

**Their finest hour:  
The Battle of Britain as a Global Event**

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Paper

Paper: 2481 words

Process paper: 467 words

## Process paper

When I looked at this year's theme, a book was sitting beside me: Churchill's memoirs of the Second World War. I jumped immediately at the turning point described in the book with such skill and emotion: The Battle of Britain. As Churchill himself phrased it, "Their finest hour".

What captivated me about Churchill's narrative of the battle of Britain was the hope of the people that shone through the lines of desperate struggle against overwhelming odds; I realized what qualified a battle as a turning point was not only its military significance but also how it impacted ordinary people. In modern times, we are trying to focus on humanitarian efforts to relieve ordinary people in Ukraine and Gaza. I was thrilled to examine and relate to how people worldwide who were bombed indiscriminately in the past would be impacted by the hard-won battle of Britain.

I began my research by thoroughly examining Churchill's memoirs of the conflict. I also consulted descriptions of the battle in general historical narratives of the Second World War, such as *The Cambridge History of the Second World War*. After acquiring a general conception of the battle and its implications on Britain and Germany, I started to dive into media records concerning the global reaction to the battle. Especially newspaper reports in other countries, such as the United States and China; I used databases of significant newspapers of that time. In that process, I gained a deeper understanding of the issue and its profound impact on ordinary people

as well as international relations. Finally, I drafted my paper and added first and secondhand resources to support my arguments.

My historical argument is that the Battle of Britain was a significant turning point in the Second World War. This was due to its significant effect on the morale of allies worldwide. It symbolized hope in dire times during which victories were scarce. I also believe that the Battle was the turning point of Anglo-American relations, starting a new age of interdependence. This new age of interdependence not only shaped the bilateral relations between London and Washington, but also poised Britain in a delicate position in the Atlantic world, between the United States and the European Continent. This relationship remains effective in U.S-U. K relations in the 21st century and continues to haunt European politics today.

This topic is significant as it reflects the effect of victories on the morale of ordinary people; it helps us understand the power of media in influencing public opinion and its significant role in propaganda during war; this is especially significant in today's context where wars are widely publicized – and more importantly, conceived – across the globe via the internet and media can alter outcomes of conflicts. It also illustrates how battles have far-stretched impacts on international relations and strategy.

## Historical paper

Historians have made many arguments concerning the turning points of the Second World War. Frederic F. Clairmont argues that Stalingrad was the decisive turning point of the Second World War because “The invincibility of Hitler and the Nazi war machine was now being shredded”<sup>1</sup>. Robert P. Givens states that “The invasion of Normandy was a critical turning point in World War II.”<sup>2</sup> because it opened the second front against Nazi Germany. This paper argues that the battle of Britain also served as a turning point, not only during World War II but also in the longer durée of European history in the latter half of the 20th century. The Battle of Britain is commonly defined as the campaign launched by the German Luftwaffe against the RAF in large-scale air attacks to force a truce or surrender. The British officially recognize the battle's duration from 10 July until 31 October 1940. Churchill, in the House of Commons on June 18, made a speech in which he said, “Men will still say this was their finest hour.”<sup>3</sup> The battle ended with the abandonment of German plans to invade Britain, which was the first major defeat of Germany in World War Two.<sup>4</sup>

In line with various media and official sources, this paper examines the role of the Battle of Britain as a crucial turning point in the Second World War. It served as a much-needed encouragement for the Allies to carry on and commit to the war. What justifies it as a significant turning point is its enormous impact on ordinary people's lives; the victory of the Battle of Britain was the first beacon of hope in a long time. As Richard

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<sup>1</sup> Frederic F. Clairmont, “Stalingrad: Hitler's Nemesis,” *Economic and Political Weekly* 38, no. 27 (2003): 2819–23.

