

Advanced Institute, Winter 2016
GREAT FIGURES OF THE 20TH CENTURY: WINSTON CHURCHILL
Instructor: Andrew Roberts
Washington, D.C.

Our goal with these weekend seminars will be to examine the worldviews and leadership styles of four important figures of the twentieth century, in order to surface underlying questions about statesmanship. We will ask questions such as: What is statesmanship? How does one recognize it? And if one can, in fact, speak of statesmanship, what are (or should be) its fundamental constituent components?

These seminars are not intended to be mere biographical surveys of great lives well lived. While the (relatively brief) readings will give you the background that you need, you may also want to familiarize yourself with the basic biographies of our figures, with something as simple as their Wikipedia entries. Our goal, ideally, will be to spend some time covering the basic narratives of what transpired during each figure's career, but then to engage in extended, thoughtful seminar-style discussion of the issues that these events and narratives raise, exploring their unfolding in our past and reflecting on their implications for our future. We will hope not to simply learn *about* our figures – Churchill, Reagan, Thatcher, and Ben-Gurion – but *from* them.

Guiding Questions

As you read the assigned texts, please keep in mind the following questions and be ready to discuss them during the seminar:

1. How did Winston Churchill lead Britain during the Blitz and the Battle of Britain?
2. How did Churchill, through his speeches, contribute to the formation of a collective British resolve to continue fighting during the critical time period when Britain was alone in fighting Germany?
3. What decisions were made at the Casablanca Conference? What were the main differences in the strategic aims of the U.S. and Britain? What can we learn about Churchill's own strategic thinking from this episode?
4. What characteristics made Churchill a great statesman?
5. What is the place of and need for a statesman in a popularly governed nation?

Saturday, January 16, 2016

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Churchill the Leader

Readings:

- Martin Gilbert, Chapter 28, *Churchill: A Life* (1992), pp.645–78

11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Churchill the Leader Cont'd and Churchill the Orator

Readings:

- Martin Gilbert, Chapter 28, *Churchill: A Life* (1992), pp.645–78

2 pm to 4 pm

Churchill the Orator Cont'd

Readings:

- Robert Rhodes James, ed., *Churchill Speaks 1897-1963* (1981), pp.703–741

Sunday, January 17, 2016

9:00 am to Noon

Churchill the Strategist

- Andrew Roberts, Chapter 12, *Masters and Commanders* (2004), pp.316–345