

Depth Study N - The Impact of the Second World War on British Society 1939 to 1945

SOURCE A: From the book “*The Gas War of 1940*”, a view of what war would be like in the future, written in 1931.

The lights of London vanished, as if blotted out by a giant extinguisher. And in the dark streets the burned and wounded, confused and panic stricken, fought and struggled like beasts. They fell and were trodden underfoot by those behind them. In a dozen parts of London that night people died in their homes with their walls crashing about them in flames: thousands rushed into the streets to be met by blasts of flame and were blown to rags.

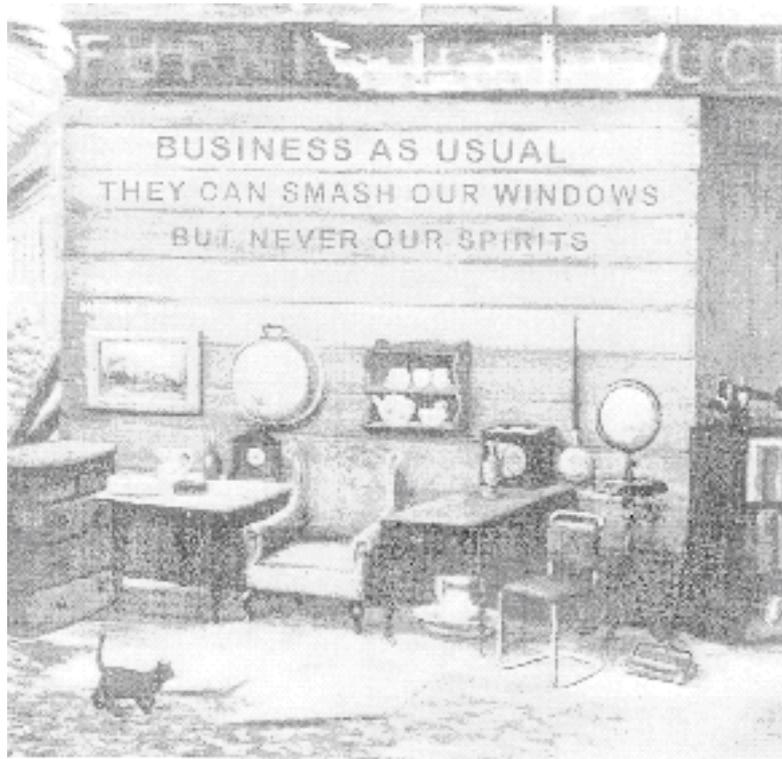
SOURCE B: A photograph of a bombed London street, 1940



SOURCE C: A Nazi broadcast to the German people in October 1940.

London is facing riots, the authorities are helpless, and everywhere there is the wildest confusion.

SOURCE D: A photograph taken outside a furniture shop in London in 1940



SOURCE E: Signs written outside bomb-damaged shops in London between 1940-41.

"We can take it"

"We've had a close shave. Come in and get one yourself." (Outside a barber's shop)

"Blast!"

"More open than usual"

"If your knees knock, kneel on them" (Outside a church)

"Bombed? Yes! But you should see what the RAF has done to our branch in Berlin (Outside a factory)

"Be good. We are still open" (Outside a police station)

SOURCE F: From a speech by the Prime Minister Winston Churchill, April 1941.

I see the damage done by the enemy attacks; but I also see, side by side with the devastation and amid the ruins, quiet, confident, bright and smiling eyes. People are aware of being part of a cause far higher and wider than any personal issue. I can see the spirit of an unconquerable people.