<sup>2</sup> Robert P. Givens, “Normandy Campaign,” in *Turning the Vertical Flank: Airpower as a Maneuver Force in the Theater Campaign* (London: Air University Press, 2002),

<sup>3</sup> Adam Thomas, “From Depression to Victory: A Record of Growing British Determination during the Battle of Britain,” *Air Power History* 63, no. 1 (2016): 6–13,

<sup>4</sup> William Shirer, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany* (London: Ballantine, 1964),

Evans writes, in stiffening the resolve of those determined to resist Hitler, the battle was a significant turning point in the conflict.<sup>5</sup> In addition to its impact on the course of the war, the Battle of Britain also cast a long shadow on Anglo-American relations in the postwar period. It was the turning point of Anglo-American relations.<sup>6</sup> The desperate situation in which the British victory was achieved meant that Britain had to rely on American lend-lease and later the Marshall Plan to sustain itself after heavy losses in both world wars, therefore relying on America. Thus, greatly shifting Anglo-American relations.

### **How the Battle of Britain helped shift public opinion in the United States**

At the beginning of the Battle of Britain, America was undoubtedly not confident in the RAF and British defense. The American public was largely pacifist, and the government did not believe that its intervention would save Britain, yet the battle effectively secured America's support and confidence in the allies. Joseph P. Kennedy, US ambassador to Britain, informed the US State Department on July 31 that the German Luftwaffe had the power to put the RAF "out of commission." In a press statement, Senator Key Pittman, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "It is no secret that Great Britain is unprepared for defense and that nothing the United States has to give can do more than delay the result."<sup>7</sup> Yet, Roosevelt still believed in Britain. When the RAF was battling the Luftwaffe over Britain, Roosevelt

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<sup>5</sup> Stephen Bungay. *The Most Dangerous Enemy: A History of the Battle of Britain* (London: Aurum Press, 2000)

<sup>6</sup> David Reynolds. "From World War to Cold War: The Wartime Alliance and Post-War Transitions, 1941-1947," *The Historical Journal* 45, no. 1 (2002): 211-27.

<sup>7</sup> John T. Correll, "How the Luftwaffe Lost the Battle of Britain," *airandapaceforces*, accessed January 9, 2024, <https://www.airandapaceforces.com/article/0808battle/>

secured his victory over isolationists in the American election. Less than two months after the presidential election, FDR addressed the American people through what became known as his "Arsenal of Democracy" speech. He said, "If Great Britain goes down, the Axis powers will be able to bring enormous military and naval resources against this hemisphere." FDR said, "We are the Arsenal of Democracy. Our national policy is to keep war away from this country."<sup>8</sup> He implied that aid to Britain was crucial to America's safety.

American public opinion also shifted drastically during and after the Battle. At the start of the Battle, the American public opinion was largely dominated by statements from people like Joseph Kennedy, the American ambassador in London, American public opinion was largely dominated by statements from people like Joseph Kennedy, the American ambassador in London, who, as mentioned above, was greatly pessimistic. Roosevelt wanted a second opinion and sent intelligence officer William "Wild Bill" Donovan on a brief visit to the UK; he became convinced the UK would survive and should be supported in every possible way. <sup>9</sup>At the end of the year, American journalist Ralph Ingersoll published a book concluding that "Adolf Hitler met his first defeat in eight years" in what might "go down in history as a battle as important as Waterloo or Gettysburg". The turning point was when the Germans reduced the intensity of the Blitz after 15 September. According to Ingersoll, "[the Luftwaffe's] morale in combat is broken, and the RAF has been gaining in strength each week." <sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> "Fireside Chat, December 29, 1940," FDR Library, accessed February 5, 2024,

[https://www.fdrlibrary.org/documents/356632/390886/lendlease\\_fireside.pdf/6a8052ab-f166-4137-bd62-879c3bd77b90](https://www.fdrlibrary.org/documents/356632/390886/lendlease_fireside.pdf/6a8052ab-f166-4137-bd62-879c3bd77b90)

<sup>9</sup> Len Deighton, *Fighter: The True Story of the Battle of Britain* (London: Pimlico, 1996)

<sup>10</sup> Ralph Ingersoll, *Report on England, November 1940* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1940)

