The Downing Street Years

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the first volume of memoirs by margaret thatcher frankly recalls the former british prime minister s dealings with u s presidents the falkland war and her election victories in 1983 and 1987 150 000 first printing 150 000 ad promo tour

this first volume of margaret thatcher s memoirs encompasses the whole of her time as

prime minister the formation of her goals in the early 1980s the falklands the general election victories of 1983 and 1987 and eventually the circumstances of her fall from political power she also gives frank accounts of her dealings with foreign statesmen and her own ministers

he illuminates often for the first time precise prime ministerial attitudes toward and authority over nuclear weapons policy the planning and waging of war and the secret services as well as dealing with governmental overload the suez crisis and the soviet threat he concludes with a controversial assessment of the relative performance of each prime minister since 1945 and a new specification for the premiership as it meets its fourth century book jacket

it is impossible to understand the last 75 years of british and american history without understanding the anglo american relationship and specifically the bonds between presidents and prime ministers fdr of course had churchill jfk famously had macmillan his consigliere during the cuban missile crisis reagan found his ideological soul mate in thatcher and george w bush found his fellow believer in religion and in war in tony blair in a series of shrewd and absorbing character studies ian buruma takes the reader on a journey through the special relationship via the fateful bonds between president and prime minister it s never been a relationship of equals from churchill s desperate cajoling and conniving to keep fdr on side british prime ministers have put much more stock in the relationship than their us counterparts did for britain resigned to the loss of its once great empire its close kinship to the world's greatest superpower would give it continued relevance and serve as leverage to keep continental europe in its place as buruma shows this was almost always fool s gold and now as the links between the brexit vote and the 2016 us election are coming into sharper focus it is impossible to understand the populist uprising in either country without reference to trump and boris johnson though ironically they are also the key buruma argues to understanding the special relationship s demise

a new edition on the 20th anniversary of the miners strike

the last decade of the cold war witnessed the transformation of world politics with the collapse of one party communist rule in eastern europe and the soviet union this book explains how it happened and why

this book analyses the changing role of the british foreign secretary and presents biographical case studies of all the individual holders of that post the policies they persued and the issues they faced since 1974 the work of the british foreign secretaries from james callaghan to robin cook is examined in the context of the foreign policy making machinery the changing environment of british foreign policy and the internal and external political forces with which they had to contend using a biographical case study approach the chapters examine the careers personalities policies and influence of successive foreign secretaries to increase our knowledge and understanding of the work of the government and the development of british foreign policy over the last thirty years british foreign secretaries since 1974 casts light on the hitherto shadowy and understudied role of personality in international relations and on how ten very different personalities helped to shape the detail and the articulation of british foreign policy

today representative democracy is the dominant political system in the world britain played a prominent part in the democratization of the world through both its constitutional reforms at home and its power and influence abroad in that process prime ministers played a prominent role through their power and influence in government parliament and the country more generally quinault examines the stance of ten leading prime ministers from the mid nineteenth century until the twenty first century on the theory and practice of democracy the attitude of each prime minister is assessed by considering their general views on democracy and their use of that term and concept in their discourse and thereby their role in advancing or resisting democratic political change particular attention is paid to their role in electoral reform together with their stance on the composition and powers of the house of lords and the role of the monarchy in the governing process their attitudes to the democratic aspects of some major international issues are also considered

in a remarkably candid new book former high ranking diplomat robin renwick provides a fascinating insight into margaret thatcher s performances on the world stage he examines her successes including the defeat of aggression in the falklands her contribution to the ending of the cold war and her role in the anglo irish agreement her special relationship with mikhail gorbachev and what the americans felt to be the excessive influence she exerted over ronald reagan and attitudes towards f w de klerk and nelson mandela and what she herself acknowledged as her spectacular failure in resisting german reunification he describes at first hand her often turbulent relationships with other european leaders

and her arguments with cabinet colleagues about european monetary union in which regard he contends her arguments have stood the test of time and are highly relevant to the crisis in the eurozone today finally he tells of her bravura performance in the run up to the gulf war her calls for intervention in bosnia and the difficulties she created for her successor while her faults were on the same scale as her virtues margaret thatcher succeeded in her mission to restore britain s standing and influence in the process becoming a cult figure in many other parts of the world including material from the recently released war cabinet files on the falklands conflict this book is an important exploration of an outstanding world leader

taking an in depth look at the causes of homelessness in the united states joel blau disproves the convenient myths that most homeless are crazy drug addicts or lazy misfits who brought their suffering upon themselves he shows that the current crisis was an inevitable result of economic and political changes in recent decades systematically reviewing the explanations offered by researchers politicians and pundits from the deinstitutionalization of mental patients in the 1960s to the gentrification of urban neighborhoods in the 1970s to the evisceration of federal spending on social welfare in the 1980s blau argues that current government policies at every level are mired in pointless headcounting and quick fix solutions that only push the homeless out of sight without touching the underlying causes he advocates social reforms ranging form a national standard for welfare benefits a higher minimum wage and establishment of a social sector for non profit affordable housing a powerful contribution to public debate on homelessness the visible poor must be read by concerned citizens as well as by policy makers and advocates

