

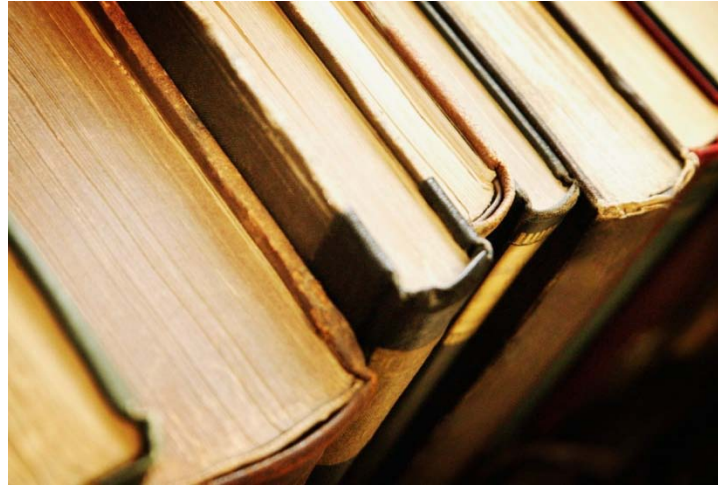
The Annual Register

A Record of World Events, 1758-2009



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The Annual Register



In 1897, a young British army officer serving in India, preparing to launch his political career, asked his mother to send him the most recent 27 volumes of *The Annual Register*.

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A few days later Lancashire was again appealed to on the subject of the Ministerial policy, a double vacancy having occurred at Oldham by the death of Mr. Ashcroft and the resignation of Mr. Oswald, who in 1895 had won the two seats for the Conservatives. Oldham had never shown much political consistency, the majority, always a narrow one, being alternately Conservative or Radical. On the present occasion the choice of the Conservative party was somewhat surprising, but the contest was thereby rendered more interesting to outsiders: Mr. Winston Churchill, the eldest son of Lord Randolph Churchill, a promising statesman prematurely cut off—was associated with Mr. Mawdsley, a well-known trade-unionist leader, who for many years had prudently and skilfully watched over the interests of the cotton-spinner operatives.

Within two years, this young politician was appearing in *The Annual Register* himself. It would be the first of many appearances.

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He went on to become Prime Minister in 1940, leading Britain to victory in the Second World War.

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[MAY

with the strictures made upon the Government. The event, however, more than justified it as a tactical move. The Government's defence was generally regarded as unconvincing, and many Ministerialists who had long been critical of their chief in private at length found the strain upon their party loyalty greater than they could bear. In the division some forty Ministerialists—instead of the usual twenty or so—voted with the Opposition, while about eighty more showed their disapproval by abstaining from voting. The result was that the Government majority fell to 81, the figures being 281 against the vote of censure and 200 for.

The comparative narrowness of the Government's majority on so critical an occasion showed conclusively that it had lost the confidence of the House, and was interpreted on all hands as a peremptory instruction to Mr. Chamberlain either himself to form a truly National Government, or, if he could not, to make way for someone who could. The Premier himself took the same view, and he immediately interviewed Mr. Attlee and Mr. Greenwood, and—not for the first time—invited them to enter his administration. He found them, however, still as implacably resolved as ever not to join any Government of which he was the head, though they declared their readiness to take office under some other Prime Minister, even a Conservative. Without delay he made up his mind to bow to the inevitable, and on the evening of May 10 placed his resignation in the hands of the King.

Mr. Chamberlain recommended as his successor Mr. Winston Churchill, as the man best qualified to form a National Government, in virtue both of his popularity with the public at large and of the esteem in which he was held by the Opposition parties in Parliament. Obtaining the willing co-operation of all sections, Mr. Churchill found no great difficulty in accomplishing the task. Like Mr. Chamberlain, he formed an inner War Cabinet within the general administration, but in conformity with the general demand he reduced its number to five. It consisted of himself as Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Mr. Chamberlain as Lord President of the Council, Mr. Attlee as Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Halifax as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Arthur Greenwood as Minister without Portfolio. The continued presence of Mr. Chamberlain in the War Cabinet was by no means welcome to the Labour and Liberal parties, but it had the merit of reconciling the bulk of the Conservatives to the new administration. The Opposition had at least the satisfaction of seeing the removal from dominating positions of their other two pet aversions, Sir S. Hoare, who became Ambassador to Spain, and Sir J. Simon, who was elevated to the Woolsack. In the appointments outside the inner ring efficiency on the whole counted for more than party.

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PREFACE

IN Britain, the first weeks of 1965 were overshadowed by the illness and death, on 24 January, of Sir Winston Churchill.

Looking back on the great deliverance and victory that crowned his career, Churchill himself ascribed all credit to the lion-hearted people he had led, and was modestly content to congratulate himself on having had the good fortune to provide 'the roar'. Without doubt his figure will stand in the Pantheon of history in the attitude of the lion at bay. 'The finest hour' of the English was also the finest hour of Churchill himself; for he was at his greatest when confronting imminent catastrophe. His words—'the roar'—then had the quality of deeds.