A vivid example of this shift in journalistic opinion is the famous CBS radio correspondent Ed Murrow, who worried about “the inequities of the British class system” before the battle and doubted its efficiency in combating Germany. However, as the Battle of Britain began, Murrow set off for Kent to witness aerial combat between the RAF and the Luftwaffe. As Tim Luckhurst, a historical media researcher, explains, when studying Murrow’s publications, he wanted to use the opportunity to guide American opinion in precisely the direction the British war effort required: towards the belief that Britain could win and was worthy of their support and admiration.<sup>11</sup> As the *Chicago Daily News* commented, “For the first time, we have the word of an American news-paperman to back the British claims that their fighter planes are disposing of German planes at a rate that largely offsets Germany's superiority both in numbers and rate of manufacture. According to an observer for *The Straits Times*, a newspaper circulated in the British colony of Singapore, American audiences started to pay more attention to British war efforts, “Since the war began, has supported the belief that the British fliers are getting the better of single combats and dogfights, but now we know because an American saw it.”<sup>12</sup> These reports profoundly impact securing public opinion in favor of the British.

These efforts eventually culminated in American public confidence in Britain, and the eventual British triumph only confirmed that, as Roosevelt’s opponent in the general election stated on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, “All of us-Republicans, Democrats, and independents-

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<sup>11</sup> Tim Luckhurst, “A myth to encourage Uncle Sam: how US journalists sold America the story of heroic Britain in 1940,” Yahoo UK News, accessed January 9, 2024 <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/myth-encourage-uncle-sam-us-122551757.html?guccounter=1>

<sup>12</sup> “U.S. Journal on British Air Superiority,” *The Straits Times*, July 19, 1940, 14

believe in giving aid to the heroic British people”<sup>13</sup>, soon after the lend-lease act came into full swing, and months later after Pearl Harbor the whole American society was entirely committed to war leaving isolationism behind them.

### **How the Battle of Britain Encouraged Resistance in British Colonies and China**

The Battle of Britain boosted the morale of people facing the onslaught of Axis forces in the Asian theatre. British colonies in Asia faced immense pressure from Japanese imperial forces such as Hong Kong and Singapore. Also, China, which had already taken the brunt of the Japanese attack for years, was in a dire situation, with its capital, Chongqing, bombed ceaselessly and sustaining even more severe damage than London. The battle of Britain served as a crucial propaganda tool to encourage these colonies and allies. Local colonial newspapers regularly reported on the battle positively. On 19 June 1940, at the beginning of the battle, *the Morning Tribune*, a newspaper published in southeast Asia, showed its positive attitude towards the outcome of the battle when it headed its issue with the words: “PREMIER: BATTLE OF BRITAIN ABOUT TO BEGIN- VICTORY HOPES BRIGHT”<sup>14</sup> On August 13 it headed with “BRITAIN IS WINNING”<sup>15</sup> On January 18 *The Strait Times*, a newspaper published in Singapore, wrote in an optimistic report that “Hitler Is Losing 'Decisive Battle'.”<sup>16</sup> *The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser*, a Singapore

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<sup>13</sup> Winston Churchill, *Their Finest Hour* (London: Penguin Classics, 2005), 488-89

<sup>14</sup> “PREMIER: BATTLE OF BRITAIN ABOUT TO BEGIN- VICTORY HOPES BRIGHT,” *Morning Tribune*, June 19, 1940,

<sup>15</sup> “Britain is winning,” *Morning Tribune*, August 13, 1940,

<sup>16</sup> “Hitler Is Losing 'Decisive Battle,’” *The Strait Times*, January 18, 1940, 16



newspaper that focused on trade and market, reported on June 13, 1941, that “*The Battle for Britain* the Air Ministry's best-seller story of the Nazis' Futile attempts to conquer Britain by daylight raids, has arrived in Singapore and is rapidly selling out.”<sup>17</sup> Similar content has appeared in a great variety of newspapers, such as *The Straits Budget*<sup>18</sup>, *The Malaya Tribune*<sup>19</sup>, and *The Strait Times*.<sup>20</sup> There is no denying that the colonial governments' propaganda machine was at work, but the positive publications would not have been justified if not for the actual victory achieved in Britain.

