



Published by The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society, established 1964.

The Sir Winston Churchill Society isn't all about the things Winston Churchill did in the past (however profound they may be.) It's about his convictions, his wit, his power to inspire and how those qualities are necessary in the world today. We want to incorporate his values and spread his ways. We want to share what we have learnt and discovered from him, with you.

CHURCHILL ESSAY COMPETITION 2022-2023

This year we asked our High School contestants to discuss whether isolationism is an acceptable policy for a global superpower. It seems to be an especially pertinent topic of late. The first and second place essays were tied, producing five medallists.

We proudly present the first-place essays. Emily's essay is below. Sumaiya's essay follows on page 5.

- Gold** Emily Yang, *Old Scona Academic, Edmonton*
- Gold** Sumaiya Ola, *J. Percy Page, Edmonton*
- Silver** Zahra Rahman, *Old Scona Academic, Edmonton*
- Silver** Felix Zheng, *Old Scona Academic, Edmonton*
- Bronze** Bill Yu, *Old Scona Academic, Edmonton*



First Place Essay:
Emily Yang

As the conductor of the world orchestra, a global superpower must decide whether to play in harmony with others or strike discordant notes of isolation. Sir Winston

Churchill, a masterful composer of international relations, would have undoubtedly led the ensemble towards a harmonious collaboration, rejecting the dissonant melody of isolationism in today's increasingly interconnected symphony.

Sir Winston Churchill, a staunch advocate for global cooperation, believed in international cooperation. His call for a "United States of Europe" in his Iron Curtain speech demonstrated his conviction that unity and collaboration between nations are paramount in addressing shared challenges and preserving global security.

As a global superpower, there exists an inherent moral responsibility to consider the far-reaching impact of actions on the global community. A superpower

cannot discount its ethical obligation to the planet and the people living on it. It is essential to embrace the concept of global citizenship, rather than the principle of isolation. The climate crisis exemplifies this exact necessity. Climate change is a borderless problem that affects all nations, and industrialized superpowers like the United States disproportionately contribute to pollution. Global cooperation and leadership are critical in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to renewable energy; superpowers should lead by example by demonstrating their commitment to sustainable development for others to follow.

Historical case studies can showcase the undeniable power of collaboration. During World War II, the Grand Alliance between the U.S. and the USSR demonstrated the effectiveness of cooperative action in overcoming the Axis powers. This wartime alliance illustrated the power of nations working together towards a common goal: ensuring global peace and stability. Additionally, the Atlantic Charter, a collaboration between Churchill and President Roosevelt, reinforces the importance of global cooperation. It embodies principles such as free trade, self-determination, and collective security, which Churchill believed should shape international relations. These ideals aimed to promote global harmony, enabling nations to

CHURCHILL ESSAY COMPETITION 2022-2023 - 1ST PLACE ESSAY

tackle common challenges and safeguard each other from potential threats. By advocating for these values, Churchill asserted that isolationism would only hinder a global superpower.

However, there are counterarguments that suggest a more cautious approach for a global superpower. One such claim is the “savior complex,” which outlines that a superpower may not always know what is best for the world and could inadvertently worsen existing problems. This argument also raises concerns about the unintended consequences when a superpower intervenes in other nations’ affairs. The principle of non-intervention and respect for sovereignty calls for a global superpower to adhere to the rights of other nations to autonomy. Therefore, it is imperative that countries continuously learn from others, admit their errors, and adapt their strategies accordingly to ensure a collaborative approach to international issues. This debate highlights the need for a measured approach that balances engagement with respect for sovereignty. By using diplomatic channels, cultural exchange, and economic cooperation, a global superpower can contribute to international peace without overstepping its bounds or

undermining the autonomy of other nations.

