Churchill’s views on India was one of the reasons he was out of government for so long. Churchill saw India as the “jewel in the crown” of the British empire and it had to be protected to maintain the empire. Churchill thought that British rule put an end to barbaric practices and meant social and economic progress. He also thought it ensured good government, prevented endemic corruption and protected the weak.

This was not good for Churchill as he was in the minority position in favour of maintaining India during the ever growing fight for Indian independence. He found himself allied with eccentric and racist organisations. He was bitter in his attacks towards the conservatives and threatened to “shatter the conservatives”. Churchill did however, admitted defeat and even invited a friend of Gandhi’s to lunch and wished India the best of luck. He feared India would be “a burden to us” and never really accepted them as equals even later in his life.