberlain to hold such meetings.

'If Steward was not acting under orders from Chamberlain, he was probably guilty of treason,' he said.

'If he was acting under orders, then he was just a dupe.'

He said Halifax was also an appeaser but was eventually 'changed' by the Foreign Office and became sceptical about the policy.

Fellow historian Andrew Roberts said: 'It is not surprising Steward was having these meetings. He was always very loyal to Chamberlain and did his bidding. Also, Steward himself was an appeaser. It is not surprising in the least bit that Chamberlain was going behind the Foreign Office's back and holding such talks. They were sceptical of appeasement all along.'

Steward is credited as being No 10's first spin doctor, spending a large part of his time trying to influence newspapers into writing stories that suited the Chamberlain Government.

Chamberlain's appeasement policy failed utterly. On September 1, 1939, Britain declared war against Germany after it invaded Poland. Eight months later, Chamberlain resigned when Labour and the Liberals refused to enter a wartime coalition with him.

He was succeeded by Winston Churchill, who was First Lord of the Admiralty and bitterly opposed appeasement from the beginning.



Return: Chamberlain in Germany in 1938