



**Winston Churchill**  
1874-1965

**Key facts**

Didn't do well at school so joined the **army**, during which he was a prisoner of war in South Africa 1899

MP for **Wanstead and Woodford** 1936 - 1965

Prime Minister 1940-1945, 1951-1955

Had a lisp and stammer so needed to make his **speeches very inventive and spectacular**

Some people argue that his **leadership** and speeches are ultimately what stopped Hitler by uniting Britain and giving them something to fight for

Famous speeches called 'finest hour' and 'Battle of Britain'

**Common misconceptions**

**Myth:** Only Jews were killed during holocaust.

**Reality:** Whilst 6 million Jews were killed, 5 million gypsies, 'war criminals', communists and homosexuals were also murdered in the death camps. 13 million Soviet civilians, 14 million Chinese were also killed

**Myth:** It was just the Nazis and Japanese that committed atrocities.

**Reality:** Whilst the horror of the death camps and hundreds of thousands of tortured prisoners in Japan are abhorrent, the Allied powers also treated others badly occasionally (one grave showed 60% of Japanese bodies were missing heads – leading to the rumor that were being collected by enemy soldiers)

**Myth:** Americans saved the day

**Reality:** It was actually the Soviet union most responsible for the defeat of the Nazis. They lost 10 million soldiers. More than 80% of German soldiers died at the hands of the Soviets.

**Propaganda** – information, usually biased or misleading, that tries to promote a political cause or idea.

Governments used this to persuade public to help more in war effort, from signing up to fight to growing vegetables.



**UK propaganda** was about encouraging people to help, and that the fight against Germany was a fight of good vs. evil



**Nazi propaganda** was aimed at justifying the war, especially fuelling hatred of Jews and the UK.



**Adolf Hitler – 1895 - 1945**

**Key facts**

Born in Austria. Tried becoming a painter but wasn't good enough, so he joined the German army in 1913 and served until Germany lost the war in 1918.

Failed attempt at revolution in Munich 1923.

1924, he gained popularity by being an incredible orator (very passionate), criticising the Treaty of Versailles, as well as attacking capitalism and communism, and blaming Jewish people for most of the world's problems (anti-Semitism).

He wanted to eliminate the international Jewish population (which he did by murdering 5.5 million in what is known as the Holocaust),

He also wanted to get back lots of land in Europe he saw as 'German', which meant invading several countries and re-arming. This is one of the main causes for WW2.