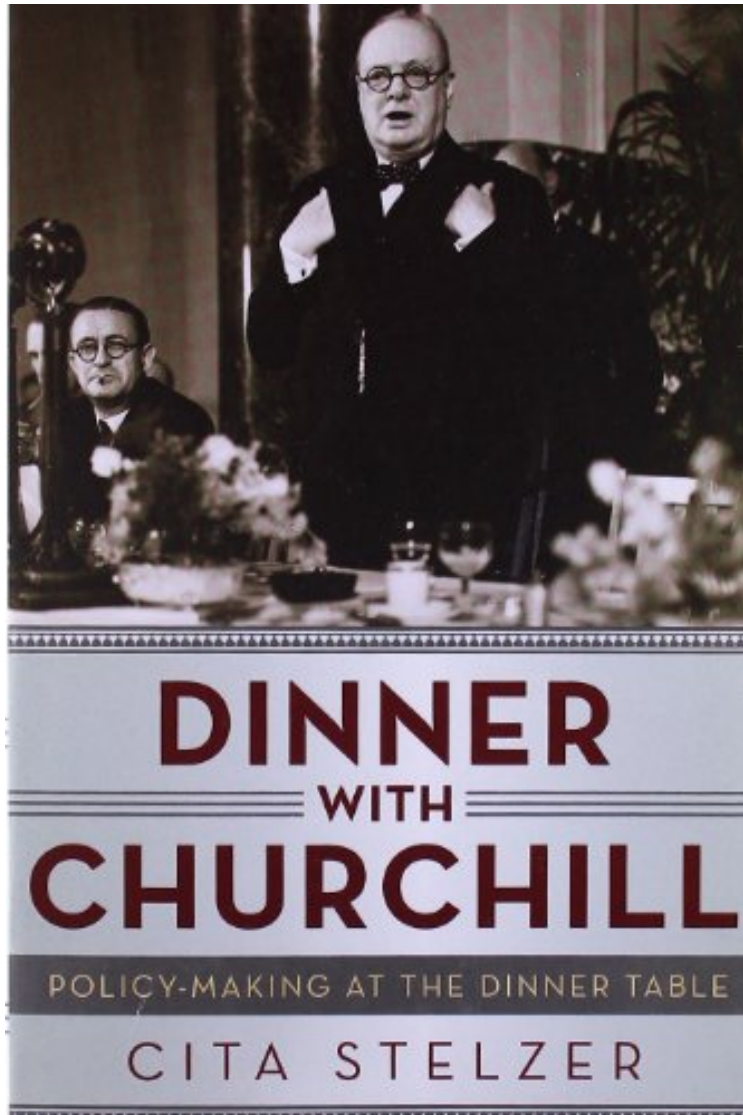


(Download pdf) Dinner with Churchill: Policy-Making at the Dinner Table

## Dinner with Churchill: Policy-Making at the Dinner Table

*Cita Stelzer*

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**Cita Stelzer : Dinner with Churchill: Policy-Making at the Dinner Table** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dinner with Churchill: Policy-Making at the Dinner Table:

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Dining and Diplomacy By Jon Sallet Politicians, especially leaders like Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt, often seem to live at an Olympian-level, far above day-to-day concerns as they direct great matters of state. But the art of diplomacy on the biggest of issues often depends to a surprising degree on small gestures and quiet, personal connections. Cita Stelzer opens the door to a little-explored aspect of how Churchill used the simple act of dining to achieve political aims. Working to bring the U.S. into the war against Germany,

