



## Pro-Thatcher Sources

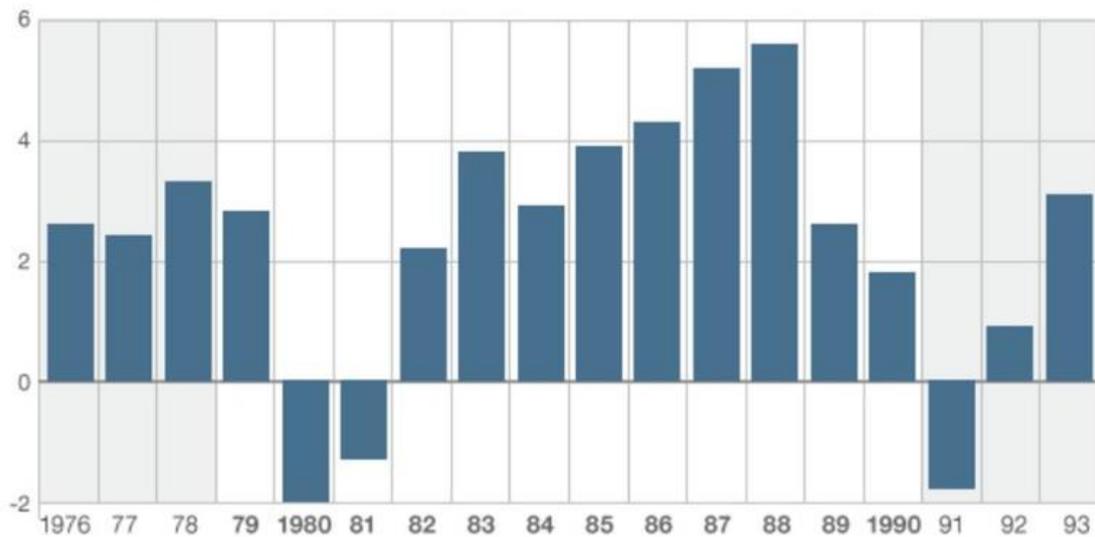
### Arguments

1. She transformed the UK's economy to make it prosperous, dynamic, and fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century
2. This included breaking the powerful trade unions who were bringing the UK's economy to a standstill
3. Her foreign policies were strong, including winning the Falklands War and winning the Cold War
4. She secured concessions from the European Union, which has proved difficult for many other British Prime Ministers
5. Her foresight modernised the United Kingdom

## Source 1

### GDP

Growth, year on year, %



Source: ONS

Inflation was running at more than 25% at times in the 1970s, so a key tenet of the incoming Conservative government was to bring it down.

However tough budgetary measures meant that growth suffered in Mrs Thatcher's first term, with a deep recession in the early 1980s followed later in the decade by a boom.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-22070491>

## Source 2



**The INDEPENDENT**

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## Why privatisation has been a success story

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**JEREMY WARNER** | SATURDAY 04 JANUARY 1997

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... British Telecom, now seen as a triumph of privatisation.

Think back to 1987. Here was this vast, unwieldy public utility, making profits of pounds 100 a second or whatever it was, and yet half its telephone boxes didn't work, quality of service was lousy, it was generally perceived to be expensive, there was no realistic alternative and you still had to join a waiting list to get a new telephone line.

BT was once memorably described, probably accurately, as the most hated institution in the land... BT was forced to reform itself, and fast.

None of these strictures are recognisable in today's British Telecom. Even the Labour Party has embraced it as a model for the rest of corporate Britain. Today we have better quality of service, more choice and lower prices in Britain than almost anywhere else in the world apart from the United States. BT is also at the forefront of international developments in telecoms. Liberalisation and privatisation are the two key causes of this extraordinary turnaround.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20130919054829/https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/why-privatisation-has-been-a-success-story-1281602.html>

## HOW THATCHER BROKE THE MINERS' STRIKE BUT AT WHAT COST?



Margaret Thatcher | Wikimedia | [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike](#)

The miners had gone on strike twice in the previous decade. In 1972 and 1974, strikes shut down every coal mine in Britain, and a combination of solidarity strikes by the steel and railway unions and targeted picketing of coking works, ports and industrial sites brought the country to a standstill. This led to power cuts, the introduction of a three-day working week and the downfall of the Conservative government of Edward Heath. The miners were on top of the world in the 1970s, able to hold the country to ransom to stop pit closures and raise wages. But galloping over the horizon would be the woman who would prove to be their nemesis – [Margaret Thatcher](#).

