

A close-up portrait of Margaret Thatcher, showing her from the chest up. She has short, wavy, light brown hair and is wearing a pearl earring and a pink ruffled collar. Her hand is resting under her chin, and she has a thoughtful expression.

Today in History

May 4, 1979

▲ **Margaret Thatcher became the UK's first woman prime minister. Nicknamed the "Iron Lady" for her uncompromising leadership style, she held power for 11 years**

1654: Kangxi, who ruled as emperor of China for 61 years, was born. Under his reign the Qing Dynasty reached the zenith of its social, economic and military power

1839: Samuel Cunard of Nova Scotia founded the Cunard shipping line

2000: Sri Lanka was placed on a war footing as Tamil rebels advanced

2004: Taiwan's parliament passed a law requiring official documents to be written from left to right