forging an Allied strategy towards the invasion of Europe, and confronting the Soviet Union's post-War ambitions includes, it turns out, careful attention to both maps and menus; to military movements and seating charts. Ms. Stelzer demonstrates that Churchill used all the tools in his arsenal (and all the dinner selections at his disposal) to forge policy and to advance his art of persuasion. We know that Churchill was a great statesman; this portrait demonstrates, as well, that he was a man with whom it would have been delightful to share a meal.<sup>5</sup> of 5 people found the following review helpful. I would love to have dinner with WinstonBy JeanThe author's purports to show the importance of Churchill's dinners to his diplomacy, but is somewhat weak in developing this part of the book. On the other hand the book does reveal Churchill's gastronomic taste. Eating, drinking and smoking habits were part of Churchill's persona in his later years. The book covers these areas in great detail. Stelzer keeps pointing out that WSC followed the 19th century manner of formal dining with fancy china and cutlery and multiple courses. All dinners were working dinners, they had a purpose. Stelzer discuss how meticulous WSC was in planning his dinners from menu to sitting placement. He also worked and planned the conversation for the meal almost as much as he did his speeches. The author also emphasizes Churchill's wit and humor along with his impeccable manners. She also states she was surprise to learn that Churchill loved picnics. Stelzer states that WSC liked roast beef, Johnny Walker Red or Black Label whiskey, Pol Rogers champagne, Havana cigars and consommé soups. He liked most foods except he disliked creamed soups. Little new is revealed about Churchill, however, it is well written and lots of entertaining trivia is provided. The book is easy to read and is very enjoyable. Oh, how I would have loved to have been a guest at one of his dinners. I read this as an e-book on my Kindle app for my iPad.<sup>10</sup> of 10 people found the following review helpful. What a cool concept fumbled.By Patrick SinclairStelzer had a great idea -- and one that surely marketed well. But the execution of this book was disappointing. The chapters follow a banal formula: brief historical context; arduous travel plans; menu; caveat that Churchill was not a drunk; the Russian send caviar and we are told that Churchill was brilliant (with no examples of his brilliance).

A colorful and eloquent look at Churchill as he has never been seen before. With fascinating new insights into the food he ate, the champagne he loved, and the important guests he charmed, this delectable volume is a sumptuous and intellectual treat.A friend once said of Churchill "He is a man of simple tastes; he is quite easily satisfied with the best of everything." But dinners for Churchill were about more than good food, excellent champagnes and Havana cigars. "Everything" included the opportunity to use the dinner table both as a stage on which to display his brilliant conversational talents, and an intimate setting in which to glean gossip and diplomatic insights, and to argue for the many policies he espoused over a long life.In this riveting, informative and entertaining book, Stelzer draws on previously untapped material, diaries of guests, and a wide variety of other sources to tell of some of the key dinners at which Churchill presided before, during and after World War II-- including the important conferences at which he used his considerable skills to attempt to persuade his allies, Franklin Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin, to fight the war according to his strategic vision. 40 BW Illustrations

"A delightful and fascinating book in which we are reminded that an evening dining with Churchill must have been one of the most memorable and enjoyable occasions one could have hoped for." - Andrew Roberts, author of *The Storm of War*"A delightful and delicious tribute to Churchill's heroic appetite for wining, dining and politicking." - Ben Macintyre, author of *Operation Mincemeat*"A feast for foodies and history buffs alike, *Dinner With Churchill* offers a delicious and easily digestible portrait of the culinary tactics that helped its subject win the cooperation of others and, in so doing, the global conflict that threatened to destroy everything he held dear." - Jay Stafford, *The Richmond Times Dispatch*"The Churchill industry has been so productive in the decades since his death, and such libraries of books have been published, that an original take on his exceptionally well-documented life might seem impossible. However, with this readable "gastrobiography," Stelzer has succeeded brilliantly in producing one." - *The Sunday Times*"Acutely revealing." - *Times Literary Supplement*"What a wonderful repast Cita Stelzer has served us. History as it was consumed: Roosevelt sipping, Churchill quaffing – the best (and not so good) cuts and the great vintages are all on the table. Another bottle, please!" - William Shawcross, author of *Justice and the Enemy*About the AuthorA freelance journalist and a Research Associate at the Hudson Institute, Cita Stelzer previously worked for John Lindsay, Mayor of New York, and Governor Hugh Carey. She is currently a researcher at Churchill College, Cambridge, and a member of the Board of the Churchill Centre and Trustee of Wigmore Hall.