The Greatest Briton of Them All

Sir Winston Churchill, Britain’s steady pilot through the turbulent World War II era, wisely said, “we make our living through what we get, but we make a life through what we give” (“Winston Churchill”). Regarded as the Greatest Briton of the last millennium, Churchill lived a life of service to his people, never failing them, even when they failed him (“Ten Greatest Britons Chosen”). Early in his career, Churchill’s plan to attack Turkey during World War I, resulting in the disaster at Gallipoli, led to his first dismissal from government. Fortunately for history, Prime Minister David Lloyd George recognized Churchill’s talents and recalled him to office (“Churchill, Winston” 375). Later, in the 1930s, Churchill spent ten years out of the government because of unpopular stances on issues ranging from the granting of Indian independence to the rise of Nazi Germany. History regards his book The Gathering Storm as a clarion call to prepare for inevitable war with Germany, a moment of prescience that few in Britain recognized at the time (Churchill and Gilbert 231). However, when the British people unceremoniously ousted him and his party from government leadership in July 1945, after leading them to victory in World War II, Churchill remained the steadfast leader of the opposition, returning to the office of Prime Minister in the next election after the fickle electorate realized its mistake. Despite the failings of his people to recognize his quality on any consistent basis, Churchill remained steadfast in his devotion to them, achieving transcendence, and demonstrating self-sufficiency, aliveness, and truth.

Winston Churchill exhibited self-sufficiency throughout his entire life, but never more so than when his people needed him to be a beacon of hope through their darkest hours.
Works Cited