Thatcher had taken note of the way the miners had brought down her predecessor and was determined the same thing would not happen to her premiership. After coming to power in 1979, she had her ministers and civil servants draw up secret plans that would keep coal moving around the country were the miners to attempt another strike.

By the early 1980s, domestic coal production was becoming ever more unprofitable. The industry relied heavily on government subsidies. Thatcher appointed the ruthless Ian McGregor to the head of the National Coal Board in 1983.

In the 1970s, the police had treated the miners with kid gloves. This time around the gloves would be off. Police from outside affected counties were bussed in to prevent picketing and strike action, and to ensure no disruption to supply lines. This led to violent clashes between the police and pickets, most notoriously at the Battle of Orgreave, where 5,000 miners faced a similar force of police officers. The police launched mounted truncheon charges against the miners, leading to 51 pickets and 72 police being injured.

The strike was officially called to a halt on March the 3rd 1985. The pit closures the miners had fought so hard to prevent began in earnest. In 1984 there were 174 deep coal mines in the UK by 1994 – the year the industry was finally privatized – there were just 15 left.

So, was it a good thing that the miners lost? From a purely economic point of view, it can be argued that it was. Deep mining for coal was already on its death bed by 1984 as cheaper exports from abroad combined with a reluctance on the part of government to continue with subsidies, a changing energy culture and a rising environmental movement all conspired against the industry. Coal was a profit-losing business in a country increasingly turning towards a services-led economy. Logically, coal mining had to go.

<https://www.history.co.uk/article/how-thatcher-broke-the-miners-strike-but-at-what-cost>

Source 4



End of a protest: police girl helps to arrest a demonstrator *Picture: NEVILLE MARRINER*

'Pit strike demonstrators battled with police in Whitehall yesterday. In scenes reminiscent of picket line violence, a surging mob hurled stones, chunks of wood and plastic beer bottles at officers. Close to the Houses of Parliament, mounted police rode in to disperse the crowd...

The first fighting started outside Whitehall's Theatre of War with the black and red flag of the International Anarchists Movement at the thick of it. As Mr Arthur Scargill, miners' union president, Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn and others spoke to the massed crowd in Trafalgar Square, skirmishes started again.

<https://history-is-made-at-night.blogspot.com/2022/08/riot-in-whitehall-london-miners-demo.html>

## Source 5



“Say . . . You’re beautiful when you’re angry.”

cartoons from Punch magazine by Ken Mahood

“Say...You're beautiful when you're angry," (a 1980s cartoon from Punch shows President Ronald Reagan on battle training as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher shoots a machine gun at a target of a Soviet leader Yuri Andropov and nuclear rockets fly overhead)

If you cannot find the print size, finish or would like to license this image, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

Filename

Cold-War-Reagan-Thatcher-Nuclear-War-Punch-Magazine-1982.06.09.926.1.tif

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<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/thatcher-end-of-cold-war/>

## Source 6

It was also on Friday 2 April that I received advice from the Foreign Office which summed up the flexibility of principle characteristic of that department. I was presented with the dangers of a backlash against the British expatriates in Argentina, problems about getting support in the UN Security Council, the lack of reliance we could place on the European Community or the United States, the risk of the Soviets becoming involved, the disadvantage of being looked at as a colonial power. All these considerations were fair enough. But when you are at war you cannot allow the difficulties to dominate your thinking: you have to set out with an iron will to overcome them. And anyway what was the alternative? That a common or garden dictator should rule over the Queen's subjects and prevail by fraud and violence? Not while I was Prime Minister.

