

Not For Turning: The Life of Margaret Thatcher



Not for Turning: The Life of Margaret Thatcher

by Robin Harris

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 11255 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 507 pages
Screen Reader	: Supported



The Iron Lady

Margaret Thatcher, fondly known as the Iron Lady, is undoubtedly one of the most influential and polarizing figures in British history. As the first female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, she held office from 1979 to 1990, leaving an indelible mark on her country and the world at large.

Early Life and Education

Thatcher was born Margaret Hilda Roberts on October 13, 1925, in Grantham, Lincolnshire, England. She came from a modest background, her father being a grocer and town councilor. Thatcher excelled in school, earning a scholarship to study chemistry at Oxford University. After graduating, she worked as a chemist and later as a research chemist for a paint and varnish company.

Entry into Politics

Thatcher's political career began in 1959 when she was elected to Parliament as the Conservative member for Finchley. She rose through the ranks of the Conservative Party, holding various ministerial positions under Prime Ministers Edward Heath and Harold Macmillan. In 1975, she became

the first woman to lead a major British political party when she was elected leader of the Conservative Party.

Prime Ministerial Tenure

Thatcher became Prime Minister in 1979, inheriting a nation gripped by economic crisis, industrial unrest, and social decay. Her government implemented a series of radical economic reforms known as Thatcherism, which included deregulation, privatization, and a reduction in the power of trade unions. These policies proved controversial but ultimately revived the British economy.

Thatcher's premiership was also marked by her strong leadership during the Falklands War of 1982, when Argentina invaded the British-controlled Falkland Islands. Thatcher's resolute stance and military action to retake the islands won her widespread support and strengthened her position as Prime Minister.

Domestic and Foreign Policy

Domestically, Thatcher's policies faced fierce opposition from labor unions and the left-wing of British politics. However, her staunch belief in free market economics and individualism resonated with many voters. On the foreign policy front, Thatcher was a staunch supporter of the United States and NATO, and she maintained close ties with President Ronald Reagan.

Resignation and Legacy

After 11 years in office, Thatcher resigned as Prime Minister in 1990 due to declining support within her party and the country. Her legacy remains complex and hotly debated. Supporters hail her as a transformational

leader who revived Britain's economy and restored its global standing. Critics argue that her policies led to increased inequality and social division.

Margaret Thatcher was a towering figure in British politics and world history. Her uncompromising principles, unwavering resolve, and transformative policies left an enduring mark on the United Kingdom and beyond. Whether one agrees with her policies or not, there is no denying her legacy as a political icon whose life and career continue to inspire and provoke debate.

Now available in bookstores and online retailers, "Not For Turning: The Life of Margaret Thatcher" delves into the extraordinary journey of this remarkable woman. With unprecedented access to personal archives, interviews, and never-before-seen material, this definitive biography offers a comprehensive and captivating portrait of Margaret Thatcher, the Iron Lady who left an indelible mark on our world.



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