Sir Winston Churchill’s enduring belief in international cooperation and the risks of isolationism resonate powerfully in the contemporary global landscape. As the world grapples with complex challenges like climate change, the ethical obligations of a global superpower become bolded in red. Churchill’s ideals remind us that a truly influential superpower must embrace the intricate tapestry of global interdependence. The modern world symphony demands that each nation plays its part in harmony, addressing shared challenges and fostering a stable future for all.

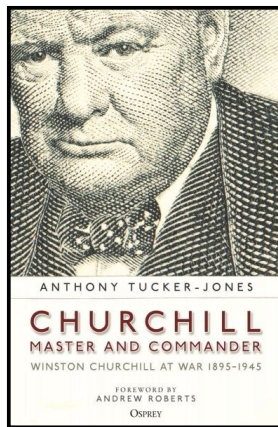
As the conductor of the global orchestra raises the baton, it is clear that the most resounding and inspiring melodies are born not from isolation, but from the harmonious interplay of nations working together. In the spirit of Churchill’s vision, let the global superpowers embrace their roles as virtuosos in the grand symphony of humanity, and may the triumphant crescendo of cooperation resonate through the ages.

BOOK LINKS

Churchill, Master and Commander: Winston Churchill at War 1895-1945

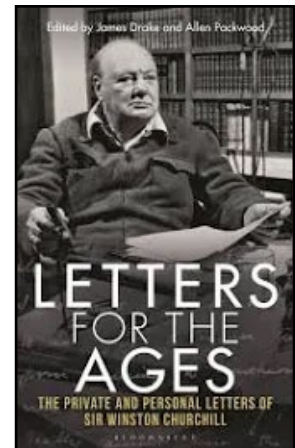
Anthony Tucker-Jones

A dispassionate analysis of Winston’s military career and war leadership. Well worth the read. We expect to include our review in the next issue of the *Churchillian*.



Letters for the Ages

This curated collection of Winston’s lifetime correspondence will be available in hardcover by the time this issue is published.



57TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL BANQUET

A sold-out crowd of one hundred and twenty illustrious guests attended the Annual Memorial Banquet of the Sir Winston Churchill Society on June 7, 2023, in the beautiful Winspear Dining Room at the University Club. On cue, our piper, Mr. Alistair Briggs led the head table procession: our guest speaker Mr. Anthony Tucker-Jones and Mrs. Amelia Tucker-Jones, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Alberta Mr. Bill Flanagan, Mr. Saffron Sri, our President Mr. Will Randall II, and Mr. Graham Axford.



Student competition winners and their coaches were honoured at a special ceremony preceding the banquet and recognized during the banquet.

The military was well-represented among our accomplished guests, resplendent in black tie, mess kit, or evening wear; many with decorations for service to our country. Attendees included notable persons from professional communities including business, the law, medicine, science, the academe, sports, and the arts. There was much lively and stimulating conversation over cocktails and dinner, accompanied by lovely selections from the Royal Canadian Artillery Woodwind Quintet. Many thanks to these excellent musicians for their service.

Anthony Tucker-Jones, a brilliant military historian and author of “Churchill: Master and Commander”, as well as dozens of books and hundreds of articles, was the highlight of the evening. He revealed incidents in Churchill’s life – his personal risk-taking and “hands-on” style – that made him

ideally suited for his role as wartime leader and conversely, contributed to his defeat in the election of July 1945.

Our Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Robert Chaffee, kept the evening on track and on schedule, through the singing of Oh Canada and God Save the King by Gary Dewar, the blessing of the meal by Janice Stefancik, the toasts, and general remarks. It was a great evening. We are grateful for the support and service we received from the management and staff of the University Club.

Our photographer and videographer, Mr. Grant Cree recorded the event for posterity. You can see more of his photos and a video of the presentation on our website

Thanks are due to our banquet planning committee for their inspired and hard work on this event. Next year’s committee will benefit from this year’s experience, triumphs and stumbles alike, in planning a perfectly smashing 58th Annual Memorial Banquet. We hope to see you there.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members of the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Edmonton,

I trust this message finds you in good health and high spirits. It is with great pleasure that I share my recent journey to four remarkable locations, each of which offers a unique perspective on history, technology, and the values that Sir Winston Churchill held dear.