Extract from Margaret Thatcher's memoirs, *The Downing Street Years*

<https://www.history.com/news/margaret-thatcher-falklands-war>

## Source 7



<http://sectioneuroterminale.blogspot.com/2014/05/the-european-project-in-1980s.html>

## Source 8



“One of the difficulties here has been to get clear the nature of the problem. We are not asking for a penny piece of [European] Community money for Britain, what we are asking is for a very large amount of our own money back”

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/politics/2017/03/22/the-day-maggie-demanded-our-money-back/>

## Source 9

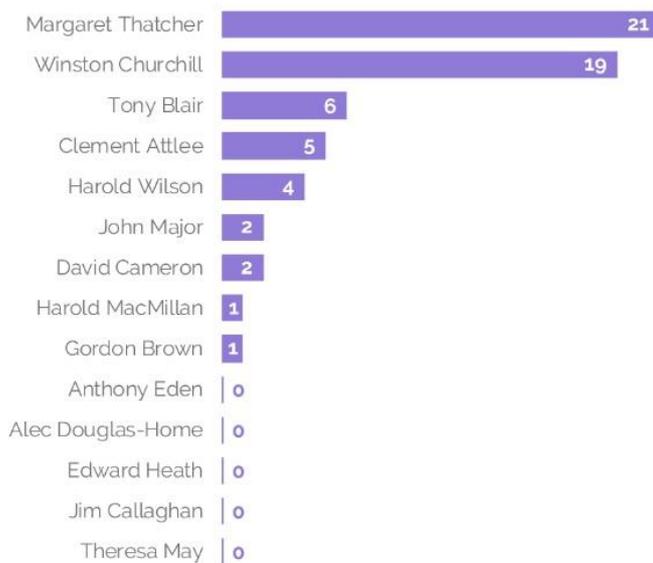


<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/1999/apr/20/labour.labour1997to99>

## Source 10

### Margaret Thatcher is seen as Britain's greatest post-war PM

Who do you think has been the greatest British Prime Minister since 1945?  
% (don't knows are not shown)



<https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2019/05/03/margaret-thatcher-public-view-40-years>

Source 11

*"What we are now doing to the world ... is new in the experience of the Earth. It is mankind and his activities that are changing the environment of our planet in damaging and dangerous ways. The result is that change in future is likely to be more fundamental and more widespread than anything we have known hitherto. Change to the sea around us, change to the atmosphere above, leading in turn to change in the world's climate, which could alter the way we live in the most fundamental way of all.*

*"The environmental challenge that confronts the whole world demands an equivalent response from the whole world. Every country will be affected and no one can opt out. Those countries who are industrialised must contribute more to help those who are not."*

Extract from Thatcher's speech to the UN general assembly in November 1989

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/blog/2013/apr/09/margaret-thatcher-green-hero>

