

■ **Oct 13, 1925:** **Margaret Hilda Roberts** born in Grantham, Lincolnshire. Her father, a shopkeeper, is active in local politics

■ **1944-50:**

Reads chemistry and later, law, at Oxford. As research chemist, helps develop first soft frozen ice cream

■ **1950-51:** Twice

runs unsuccessfully as Conservative candidate for safe Labour seat of Dartford. Marries wealthy businessman **Denis Thatcher**

■ **1953:** Qualifies as barrister. Twins **Mark** and **Carol** born

■ **1959:** Enters Parliament as MP for Finchley, aged 33

■ **1961-64:** Promoted to front bench as Parliamentary undersecretary in **Harold Macmillan's** administration

■ **1964-70:** Shadow minister in opposition

■ **1970-74:** Education Secretary in government of **Edward Heath** (right). Decision to abolish free milk in schools earns nickname "**Maggie Thatcher, milk snatcher**"

■ **1975:** Successfully challenges Heath for Tory leadership. Heath never forgives "that woman"

■ **May 3, 1979:** Plagued by trade union pay demands and strikes, Labour loses general election. **Thatcher becomes Prime Minister**

Legacy of the Thatcher era

Margaret Thatcher was Britain's first female prime minister, serving three consecutive terms in office. Three decades later, the legacy of the "Iron Lady's" policy of privatisation and the deregulation of financial markets is still felt throughout the world



■ **1984:** Thatcher escapes IRA assassination attempt in Brighton hotel – five die

■ **1987-90:** Third term includes controversial reforms such as first national curriculum in schools; introduction of **internal market** in

NHS, making hospitals compete for resources; and deeply unpopular **poll tax** which sparks riots nationwide

■ **1990, August:** Thatcher pressures President **George Bush** to deploy troops after Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

■ **Nov 1:** Bitter in-fighting over issue of single European currency prompts Foreign Secretary **Geoffrey Howe** to resign. Move precipitates leadership challenge

■ **Nov 22:** Thatcher resigns as Prime Minister after failing to win outright victory in first ballot

**AXE
POLL
TAX**



■ **1981:** Amid world recession, Thatcher and Chancellor **Geoffrey Howe** (left) raise taxes

and slash government spending, enabling cut in interest rates. Economic recovery begins in months and long expansion follows – but jobless total soars

■ **1982:** Thatcher leads Britain to military victory in response to Argentina's invasion of Falkland Islands

■ **1983:** Thatcher re-elected in landslide

■ **1983-87:** Sell-off of state assets accelerated, policy of privatisation is widely copied. **Big Bang** – unfettered competition of deregulated financial markets – creates new wealth class. But trade union reforms are bitterly divisive – year-long **miners' strike** is among most violent in British history



■ **1984:** Always a close ally of U.S. President **Ronald Reagan**, Thatcher is also first Western leader to support reformist Soviet leader **Mikhail Gorbachev** ahead of fall of communism



■ **1992:** Made life peer in House of Lords. Continues to intervene in politics, notably over **Bosnia** and **Maastricht Treaty**, and makes frequent overseas lecture tours

■ **2003:** Husband Denis dies

■ **2007:** Thatcher is first Prime Minister honoured, while still living, with statue in Houses of Parliament

■ **April 8, 2013:** Baroness Thatcher dies following a stroke

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