Newspapers in mainland China also publicized the battle to a great extent. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1940, *The National Daily of Gansu Province (Gan Su Min Guo Ri Bao)*, the major newspaper in the war-torn province of Gansu, reported optimistically that the RAF was striking significant blows via a great counterattack after the bombing of London.<sup>21</sup> On September 27<sup>th</sup>, *The Morning Post of Eastern Asia (Dong Ya Chen Bao)*, an influential newspaper in China and Asian British colonies, wrote that Berlin underwent heavy blows from the RAF, and great fires have been triggered.<sup>22</sup> It is evident that there is exaggeration concerning the extent of RAF bombings. The reports were intended to encourage Chinese citizens to stand strong against Japan. This can be inferred from the fact that columns reporting bombings of Chinese cities like Chongqing, such as “sirens sound throughout the night as Chongqing is bombed”<sup>23</sup>

<sup>17</sup> “‘Battle For Britain’ Local Best-Seller,” *The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser (1884-1942)*, June 13, 1941, 7

<sup>18</sup> “‘Battle For Britain’ Local Best-Seller,” *The Straits Budget*, June 19, 1941, 15

<sup>19</sup> “‘Battle Of Britain’ In Great Demand,” *Malaya Tribune*, June 14, 1941, 5

<sup>20</sup> “Britain's Battle —Best Seller,” *The Straits Times*, April 28, 1941,10

<sup>21</sup> Zonglin Shen, “Ying guo zhong dan yi da fu fan gong” [British under bombardment, still fights back], *The National Daily of Gansu Province (Gan Su Min Guo Ri Bao)*, August 26, 1940, 3.

<sup>22</sup> “Buo lin zao ying meng yao gong chang qu cheng qi huo de ji hong zha lun dun tou zhi zha dan ji duo” [Important industrial districts in Berlin are in flames due to ferocious British bombing], *The Morning Post of Eastern Asia (Dong Ya Chen Bao)*, September 27, 1940, 2.

<sup>23</sup> Zengsui Chen, “Chongqing Bombed”, *The New Newspaper of Minnan (Min Nan Xin Bao)*, August 9, 1941,2.

were placed side to side with articles reporting the victories of the RAF, such as “The Luftwaffe suffer heavy losses in battle over Britain”<sup>24</sup> and “The more than a hundred Luftwaffe planes have been shot down and Berlin is in flames.”<sup>25</sup> Newspapers like the *Daily Post of Xinjiang Province (Xin Jiang Ri Bao)* listed German losses daily, such as on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1940, “54 German planes are shot down at the price of 34 British planes” and on October 14<sup>th</sup>, “Another 11 German planes are shot down and five pilots captured.”<sup>26</sup> Although the actual outcome of the Battle of Britain wouldn’t directly affect China’s battle with Japan, morale does. Advertising British resilience and counterattacks against German bombings would greatly enhance Chinese resilience against Japanese bombings, as Vincent Chang of Southwest university explained: “Japanese bombers appeared in Chongqing's skies virtually every day, dropping more than 10,000 bombs over the city. During these attacks on China's wartime capital, two-thirds of the city center was bombed out.” It is a miracle that the city stood resolute “China was resisting the invader single-handedly, the 'City Built on Rock' came to symbolize the 'indomitable spirit' and unwavering will of a nation heroically at war against massive odds.”<sup>27</sup> The propaganda covering the Battle of Britain was undoubtedly a part of that miracle.

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<sup>24</sup> Qiyun Song, “Germans Sustain Huge Losses In German-British Air Battle”, *The Northwest Cultural Daily (Xi Bei Wen Hua Ri Bao)*, November 11, 1940,1

<sup>25</sup> Xiangnv Liu, “Germans Lose Near 100 Planes In German-British Air Battle”, *The Southeast Daily (Dong Nan Ri Bao)*, May 10, 1941,2.

<sup>26</sup> Zige Zhang, “British Lose 34 Planes While Germans Lose 53 In German-British Air Battle”, *The Xinjiang Province Daily (Xin Jiang Ri Bao)*, August 11, 1940,2; Wenan Ding, “Another 11 German Planes Are Shot Down In German-British Air Battle”, *The Extermination Newspaper of Guilin (Gui Lin Sao Dang Bao)*, October 14, 1940,3.