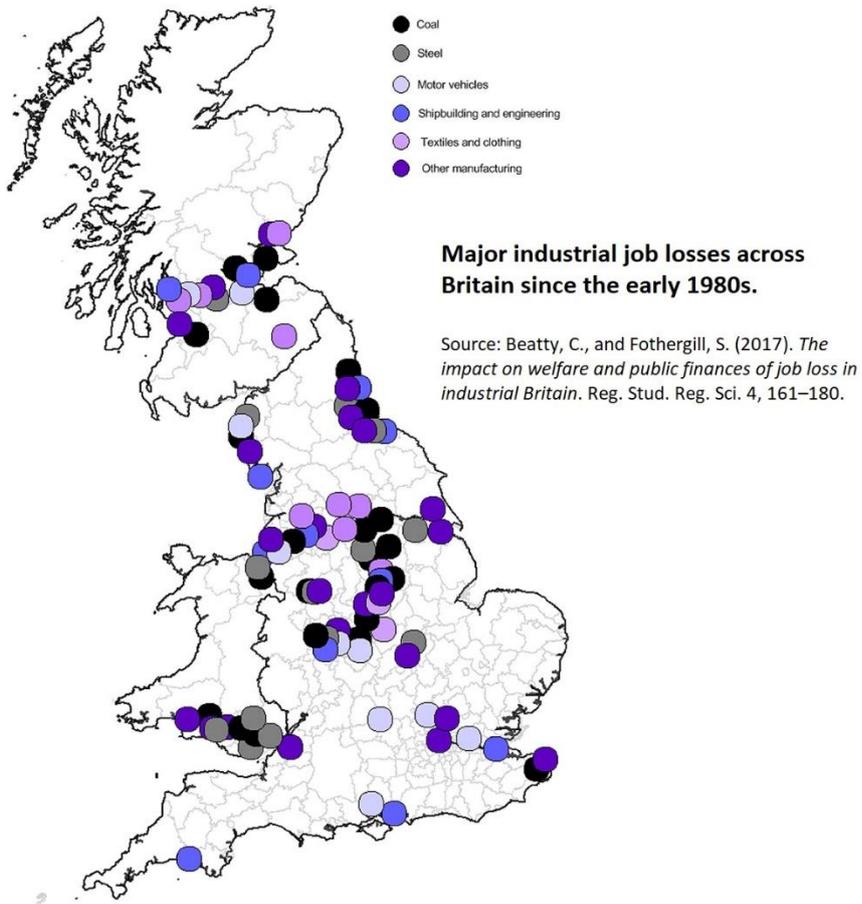


## Anti-Thatcher Sources

### Arguments

1. Her economic reforms devastated large sections of the UK, which still have not recovered from the removal of their main industries and destruction of the trade unions
2. Her push to sell assets owned by the government meant the government lost control over important infrastructure
3. She was racist, homophobic, and supported fascists
4. Her uncompromising policies on Northern Ireland made the situation there even worse, leaving her two successors to sort out her mess and bring peace to Northern Ireland
5. She left the UK an extremely divided country

## Source 1



<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsoc.2020.00054/full>

## Source 2

**The Observer**  
Inequality

**Toby Helm** *Political Editor*

Sun 10 Jun 2018 00.04 BST

● This article is more than 4 years old

## Rising inequality linked to drop in union membership

**Times of strong unions see a smaller share of income going to the elite, study finds**



Frances O'Grady, general secretary of the TUC. Photograph: Linda Nyland/The Guardian

The sharp **fall in trade union membership** since Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979 has directly contributed to the high levels of income inequality that the current prime minister, Theresa May, has denounced and promised to tackle, according to a new study.

The analysis, which looked at the effect unions have had in combating inequality and improving pay and working conditions in the UK and other countries, found that, where membership had fallen and union influence had decreased in workplaces, income inequalities had risen.

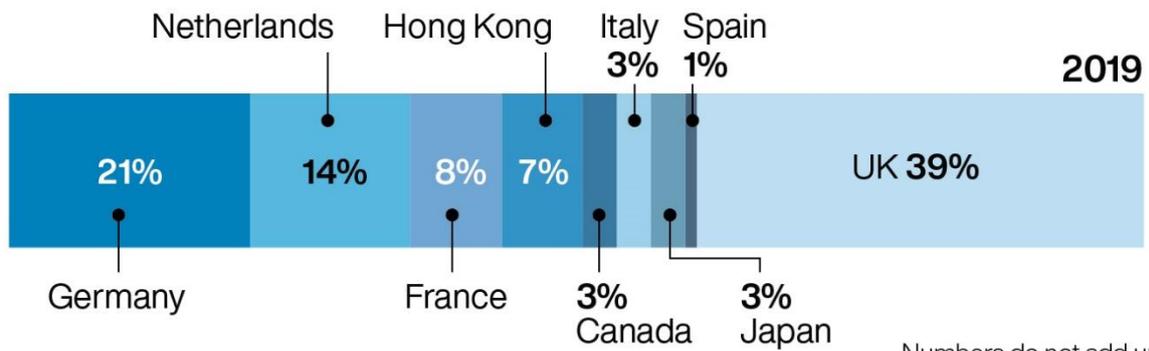
At the same time, wealth had become concentrated more and more in the hands of the **richest 1% in society**. Conversely, during periods when union membership had grown and in countries where unions were strong, pay inequality had declined.