In late June, I flew to Denver, Colorado on United Airlines on an Embraer EMB-175. Due to multiple cancelled flights on United Airlines, I bought a last-minute ticket to Omaha on Southwest Airlines Boeing 737-700. My purpose was to visit the [Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum](#) in Ashland, Nebraska, as well as visit the states of Nebraska and Iowa, leaving me only five American states left unknown to me.

As I walked through the SAC Museum's halls filled with iconic aircraft, including an RAF Vulcan bomber and USAF SR-71, and artifacts that played pivotal roles in Twentieth Century, I couldn't help but ponder what Sir Winston would have thought of this remarkable display of technological progress. His keen understanding of the importance of scientific advancements in shaping the course of history would surely have led him to appreciate the dedication this museum has shown in preserving and presenting these remarkable achievements.

From Omaha, Nebraska, I flew Delta Air Lines to Atlanta, Georgia on an Airbus A-320, and then to Washington Dulles International Airport on an Airbus A-319.

My first stop in Northern Virginia was the [Cold War Museum](#) in Warrenton, Virginia, where the haunting echoes of that tumultuous era come to life. Roaming amidst crowded exhibits that vividly portray the tension, fears, and hopes of the Cold War, I was struck by the thought of how Churchill's unyielding commitment to defending democracy and freedom would resonate in this space. He understood, perhaps better than anyone, that the values we hold dear must be upheld even in the face of totalitarian adversity. The Cold War Museum stands as a testament to the resilience of these values during challenging times.

A short drive from Dulles Airport takes you to [Gettysburg National Military Park](#) in Pennsylvania, which is one of

the more important battlefields of the American Civil War. I visited on the 160th anniversary of the battle. Standing amidst the echoes of history, I felt a profound reverence for the sacrifices made on those fields. The weight of the past, where brave souls fought for their beliefs, was palpable. Considering Sir Winston Churchill's reverence for history and his deep understanding of the complexities of war, I believe he would have regarded such a visit with a sombre and contemplative spirit. He would have recognized the significance of remembering those who had fought and fallen, and the enduring lessons that arise from such moments of conflict.

Lastly, I visited the [Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center](#), a satellite of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, located at the Washington Dulles International Airport. The centre's vast collection of aircraft and spacecraft, from the Wright brothers' flyer to the Space Shuttle Discovery, provides an incredible journey through the history of human aviation and exploration. Reflecting on Churchill's own fascination with technology and innovation, I am certain he would have marvelled at the strides we have made in pushing the boundaries of what humanity can achieve.

In considering these museums through Churchill's eyes, I believe he would applaud the efforts made by these institutions to preserve the past while imparting invaluable lessons for the present and future. The intersection of history, technology, and democracy is a complex and powerful one, and Churchill's legacy reminds us of the responsibility we bear in safeguarding these ideals.

Despite the pleasures of travelling in the United States in summer, it felt like home to return to Canada on board an Air Canada Boeing 737-8 to fly from Dulles to Vancouver and then an Airbus A-319 to Edmonton.

Best Regards,

Will Randall

President, Sir Winston Churchill Society of Edmonton



Isolationism: The Antithesis to Radical 21st Century Globalisation

*First Place Essay:
Sumaiya Ola*

The following deals with two of the extremes of globalisation: interdependency and hegemonic internationalism. More importantly, it deals with the role isolationism plays in opposing and mitigating those two extremes, thereby allowing the meaningful progression of contemporary society. Isolationism, a highly controversial foreign policy, revolves around the desire of a nation to cut itself off from the rest of global society. In spite of the many legitimate reasons for a nation to isolate itself, this policy is criticised by many for being counterproductive, unilateral and extremist, claims which are only amplified when the nation at hand is considered a “global superpower.” However, in a world as ever-changing as ours, perhaps it is time to reevaluate the ideological perspectives adopted by isolationists, and consider whether isolationism is an acceptable, or perhaps even advantageous, policy for global superpowers moving forward through the 21st century.