They had that quality because the speaker himself had had his fill of physical action. He had led men in battle, and his spirit was attuned to the diapason of war. He was neither a war-lover nor a war-monger; but he saw its terrible power over the age into which he had been born, a power that must be understood, faced, and mastered. Thus it was that his call upon the resolution of his countrymen evoked a response that showed them greater than they knew. But Churchill had known.

Final judgment on Churchill's grand strategy in supreme direction of the war effort must be remitted to posterity. It was essentially the strategy of Chatham: to hold the enemy in the grip of sea power and compel him to exhaust his strength at the furthest fringe of his conquests. We now know that this strategy was not only doubted or frustrated by his allies, but was pursued in continual tension with his closest technical advisers; but we also know that none of these great captains, even in their moments of most exasperation with their civilian chief, ever dreamt of seeking the leadership of a lesser man.

This most versatile of statesmen was many things besides a great War Minister. With Lloyd George he had laid the foundations of the welfare State; in the years of rejection after victory he fired men's hearts, in America and Europe, with the vision of 'the Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World'. Realist as he was in times of danger, he was also an unabashed romantic, a patriot with an almost mystical passion for the historic institutions of his country, for Throne and Parliament, and an ultimate and profound faith in the people. Many times in his wayward, stormy career he was at odds with them; perhaps he understood them better than they understood themselves. In a cynical age he dared to speak in terms of the ancient simplicities, of loyalty and courage and patience and faith, above all of magnanimity which was his own central virtue. His quirks and oddities filled out the picture of the Englishman writ large; for England prides itself on its 'characters'. In the end he was loved even more—if that be possible—than he was venerated.

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When he died in 1965, *The Annual Register* devoted a special preface to him.

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- To mark the 250th birthday of *The Annual Register*, ProQuest is offering a year's free access to the online version to all public libraries in the UK.
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- The 250th volume of *The Annual Register*, covering the year 2008, will be published this year.
- It should be available online by the end of August.
- Special features include a commemorative essay by M. R. D. Foot and a speculative essay looking forward to 2049 by Paul Rogers.

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iv P R E F A C E.

These pretensions we have in common with all the other periodical compilers; and the same apology serves us all. But it will be expected, that in offering a new performance to the Public, we should mention some new and peculiar advantage which we pretend to have over our fellow-labourers. Some such advantages we flatter ourselves we possess, partly arising from our scheme of an annual rather than a monthly publication; partly from our own attention and industry.

Not confined to a monthly publication, we have an opportunity of examining with care the products of the year, and of selecting what many appear most particularly deserving of notice. We have from the same cause the advantage of order; we are better able to rank the several kinds under their proper heads; at least with as much exactness as the nature of a miscellany will admit.

But, besides this advantage derived from our general scheme, we derive something from our own labour. We have not in our first article confined ourselves to the history of the year. We have taken the war from its commencement. It is a subject which requires all the pains which we could bestow

The early *Annual Register* was edited by Edmund Burke . Early volumes began with a Historical Essay on the year's events.

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Extract from a letter in the Museum Rusticum et Commerciale, on a cheap method of making good wholesome bread, when wheat-meal is dear, p.133-134

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For the YEAR 1763. 133

Extract from a letter in the Museum Rusticum et Commerciale, on a cheap method of making good wholesome bread, when wheat-meal is dear, by mixing turneps, &c. with it.

AT the time I tried this method bread was very dear, inasmuch that the poor people in the country where I live could hardly afford themselves half a meal a day: this put me upon considering whether some cheaper method might not be found, than making it of wheat-meal.

Turneps were at that time very plentiful. I had a number of them pulled, washed clean, pared, and boiled: when they were become soft enough to mash, I had the greatest part of the water pressed out of them, and afterwards had them mixed with an equal quantity, in weight, of coarse wheat-meal: the dough was then made in the usual manner, with yeast or barm, salt, water, &c. it rose very well in the trough, and after being well kneaded, was formed into loaves, and put into the oven to be baked.

I had, at the same time, some other bread made with common meal in the ordinary way. I baked my turnep-bread rather longer than the other.

When they were drawn from the oven, I caud a loaf of each sort to be cut, and found, on examination, the turnep-bread was sweeter than the other, to the full as light, and as white, but had a little taste, though no ways disagreeable, of

On examining it when it had been baked twenty-four hours, had I not known there were turneps in its composition, I should not have imagined it: it had, it is true, a peculiar sweetish taste, but by no means disagreeable; on the contrary, I rather preferred it to the bread made of wheat-meal alone.