<https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2018/jun/10/rising-inequality-falling-union-membership>

Source 3

## Ownership of Britain's rail services

(based on number of passenger journeys)

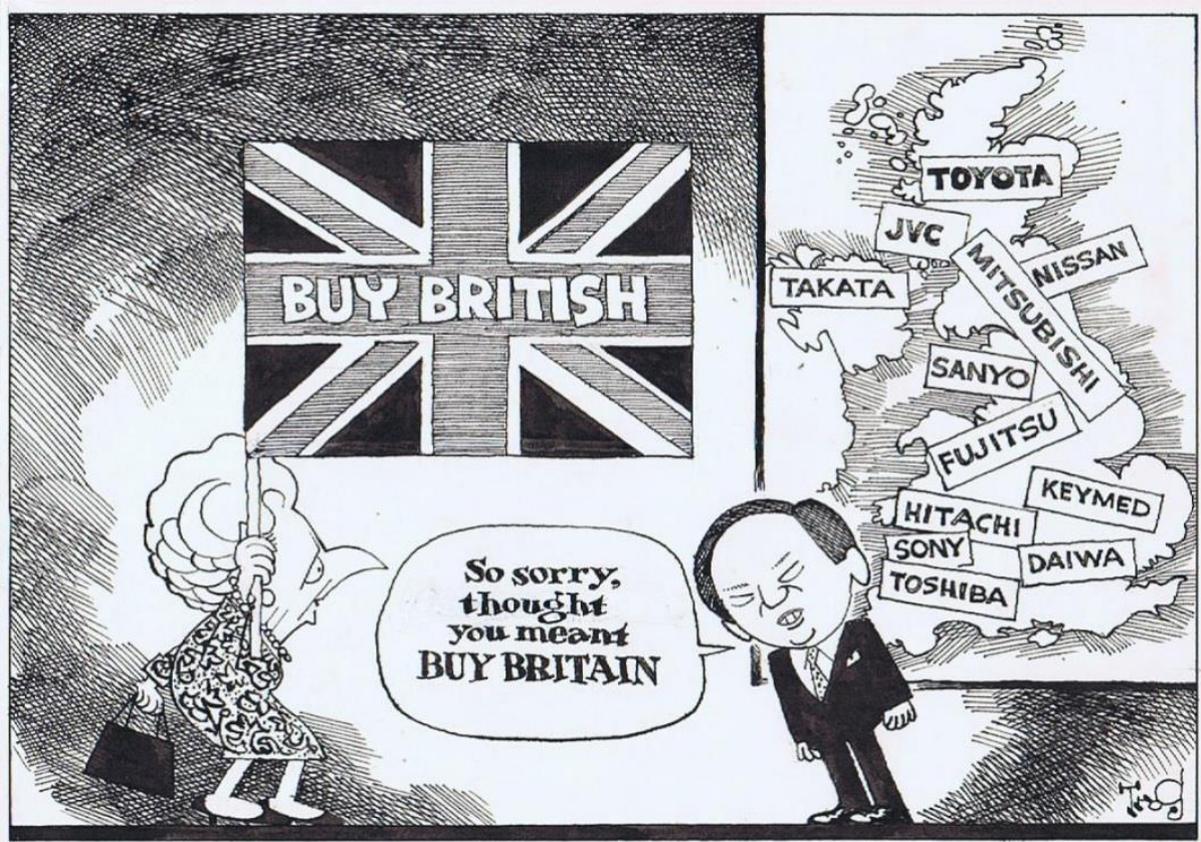


PA graphic. Source: ORR. Figures are for Apr-Jun 2011 and Jul-Sep 2019

Numbers do not add up to 100% due to rounding

<https://www.dumbartonreporter.co.uk/news/national-news/18131800.proportion-train-services-foreign-ownership-doubled-last-decade/>

Source 4



<https://www.nytimes.com/1986/03/25/world/land-rover-is-still-wrapped-in-the-union-jack.html>

## Source 5

03/10/2022, 16:20

Brixton riots 1981: What happened 40 years ago in London? - BBC Newsround

### Brixton riots 1981: What happened 40 years ago in London?

© 12 Apr 2021  
Last updated at 14:09

This April marks the 40th anniversary of an important event in black British history - the Brixton riots.