based on a detailed analysis of archives and high level interviews this book looks at the role of beliefs culture and identity in the making of british nuclear policy from 1945 through to the present day this book also examines britain s nuclear experience by moving away from tradtional interpretations of why states develop and maintain nuclear weapons by adopting a more contemporary approach to political theory traditional mainstream explanations tend to stress the importance of factors such as the maximization of power the persuit of national security interests and the role of structure in a largely anarchic international system this book does not dismiss these approaches but argues that british experience suggests that focusing on beliefs culture and identity provides a more useful

insight and distinctive intepretation into the process of british nuclear decision making than the more traditional approaches

the new old world looks at the history of the european union the core continental countries within it and the issue of its further expansion into asia it opens with a consideration of the origins and outcomes of european integration since the second world war and how today s eu has been theorized across a range of contemporary disciplines it then moves to more detailed accounts of political and cultural developments in the three principal states of the original common market france germany and italy a third section explores the interrelated histories of cyprus and turkey that pose a leading geopolitical challenge to the community the book ends by tracing ideas of european unity from the enlightenment to the present and their bearing on the future of the union the new old world offers a critical portrait of a continent now increasingly hailed as a moral and political example to the world at large

how does one of the world s greatest powers preserve its status and influence when international conditions are unfavourable and its resources do not match its commitments this was britain s burden in the 1970s and 1980s when the international order was transformed much became unsettled and britain had to adapt policy to suit new needs and opportunities michael j turner elucidates the efforts that were made to maximise britain s role on those matters and in those parts of the world that were of special importance to british strategy prosperity and security he examines key decisions and their consequences and places british policy making in an international context suggesting that british leaders were more successful in preserving power and prestige on the world stage than has sometimes been appreciated

the uneasy alliance that lay at the heart of the relationship of two of the most powerful and controversial leaders of the late 20th century margaret thatcher and ronald reagan for three decades historians have cited the long term alliance of reagan and thatcher as an example of the special bond between the us and britain but as richard aldous argues these political titans clashed repeatedly as they confronted the greatest threat of their time the user brilliantly reconstructing some of their most dramatic encounters aldous draws on recently declassified documents and extensive oral history to dismantle the popular conception of the reagan thatcher diplomacy

it was winston churchill who in his speech at fulton missouri advocated a special relationship between the british commonwealth and the united states the continuance of intimate relationships between our military advisers leading to the common study of potential dangers through the eyes of churchill roosevelt and their successors robin renwick traces the development of the anglo american relationship since the desperate summer of 1940 and the part it played in shaping the post war world detecting once again a whiff of the 1930s in the air he concludes that as one of the ties that binds europe and north america the relationship remains an important one and not only to britain and the united states there are many on both sides of the atlantic who will think that the world would have been poorer without it its future will depend on learning the lessons of military overstretch in iraq and afghanistan and resolving the mismatch between britain s desire to play a role in world affairs and the resources allocated to doing so

winner of the 2022 choice outstanding academic titles the first woman elected to lead a major western power and the longest serving british prime minister for 150 years margaret thatcher is arguably one the most dominant and divisive forces in 20th century british politics yet there has been no overarching exploration of the development of thatcher s views towards northern ireland from her appointment as conservative party leader in 1975 until her forced retirement in 1990 in this original and much needed study stephen kelly rectifies this from thatcher s no surrender attitude to the republican hunger strikes to her nurturing role in the early stages of the northern ireland peace process kelly traces the evolutionary and sometimes contradictory nature of thatcher s approach to northern ireland in doing so this book reflects afresh on the political relationship between britain and ireland in the late 20th century an engaging and nuanced analysis of previously neglected archival and reported sources margaret thatcher the conservative party and the northern ireland conflict 1975 1990 is a vital resource for those interested in thatcherism anglo irish relations and 20th century british political history more broadly

having recently passed the 40th anniversary of margaret thatcher s entry into number 10 downing street the burgeoning field of thatcher studies continues to attract the attention of scholars and students alike the dense array of literature has thus far comprehensively covered thatcher s politics personal life and famous speeches but the approaches she took to her speech writing have hitherto been overlooked by consulting a variety of primary sources such as the churchill archives which house thatcher s papers tom hurst deftly

presents a comprehensive account of margaret thatcher s speechmaking by encompassing the creation delivery and dissemination of the speeches before concluding with a focus on the reception of these speeches in an unprecedented digital age hurst fills an existing gap by focusing on the oft overlooked staff who helped thatcher draft her speeches and in so doing shaped thatcherism from behind the scenes hurst promotes an entirely original work that unveils the iron lady s reliance on her speechmakers which has previously been unexplored

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