

## **The Lives of Winston Churchill: from Victorian Britain to End of Empire, 1876-1965**

Winston Churchill is best remembered as the British Prime Minister who led his country to victory in the Second World War. These five years were the pinnacle of his achievement, but his long life and career reflects a more complicated personal history in a period which witnessed immeasurable social, cultural and political change. This course will explore Churchill's life in its various manifestations: from his upbringing as a young aristocrat and journalist in the Boer War, through his career in parliament when he earned notoriety as a contrarian and leading opponent of appeasement, to his prime ministerial career, his literary and rhetorical output, and his later eclipse, as Britain moved into the post-war decades of welfare state, decolonisation and free love. Churchill will be the main focus of these classes, but they will also offer an insight into the broader context of his life, and the ideas and institutions which inspired his career, even if they did not necessarily survive his wartime triumphs.

### **Class themes:**

1. Aristocrat and Journalist, 1874-1901
2. MP, Minister, the Great War, Ireland, 1901-22
3. Bugbear and Prime Minister, 1922-40
4. War Statesman, 1940-45
5. Cold Warrior, Welfare State Prime Minister, Writer, Icon, 1945-65

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