<sup>27</sup> VINCENT K. L. CHANG, YONG ZHOU, “Redefining Wartime Chongqing: International capital of a global power in the making, 1938–46,” *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 51, No. 3 (MAY 2017): 577-621, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26358234>.

## How the Battle of Britain Reshaped Anglo-American Relations in the Cold War

After the fall of France, Britain was the only effective force in Europe, then defiant of Nazi Germany. Britain was desperate and needed military support and resources. Through sheer determination and mastery of strategy, they managed to win the Battle of Britain; their losses were huge, and their situation was none less dire. By the third quarter of 1940, British exports were down 37% compared to 1935. Although the British Government had committed nearly \$10,000 million in orders from America, Britain's gold and dollar reserves were near exhaustion.<sup>28</sup> As David Reynolds, when analyzing the arguments of Brian McKercher in his book *Transition of Power*,<sup>29</sup> summarizes:

German victory over France changed everything. It left Britain alone, facing the threat of invasion by Hitler, Italy's assault on its North African empire, and Japanese expansion into undefended Southeast Asia. Dependence on America was the price of fighting, and McKercher highlights this as the turning point in the Anglo-American relationship.<sup>30</sup>

As Churchill said in his famous “We shall fight on the beaches” speech on June 4<sup>th</sup> 1940: “The New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the Old.”<sup>31</sup> The “New World” did so with supplies totaling \$31.4 billion,

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<sup>28</sup> W. K. Hancock and M. M. Gowing, *British War Economy* (London: Cambridge University Press, 1964) p. 154, 168.

<sup>29</sup> B. J. C. McKercher, *Transition of power: Britain's loss of global pre-eminence to the United States, 1930-1945* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), p. 340.

<sup>30</sup> David Reynolds, “From World War to Cold War: The Wartime Alliance and Post-War Transitions, 1941-1947.” *The Historical Journal* 45, no. 1 (2002): 211–27.

<sup>31</sup> Churchill, Winston. “War Situation, Contribution by the Prime Minister (Mr. Churchill) on Tuesday 4 June 1940,” Hansard, accessed 07/02/2024

which never had to be repaid via the lend-lease act.<sup>32</sup> Yet in these lay American strategic ambitions of domination. Alan P. Dobson, in analyzing US statecraft, stated that:

Lend-Lease would not only help to win the war, it would help to establish a new international economic order that would enable the USA to win the peace as well. US economic power would be used ruthlessly to achieve a position from which Washington could determine the peace and the post-war world order.<sup>33</sup>

The Americans achieved their goal.

As historian J.R.T.Hughes explains, “the war was expensive and financed through high taxes, selling off assets, and accepting large amounts of Lend Lease from the US and Canada.”<sup>34</sup> For Britain the after war reconstruction was even more challenging than winning it. Jim Tomlinson illustrates the British economy during and after the war as a “shortage economy” characterized by excess demand and increasing dependence on imports from dollar countries<sup>35</sup>. In response, the British government, under Clement Attlee, was eager to reform the Isles economically and even proposed that the United States create special aid to Britain. As outlined by William. C. Cromwell, British representative Ernest Bevin played a crucial and leading role in organizing a European response to the Marshall Plan.<sup>36</sup> Britain would go on to receive 26% of total Marshall plan funds, the top recipient<sup>37</sup>. In exchange, Britain willingly played a great role in

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<sup>32</sup> Walter Yust, ed. *Ten Eventful years* (1947) 2:859

<sup>33</sup> Alan P. Dobson, *United States Economic Statecraft for Survival, 1933-1991 Of Sanctions and Strategic Embargoes* (Washington DC: Routledge ,2002), 58.

<sup>34</sup> J. R. T. Hughes "Financing the British War Effort". *Journal of Economic History*. 18 (2): 193–199.

<sup>35</sup> Jim Tomlinson “Marshall Aid and the ‘Shortage Economy’ in Britain in the 1940s.” *Contemporary European History* 9, no. 1 (2000): 137–55.