A process that is often praised for creating the world as it is today, globalisation has connected and united humanity on an unprecedented scale. But an often ignored side effect is the reliance that has been developed by these very circumstances and the enablement of international chaos that follows. Look to the catastrophic nature of the Suez Canal blockage which resulted in global losses amassing over \$54 billion in just a matter of days¹. As nations form closer political, economical and cultural ties to one another, their ability to sustain themselves is lost to the illusion of collective strength and the pursuit of idealistic liberal internationalism. Despite having been long criticised for its overtly problematic nature, no viable solutions have been presented in order to overcome the issue of interdependency. However, isolationism, for all nations, may be that solution for two reasons. The first is the issue of practicality. In order for a nation to actually close itself off from the rest of the world, it needs to be self-sufficient. Thus, adopting an isolationist policy forces nations to restructure their societies in a way that allows for them to exist without relying on other nations. Second: ideology. For society to accept isolationism, it would also need to accept the ideals behind it, namely the ideal of national



Sumaiya Ola, with Valerie Cload, Anthony Tucker-Jones, and Ralph Young

independence and sovereignty. Accepting and normalising these ideals would oppose interdependence, resulting in a natural societal shift away from extreme internationalism and globalisation. And while isolationism is by no means the only method of mitigating interdependency, it should not be looked down upon, and at the bare minimum be considered acceptable.

While isolationism may be an acceptable way for all nations to become more independent, there are some unique benefits in regards to the isolationism of global superpowers. Like interdependence, hegemony is a consequence of globalisation that is often looked past, despite the fact that openly neoliberal institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have existed for years². The IMF is well known in its tendency to prioritise global economic superpowers³, even though they claim to strive for creating and maintaining *international* prosperity. This hypocrisy is just one example of the way in which the world has been integrated on unequal terms. But again, because of the unique nature of isolationist policies, isolationism has the ability to change this unequal distribution of privilege. When global superpowers isolate themselves, they are retreating from the international community, automatically making it easier for other, less powerful nations to grow in their influence. In an ideal world, no nation's voice would be left ignored because of its circumstances. But since such goals have proven to be all but impossible to achieve, a fairly good alternative is for the superpowers of the world to step back and stop calling the shots for the rest of the global community.

continued on page 6

CHURCHILL ESSAY COMPETITION 2022-2023 - 2ND PLACE ESSAY

Having unpacked the complexities of contemporary globalisation and its consequences, the question of whether or not isolationism is an acceptable foreign policy for a global superpower can now be answered from a different perspective. Not only is isolationism acceptable, but the merit of isolationism for global superpowers lies in its ability to balance the global stage, allowing for internationalism to flourish as well as to prevent global integration to an outrageous extent. That being said, isolationism is one of many foreign policies that exist today, a reality that reflects the complex and ever-changing nature of our world. At the end of the day, foreign policy must reflect the direction society moves, allowing for constant growth. Because as Winston Churchill himself said, “To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often⁴.”

Bibliography:

1. Lee, Jade Man-yin, and Eugene Yin-cheung Wong. “Suez Canal Blockage: An Analysis of Legal Impact, Risks and Liabilities to the Global Supply Chain.” *MATEC Web of Conferences, EDP Sciences*, 2 July 2021, https://www.matec-conferences.org/articles/mateconf/pdf/2021/08/mateconf_istsml2021_01019.pdf. Accessed 11/04/23.
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3. Deol, Nealie, et al. “Doing Business: Politics and Bias at the IMF, World Bank.” *Brown Political Review*, 22 Nov. 2021, <https://brownpoliticalreview.org/2021/11/doing-business-politics-and-bias-at-the-imf-world-bank/>. Accessed 12/04/23.
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OUR VISION

