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Margaret Thatcher: A Portrait Of The Iron Lady



Synopsis

This biography of Lady Thatcher relates in warm detail the life of Margaret Thatcher, her achievements as British Prime Minister, and her life since retirement. Written in a vigorous, no-nonsense style, Lady Thatcher provides a succinct portrait of the Iron Lady, illustrating what the terms Thatcherite and Thatcherism really mean. Blundell shows why Thatcher was such an outstanding world leader and such an inspiration for women leaders in particular. The book begins with contrasting scenes the desolation of Britain in the 1978-9 Winter of Discontent prior to Thatcher's premiership, and the economic buoyancy and national self-confidence that prevailed by the end of her period in office 11 years later. The body of the text provides a chronological, strongly narrative treatment of Thatcher's life, from childhood through to current times. When Margaret Thatcher donated \$3m to the Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC, to establish the Thatcher Center, it was John Blundell who proposed the toast to her in front of the 500+ audience assembled to mark the occasion. This book is his personal portrait of Margaret Thatcher, the woman who was the pivotal point of the rescue of a country, a woman who woke up her nation and made it once again a world leader. It is not only the story of her life but also an examination of the ideas, interests, and circumstances surrounding key events. The author illustrates Thatcher's decisive style in handling potentially explosive issues, her sang-froid, and her charm through numerous vignettes and quotes. He relates the facts of Margaret Thatcher's terms in power and explains how policy reforms and political perspectives that are now taken for granted in Britain had to be fought for. The transformation she brought to the United Kingdom was stunning on many fronts. Pre-Thatcher, Blundell says, a sclerotic union-dominated economy was typified by surly service, poor products and a "craven" business class. Post-Thatcher even the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), an exemplar of what Americans call the "liberal media," extended its coverage of the private business sector quite considerably, such is the emphasis on the values of capitalism in today's society. Service and product quality have been improved many times over. The choice and level of quality and service that had so impressed the author on his first visits to the U.S. in 1974 was becoming commonplace in the UK by the end of her terms as Prime Minister.

Introduction
1. Childhood 2. University 3 Launching 4. Elected 40 5. Opposition I 6. Education Secretary 7. Reflections 8. Leader 9. Opposition II 10. Power 11. Liberating the Economy 12. Privatizing the Commanding Heights 13. Selling Off Public Housing 14. Going to War 15. Beating the Miners 16. Reforming the Unions 17. Battling the IRA 18. Befriending America 19. Kicking Down the Wall 20. Dealing With Brussels 21. Resignation 22. Retirement 23. Family: Denis, Carol, Mark 24. Men: Alf, Keith, Ronald, Alfred, Alan, Ralph 25. Her World 26. Ten Lessons

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Customer Reviews

This delightfully intimate chronicle of Margaret Thatcher's assault on British socialism reminds us Americans that free-market principles are superior to collectivist schemes. Author John Blundell, a loyal Brit with an unabashed love of America, heads IEA, Britain's foremost liberty-oriented think-tank. His book presents crucial lessons to guide contemporary American economic and defense policy-makers.

A great book by an engaging author and speaker who shares the personal side of Margaret Thatcher. If you're reminiscing for the days of Reaganism and Thatcherism, this reminder of what they accomplished is inspiring!

200 odd pages to cover Margaret Thatcher's life from childhood to retirement, with additional chapters on her family and the key people surrounding. John Blundell has simmered all this down to 26 chapters, framing the life story with a depiction of the UK socio-economic and political context and its relationship with the US. Not only did Mr. Blundell write an easy-to-read and brief biography, he created a love declaration, which nearly relegates this book to glossy marketing material. Nearly.

Hagiography. It reads as though it were written in a few hours on a train journey. Devoid of substantive content and long on pointless praise. The book comes complete with praise for Blundell

from Thatcher. That tells you all you need to know.

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