<sup>36</sup> William C. Cromwell “The Marshall Plan, Britain and the Cold War.” *Review of International Studies* 8, no. 4 (1982): 233–49.

<sup>37</sup> John Agnew and Nicholas Entrikin, *The Marshall Plan Today: Model and Metaphor*, (Oxfordshire, England: Routledge, 2004),

American strategy against the Soviet Union. The Battle of Britain left a lasting impression on the Americans that if they could stop Hitler when given adequate support, they could stop the Soviets, too. Then Secretary of state Dean Acheson stated that if America neglected defending Great Britain, “we would have no platform from which to operate if we had to against the Soviet Union, but that we would turn great potential strength to the other side.”<sup>38</sup> In a report from the Foreign Military Assistance Coordinating Committee, great trust and emphasis were shown on Britain’s position in American strategy:

To a greater extent than that of our relations with any other power, our foreign policy is based on the assumption that we can rely on effective cooperation from Great Britain. It has political stability to a degree unequalled among other major free powers outside North America; It is the most determined in its efforts toward economic recovery; It is resolute in its resistance to Communism; and is In fundamental sympathy within the broad objectives of our foreign policy.<sup>39</sup>

The Battle of Britain marked the turning point and the first step of the Anglo-American relationship via American aid to Britain and British participation in American security policy.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the Battle of Britain is a vital turning point of the Second World War.

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<sup>38</sup> Henry Kissinger, *Years of Renewal*, (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999), 310-43.

<sup>39</sup> “Background information for the Foreign Military Assistance Coordinating Committee: current situation in the United Kingdom” (United States: Department of Defense, 5 May 1950) U.S. Declassified Documents Online (accessed January 13, 2024).

It affected the balance of power on both sides but also swayed opinions in key players of the war, serving as the trigger to the global war and the tilting of the scales against Germany. It's widespread media coverage led to it being a symbol of hope for allied people worldwide embroiled in a war against a seemingly invincible enemy. It is also the turning point of Anglo-American relations, ushering in a new age of interdependence.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

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This newspaper article of a significant Chinese wartime newspaper is a first-hand report of the bombing of Chongqing serving to illustrate its scale and contrasts it against the bombing of Britain in the Battle of Britain, allowing me to further my arguments about how the victory of the Battle of Britain boosted morale in China.

Churchill, Winston. *The Second World War : Their Finest Hour*. Boston: Published In Association With The Cooperation Pub. Co. [By] Houghton Mifflin, 1949.

This is the volume of the Churchill's memoirs of The Second World War that masterfully illustrates the battle through one of its key participants, this book allowed me to develop a wholesome view of the battle situation on the British side and initially inspired me to choose the Battle of Britain as the topic of this paper.

———. "We Shall Fight on the Beaches." Presented at the War Situation Debate, June 4, 1940. <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/1940-06-04/debates/60ee1caa-abcf-48e5-8c55-c4e587b94de7/WarSituation?highlight=shall%20fight%20beaches#contribution-559d35a2-73f3-4998-8fb0-55cb124e193e>.

This speech made in the house of commons is one of Churchill's greatest, it also shows British hope in America coming to the rescue, which it did but also in the process shifting Anglo-American relations drastically.

Ding, Wenan, ed. "Another 11 German Planes Are Shot down in German-British Air Battle." *The Extermination Newspaper of Guilin (Gui Lin Sao Dang Bao)*, October 14, 1940.

This firsthand news article of a Chinese wartime newspaper serves as an example of positive reports concerning the Battle of Britain in China boosting morale.

Ingersoll, Ralph. *Report on England, November 1940*. London: Simon and Schuster, 1940.

This report is one of the first American news reports on the Battle of Britain and it illustrates how American public opinion shifted as more Americans witnessed the British triumphs firsthand.

Liu, Xiangnv, ed. "Germans Lose near 100 Planes in German-British Air Battle." *The Southeast Daily (Dong Nan Ri Bao)*, May 10, 1941.

This firsthand news article of a Chinese wartime newspaper serves as an example of positive reports concerning the Battle of Britain in China boosting morale especially with its huge numbers.

