

Most of the matters brought up in your article are covered in our responses to the two newspapers so I will just address probably your/ Professor Khasnabish's major criticism – the Bengal famine.

The Toronto Star article on the Bengal famine provided as evidence a book written by a non historian Madhusree Mukerjee which blames Churchill for his "intransigence" resulting in the horrendous death toll. That book was reviewed (attached) by Arthur Herman, the author of *Gandhi & Churchill*, which was nominated for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize – as you will see Mr Herman states "Absent Churchill, India's Famine Would Have Been Much Worse."

Further supporting Churchill's concern for the welfare of the Indian people is the War Cabinet, "Directive to the Viceroy Designate," Lord Wavell, dated 8th, October, 1943, initialled W.S.C. (Winston Spencer Churchill) – Point 2 includes "The hard pressures of world-war have for the first time for many years brought conditions of scarcity, verging in some localities into actual famine, upon India. Every effort must be made, even by the diversions of shipping urgently needed for war purposes, to deal with local shortages."

As I wrote in my e-mail to Professor Khasnabish Winston Churchill was not without faults, and some of his comments are completely unacceptable in the present day. But his position in history as the great champion of freedom in standing up to Nazi Germany in 1940 and leading Britain, with the support of Canada and others, until the might of Russia and the United States entered the conflict, is unassailable.