

Enoch Powell was born on June 16, 1912, in Birmingham, England, and died on February 8, 1998, in London. Powell was an academic, a professor at the University of Sydney, before enlisting in the war. After he returned, he entered politics where he won a seat in Parliament as a Conservative in 1950. Powell is most well-known for what would come to be called the “Rivers of Blood” speech where he strongly criticized immigration and the proposed race relations bill. His speech, full of hateful rhetoric and polarizing notions, resulted in the removal of his post in the Shadow Cabinet. Despite his leave, his speech had lasting effects on the people of the United Kingdom. Several constituents agreed with his opinions and his speech is linked to the increase in violence and hostility towards immigrants and coincided with the formation and rise of the far-right National Front party. Additionally, it is believed that his speech was a decisive factor in the conservative’s 1970 general election victory.

#### Works Cited:

Friedersdorf, Conor. “Learning from 1968's Leading Anti-Immigration Alarmist.” *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 23 Apr. 2018, [www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/04/learning-from-1968s-leading-anti-immigration-alarmist/558500/](http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/04/learning-from-1968s-leading-anti-immigration-alarmist/558500/).

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Enoch Powell.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 12 June 2020, [www.britannica.com/biography/Enoch-Powell](http://www.britannica.com/biography/Enoch-Powell).

“Enoch Powell’s ‘Rivers of Blood’ speech: 50 years on.” *Youtube*, uploaded by On Demand News, 20 Apr. 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjbZi2hTLVw>.