*Malaya Tribune*. "Battle of Britain' in Great Demand." June 14, 1941.

This article reporting the popularity of a book covering the Battle of Britain serves to illustrate its wide publicity in Malaya and southeast Asia.

*Morning Tribune*. "Britain Is Winning." August 13, 1940.

This straightforward report offers firm evidence of positive influences on public opinion of southeast Asia through victory in the Battle of Britain.

*Morning Tribune*. "PREMIER: BATTLE of BRITAIN about to BEGIN- VICTORY HOPES BRIGHT." June 19, 1940.

This report helped me further understand the positive attitude in British colonies towards the Battle of Britain.

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This great speech made by FDR summarizes succinctly the American policy for the Battle of Britain and highlights America's resolution in supporting Britain. It helped me understand the American incentive to support Britain and helped me analyze the shift in public opinion in America concerning the battle.

Shen, Zonglin, ed. "The British Massively Retaliate against German Bombings." *The National Daily of Gansu Province (Gan Su Min Guo Ri Bao)*, August 26, 1940.

This firsthand news article of a Chinese wartime newspaper serves as an example of positive reports concerning the Battle of Britain in China boosting morale especially with its huge numbers. It helped me understand how reports on the Battle of Britain boosted morale in China.

Song, Qiyun, ed. "Germans Sustain Huge Losses in German-British Air Battle." *The Northwest Cultural Daily (Xi Bei Wen Hua Ri Bao)*, November 11, 1940.

This firsthand news article of a Chinese wartime newspaper serves as an example of positive reports concerning the Battle of Britain in China boosting morale especially with its huge numbers. It helped me understand how reports on the Battle of Britain boosted morale in China.

*The Morning Post of Eastern Asia (Dong Ya Chen Bao)*. "Berlin Set in Flames by British Bombs." September 27, 1940.

This firsthand news article of a Chinese wartime newspaper serves as an example of positive reports concerning the Battle of Britain in China boosting morale especially with its huge numbers. It helped me understand how reports on the Battle of Britain boosted morale in China especially through exaggeration techniques evident in this report.

*The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser (1884-1942)*. "Battle for Britain' Local Best-Seller." January 13, 1941.

This article reporting the popularity of a book covering the Battle of Britain serves to illustrate its wide publicity in Malaya and southeast Asia.

*The Strait Times*. “Hitler Is Losing ‘Decisive Battle.’” January 18, 1940.

This report helped me further understand the positive attitude in British colonies towards the Battle of Britain.

*The Strait Times*. “U.S. Journal on British Air Superiority.” July 19, 1940.

This report helped me further understand the positive attitude in British colonies towards the Battle of Britain.

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This report written by the US department of defense aided me in understanding Britain’s importance and role as a security measure against the Soviet Union and a part of US cold war containment strategy.

Zhang, Zige, ed. “British Lose 34 Planes While Germans Lose 53 in German-British Air Battle.” *The Xinjiang Province Daily (Xin Jiang Ri Bao)*, August 11, 1940.

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### Secondary sources

Agnew, John A, and J Nicholas Entrikin. *The Marshall Plan Today : Model and Metaphor*. London ; New York: Routledge, 2004.

This book illustrating the Marshall Plan helped to support my arguments of British dependence on American aid and led me to further understand the role of Britain in administering the Marshall Plan

Bungay, Stephen. *The Most Dangerous Enemy: A History of the Battle of Britain* . London: Aurum Press, 2015.

This book is one of the most wholesome accounts of the battle and supports my argument that the Battle of Britain was a significant turning point of the war.

Chang, Vincent K. L., and Yong Zhou. “Redefining Wartime Chongqing: International Capital of a Global Power in the Making, 1938–46.” *Modern Asian Studies* 51, no. 3 (2017): 577–621.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26358234>.

This account of Chongqing during the bombing informed me of the resolve of the city when facing bombing and allowed me to see many similarities between London during the battle thus leading me to form the argument that the victory in the Battle of Britain helped stiffen Chongqing’s resolve.