The leaders we inspire
today will rise to meet tomorrow’s challenges.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 1945** Winston resigns on May 23, ending the wartime coalition government. He serves as caretaker PM until defeated in the next general election.
- 1952** In May, Winston breaks a career-long practice of writing his own speeches and delivers one written by his parliamentary secretary, Jock Colville.
- 1953** In late June Winston suffers a serious stroke. During his convalescence the public is only informed that he is taking rest.
- 1954** In July, after much effort, Winston’s government abolishes food rationing. Coal remains rationed for four more years.



OUR MISSION

The Sir Winston Churchill Society promotes leadership, citizenship, and strengthened communities through civil discourse, connecting to history, and encouraging critical thinking.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Why join a “society”, with meetings and dues in this wonderous age of digital connection? We can easily find online all the echo chambers, misinformation, and gawking entertainment we can stand. Of course there is good information online too, but sometimes looking for it seems like fishing in a drainage ditch: you are as likely to pull out a boot as a bass. Socially this does not come up to personal contact: it is solitary, and thin spiritual gruel.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society offers in-person contact with other members, patrons, friends, and prominent guests including guest speakers with fascinating views of history. We are present in the digital universe, of course. See our website at churchillsocietyofedmonton.com.

Our annual (since 1965) memorial banquet continues to echo the mess dinner traditions established early on, as a connection with history.

We honour the memory of an extraordinary individual whose communication and leadership skills we think were exemplary. Such skills are needed today maybe only a little less than they will be needed tomorrow. In Winston Churchill’s name we contribute funds to several community charitable organizations, and we hold history-connected competitions in speech, debate, and essay writing for high school students. We support our sister organization: the Alberta Churchill Scholarships Foundation in fundraising for valuable scholarships to Cambridge and Oxford.

Membership in the Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society is affordable. It confers voting privileges at our annual general meetings, and reduced ticket prices for our events including our long-running annual memorial banquet. We hope you will join, renew, or purchase gift memberships for family or friends.

We offer three tiers of membership. You can purchase your membership by visiting our website and following the instructions there:

<https://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop>

Or send the form below, with payment, to our Executive Secretary. Memberships are valid for one year from date of purchase.

Regular membership: Annual fee \$30
Confers voting privileges at members’ meetings and reduced ticket prices for Churchill Society events

Student membership: Annual fee \$10
Regular members’ privileges for registered students

Global membership: Annual fee \$90
Regular members’ privileges plus 1 year’s membership in the International Churchill Society with 4 issues of their excellent magazine “Finest Hour”

2023 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Salutation: _____ Name: _____

First

Middle

Last

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

Street

City

Prov

Postal Code

Type of Membership: Regular \$30 Student \$10 Global \$90

Privacy and Consent: By including your E-mail address, you agree to receive future notifications regarding Society activities. Please note, all E-mail messages sent to the membership are sent under the use of the Blind carbon copy (Bcc) tool which means that individual recipients do not see the entire list of addressees. There is no fear of being added to additional mailing lists, etc.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



Michael Gibson

Mr. Michael Gibson has joined our society and has been appointed to our board of directors. Mr. Gibson is a partner with Miller Thompson LLP in Edmonton, specializing in condominium law. We welcome Michael to our society and our board of directors.

Churchill Society Board and Executives

Will Randall II	<i>President</i>
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Tower of the Koutoubia Mosque



CONTACT US

If you would like to comment on anything in our newsletter, or if you have submissions or suggestions for future articles, we would like to hear from you! Contact our editor, Robert Chaffee at 780.929.6766 or email to edmontonchurchillsociety@gmail.com. If you are interested in serving as a Director, or helping out with events, please contact our Executive Secretary.

Alternatively, we invite you to make your purchases on-line at
www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop

For membership application, enclose a cheque payable to “The Sir Winston Churchill Society” and send to:

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