After it had been baked forty-eight hours, it underwent another examination, when it appeared to me to be rather superior to the other; it eat fresher and moister, and had not at all abated in its good qualities: to be short, it was still very good after a week, and, as far as I could see, kept as well as the bread made of common wheat-meal.

In my trials of this bread by the taste, I was not satisfied with eating it by itself; I had some of it spread with butter; I tasted it with cheese; I eat of it toasted and buttered, and finally in boiled milk, and in soup: in all these forms it was very palatable and good.

When I had thus far succeeded, I had some more of it made in the same manner, and after it was baked and cold, I sent for some of my poor neighbours, giving them of it to eat: they said there was something particular in the taste of it, but could not tell what to resemble it to: they allowed it was not disagreeable; yet, when I told them in what manner it was made, they declined eating any more of it, alledging it was not what they were used to; and no persuasions were powerful enough to induce

The early volumes also include various scientific observations, essays, poems and other extracts from magazines and books.

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III CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

POLAND—BALTIc STATES—CZECH REPUBLIC—SLOVAKIA—HUNGARY—
ROMANIA—BULGARIA

POLAND

CAPITAL: Warsaw AREA: 323,000 sq km POPULATION: 38,112,000
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Polish POLITICAL SYSTEM: multiparty republic
HEAD OF STATE: President Lech Kaczynski (PiS) (since Dec '05)
RULING PARTIES: Civic Platform (PO) forms coalition with Polish Peasant Party (PSL)
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT: Prime Minister Donald Tusk (PO) (since Nov '07)
MAIN IGO MEMBERSHIPS (NON-UN): NATO, OSCE, CE, CEI, CBSS, OECD, Francophonie, EU
CURRENCY: zloty (end-'07 £1=Z14.8956, US\$1=Z12.4594)
GNI PER CAPITA: US\$8,190, US\$14,830 at PPP ('06)

The first half of 2007 saw the death throes of the government formed in July 2006 by Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the leader of the Law and Justice (PiS) party. Its second half was dominated by the decisive electoral victory of the Civic Platform (PO), led by Donald Tusk who became the new prime minister. A coalition with the Polish Peasant Party (PSL) promised welcome governmental stability after the political shenanigans caused since 2005 by PiS efforts to exclude the PO from government and rule Poland with the unsteady votes of the nationalist clerical League of Polish Families (LPR) and the populist Self-Defence (SRP) (see AR 2007, pp. 79-81).

Today, the first section of *The Annual Register* includes an entry for each country summarising important developments.

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XII THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY IN 2007

The world economy in 2007 suffered a major financial shock, originating in the US housing sector, of which the extent and consequences were still far from played out or fully assessed by the end of the year. At the start of 2008 economic prospects were probably more uncertain than at any time since the early 1980s. The mood at the end of the year was very different from that at its beginning. After a run of several years of high rates of output growth, with inflation largely under control and investment and labour markets improving, the outlook for 2007 had been relatively optimistic: global output growth was expected to slow a little, mainly because of adjustment in the US economy; fears of a "hard landing" in the USA had declined and there was increased confidence that its huge current account deficit would diminish without creating turmoil in the currency markets or risking a recession. Continuing strong growth in Asia and the developing world, together with a better outlook in Europe (especially in Germany), provided extra ground for believing that any US slowdown would be offset elsewhere and that this would ease the redistribution of global imbalances that had been a long-standing source of anxiety for many policy makers outside the USA. This outlook was of course subject to the unquantifiable "downside risks", many of them financial, that had become familiar through bi-annual repetition by the principal international forecasters.

Corporate profitability was relatively strong in the United States and Europe and, together with the continuing boom in mergers and acquisitions, was sustaining rising equity markets across the globe. Interest rate spreads on corporate debt were falling and those on developing country (or emerging market economy) debt were at historic lows in January and February, although since the latter may have been due, at least in part, to the manic "search for yield" by financial institutions in Europe and North America, some observers thought such silver linings might be hiding grey clouds. Spreads on collateralised debt options (CDOs) centred on the US housing sector, however, were rising but this was still a cloud on the horizon that was largely ignored in the first few months of the year, except by a few financial experts and worried central bankers. Many governments, the IMF, and those operating the financial markets were confident that the global financial system had become more resilient to shocks as a result of liberalisation and finan-

The second half covers international organisations, the economy, science, law, religion, the arts, and sport, plus a chronicle of events, obituaries and selected documents.

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From Waterloo to Watergate, from James Cook to Jamie's cookbooks, *The Annual Register* describes things as they were seen at the time.

Allegations of some form of White House involvement in Watergate multiplied daily, and the President was strongly criticized for refusing to allow any of his staff to give evidence while continuing to repeat the assurance, first made in August 1972, that 'no one presently employed' in his Administration was involved. The charge against the President, as Mr James Reston of the *New York Times* put it, was that he was not handling the affair with the candour and fair moral principles that he claimed to represent.

to the summit of martial reputation.