Clairmont, Frederic F. “Stalingrad: Hitler’s Nemesis.” *Economic and Political Weekly* 38, no. 27 (2003): 2819–23. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4413752>.

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Correll, John. “How the Luftwaffe Lost the Battle of Britain.” *Air & Space Forces Magazine*, August 1, 2008.  
<https://www.airandspaceforces.com/article/0808battle/>.

This article illustrates America’s initial pessimistic attitude towards the Battle of Britain, and helped me contrast against later on reports to display the shift in public opinion in America.

Crawley, Leo.T. *10 Eventful Years "Lend Lease."* Edited by Walter Yust. London: E.B. Inc, 1947.

This allowed me to gain in-depth knowledge of Britain's role and dependence on the lend lease program.

Cromwell, William C. "The Marshall Plan, Britain and the Cold War." *Review of International Studies* 8, no. 4 (1982): 233–49.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/20096957>.

This helped me form arguments concerning Britain's dependence on the Marshall plan and how it helped to shift Anglo-American relations.

Deighton, Len. *Fighter*. Penguin UK, 2021.

This book covered one of the first positive American attitudes concerning the Battle of Britain, helping me acquire a vivid picture of the shift in media opinion.

Dobson, Alan P. *US Economic Statecraft for Survival, 1933-1991 : Of Sanctions, Embargoes and Economic Warfare*. London: Routledge, 2015.

This book offers a classic explanation of American strategical intentions for the Lend Lease program and helped me understand it in a broader perspective.

Givens, Robert P. "Normandy Campaign." JSTOR, 2002.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep13973.11>.

This article argues that The Normandy Campaign is a significant turning point of The Second World War, it offers a comparison with my arguments for the Battle of Britain.

Hancock, W. K. , and M. M. Gowing. *British War Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1964.

This book aided me in understanding the situation of the British economy during and after World War II which led to it's dependence on American aid.

Hughes, J. R. T. "Financing the British War Effort." Edited by R. S. Sayers and Keith Hancock. *The Journal of Economic History* 18, no. 2 (1958): 193–99.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2115103>.

This book helped me illustrate the sacrifices made by Britain to sustain the war effort including submitting to American domination in exchange for aid.

Kissinger, Henry. *Years of Renewal*. Simon and Schuster, 2012.

Kissinger helped me realize the importance of Britain in America's national security policy against the Soviet Union.

Luckhurst, Tim. "A Myth to Encourage Uncle Sam: How US Journalists Sold America the Story of Heroic Britain in 1940." Yahoo News, June 16, 2020.  
<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/myth-encourage-uncle-sam-us-122551757.html?guccounter=1>.

This article offers a wholesome account of American media coverage of the Battle of Britain and helped me to structure my arguments for that part of the paper.

Murray, Williamson. *Strategy for Defeat: The Luftwaffe, 1933-1945 [Illustrated Edition]*. Pickle Partners Publishing, 2015.

This book aided my understanding of how the Luftwaffe failed to succeed in the Battle of Britain and how they suffered heavy losses.

Reynolds, David. "From World War to Cold War: The Wartime Alliance and Post-War Transitions, 1941-1947." *The Historical Journal* 45, no. 1 (2002): 211–27. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3133637>.

This article provides crucial and direct support for my second core argument about how the Battle of Britain was a crucial turning point for Anglo-American relations.

Shirer, William L. *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*. Simon and Schuster, 2011.

This book wrote about how the Battle of Britain became the first major defeat for the Germans, thus supporting my basic arguments for it being a turning point for the conflict.

Thomas, Adam. "From Depression to Victory: A Record of Growing British Determination during the Battle of Britain." *Air Power History* 63, no. 1 (2016): 6–13. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26276702>.

This article enabled me to truly emphasize with the resilience of the British people during the Battle and led me to believe that this resilience could resonate around the world via media, inspiring my first core argument.

Tomlinson, Jim. "Marshall Aid and the 'Shortage Economy' in Britain in the 1940s." *Contemporary European History* 9, no. 1 (May 2000): 137–55. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20081735>.

This article offers an illustration of the circumstances in which Britain strived for Marshall aid and took a big step in creating interdependence between the two countries.