

5 Who Rose -- 5 Who Fell



CHURCHILL was Britain's sideline prophet of disaster until war blazed; he emerged as prime minister, savior.

Destiny in Hands of Few Men

Leading Nations' Heads Dominate World Thought

By William Glover
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This has been a personalized war in Europe.

Through the long years leading to the struggle and the bloody months of battle, the destiny of all creation has rested in the hands of a half dozen leaders of nations.

The dominant figures—Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini—are "men of the hour," untouched by royal blood.

And while World War II has been a struggle of entire peoples, historians probably will ponder the impact of the leaders' personalities upon events. Each leader, too, has displayed to marked degree the national characteristics of his state or its form of government.

The Sinister and the Rosy

First of the dictators was strident, pompous, braggart Mussolini. His stature shrank as that of his pupil, sinister Adolf Hitler, increased. Thwarted, brutal, the Fuehrer played upon the ingrained militarism of his people, still stinging from defeat.

United Nations leadership for the European conflict was in the hands of a trio of different stamp. Churchill, "the rosy little man," a master of rhetoric, looks like John Bull and clinched fame by carrying the torch for the British Empire through the dark days of 1940-41. Russia's fate was entrusted to Joseph Stalin, inscrutable master player in the international poker game of diplomacy, who gained time by siding with the Nazis at first, who let the world think Russia could not fight victoriously, and who drew Hitler onto a battlefield of death.

The United States was led by Roosevelt, a phrase-maker himself, a master of timing and a leader so popular he could ask and get for the first time in history a third presidential term. He not only helped a peace-loving complacent country reach war tempo, but insisted on being in fact the military head of the nation, as well as the political.

The Might Have Been
What has been the effect of these personalities on events?

At Munich Hitler pulled a gun on the Allied leaders of 1938, Chamberlain and Daladier. They quailed, and Mussolini who had been called in to play the role of interlocutor, decided history by putting his chips with Hitler, whom he had bluffed in similar fashion on the matter of Austria's freedom in 1934. Churchill would scarcely have been bluffed that way.

Stalin, ignored at Munich, showed his disappointment. No one trusted the USSR, he must have thought, and the deed must have played a part in the later Russian policy, shifting and enigmatic as it seemed to the outside world.

Il Duce, when the showdown came in September, 1939, showed his inherent weakness by pulling aside as a non-belligerent, then found outlet for his braggadocio in May, 1940, by jumping on France when he thought the battle was over. His action resulted in Roosevelt's tide-changing "stab in the back" speech one day later. The Atlantic Charter

Personalities were transcendent when in 1941 the Anglo-American leaders held the first of their get-togethers and drew up the Atlantic Charter. With it, generalized as it was, the two astute leaders silenced many skeptics of Allied war motives.

The later meetings of the leaders prove how their dominating beliefs and characteristics belittled the minor currents in the stream of conflict.

In the later days of the war, as the psyches of Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin came into permanent dominance over the tottering personalities of Mussolini and Hitler, individual differences again shaped events.

Hitler, the egotist and mystic, during the day of German victories, sowed the dragon's teeth of suspicion and contempt among the professional Prussian militarists. He spurned them, recalled them, dismissed them and cajoled them until even the home front suspected the omnipotence of the Reich's man-god.

Mussolini, when war overwhelmed Italy, found the years of strutting and imperiousness could not make up for the fact that his regime was termite-eaten.

These five (for it is still too early to judge the ultimate personal elements in the Pacific) were products of the times in which they came to power, but more than that the deeds which followed were products of the men.



HITLER, Nazi dictator since 1933, released Europe's oldest hates, newest death machines; was himself engulfed.



MUSSOLINI, father of Fascism, dictated for 21 years; was first of dictators to fall ('43) as Italy was invaded.



HEYDRICH, the Nazi hangman, topped the list of war criminals for post-war trial. But a patriot's bomb got him in Prague in 1942.



GOERING, Hitler's own deputy Fuehrer, flew to England in 1941 to propose peace—and sank into deep oblivion.



VON THYSSSEN, German steel tycoon, sponsored Hitler's rise, then from a jail window saw war gobble up fortune.



YOUR PRIDE IN THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IS ECHOED BY EVERYONE AT HOME...

Certainly it's time for smiles! Your boys have wiped out two thirds of the Axis trio! But in our natural pride let's not lose sight of salient facts. This European victory has cost all of us a good deal.

How clearly we see now how worthwhile were the sacrifices! Working extra hours, doing without an abundance of things and salvaging may have been a little troublesome on the home front, but what a far cry from the heroic life-and-death sacrifices our fighting men have made!

Now, ahead is the final, equally tough battle to come. You can bet your boys will be ready if we are prepared to continue backing them!

There must not be any "dead end" on this road to Tokio! Prove to your boys our pride in them by insuring FINAL Victory! Buy more War Bonds!

METROPOLITAN

136-146 N. Commercial St.
Salem, Ore.



EISENHOWER, a Texas-Kansas, executed some of mightiest military operations and taught the Nazis new lessons.



MONTGOMERY, Bible-toting blitz-master, was the first to stop the Nazis with inspired tactics across North Africa.



MOLOTOV, the mild, methodical statesman, in war became Russia's No. 2 man and Russia became No. 1 European power with his aid.



TITO (Josip Broz), the myth-shrouded chief of Yugoslav guerrillas, emerged from the Balkan confusion to confound the tottering Nazi supermen.