It took place in 1981 at a time when racial tensions meant that many of Britain's inner cities were divided.

This led to big fights called riots taking place, first in London but then quickly spreading to many cities across the UK.

#### What were the Brixton riots?



#### Why did people riot?



Many people in the black community felt the country was divided.

There was high unemployment, racial tensions and, in many places, the country's black population had poor relationships with the police.

Many young black people believed that police officers treated them badly, unfairly and used the 'stop and search' law as one of the ways to do it.

Under this law, the police could stop anyone to search them if they thought they might be planning to commit a crime.

Many black people involved in the riots felt that they were being targeted for these searches just because of the colour of our skin.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/50035769>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/50035769>

## Source 6



Cartoon by KAL (Kevin Kallauger), dated 1986

<https://www.margaretthatcher.org/document/111649>

## Source 7



<https://www.nytimes.com/1981/05/06/world/mrs-thatcher-says-death-of-sands-won-t-alter-london-s-ulster-policy.html>

## Source 8

04/10/2022, 15:57

Section 28: What was it and how did it affect LGBT+ people? - BBC Three

### Section 28: What was it and how did it affect LGBT+ people?

The law existed from 1988 - 2003 and affected LGBT+ people. Here's what you need to know about it

Harvey Day  
1 November 2019

Share this: 

**\*Warning: This article contains a reference to a homophobic slur that you may find offensive\***

Craig was bullied a lot in secondary school because he was gay. "There was only one member of staff who ever spoke to me about it, my drama teacher," he says. "And I wasn't aware at the time that she could have gotten into trouble just for doing that."

Craig, who grew up near Aberdeen, is one of the many LGBT+ people who came of age during the era of **Section 28**, a law passed in 1988 by a Conservative government that stopped councils and schools "promoting the teaching of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship."

You may have heard the term Section 28 this week when it was discussed on RuPaul's Drag Race UK.

"School was hard," contestant Divina De Campo explained, before breaking into tears in yesterday's episode of the reality show. "I got a lot of flak from pretty much everybody in the school. Growing up for everybody was hard but then you add on being gay and it was just a whole other level, particularly for the time that I grew up in."

"Kids in the playground pushing and shoving and calling you a 'fag'. Throwing their drinks on you. Because of Section 28 it meant that a lot of teachers felt like they couldn't step in."



Celebrities including Drag Race UK judge Graham Norton (second right, in the baseball cap) protesting against Section 28 at London Pride in 1998

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/cacc0b40-c3a4-473b-86cc-11863c0b3f30>

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/cacc0b40-c3a4-473b-86cc-11863c0b3f30>

Source 9



## Margaret Thatcher was the 'quintessential hate figure', says Mary Lou McDonald

• Published 28 December 2018



Mary Lou McDonald said that while she would always hate Margaret Thatcher's politics, comments made on social media after her death were "most unfair".

### **Margaret Thatcher was the "quintessential hate figure", Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald has said.**

Mrs McDonald said growing up against the backdrop of the hunger strikes made her realise "there was a problem in Ireland".

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In 1981, 10 republican inmates, including Bobby Sands, died during an IRA hunger strike over a dispute about political prisoner status in the Maze Prison.

\*\*\*

Of the then prime minister, Mrs McDonald said she was the "quintessential hate figure at that time".

"I would say almost universally by people who would describe themselves as nationalist or republican, not simply Sinn Féiners," she added.

"The malice with which she approached a situation that was hugely politically fraught, but was also hugely human, and to see the men die, one after the other." Mrs Thatcher refused to grant the prisoners any privileges.

"Crime is crime is crime," she said at the time. "It is not political."

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-46611049>

Source 10

# Socialist Worker

## Thatcher's coffin goes up in flames in Goldthorpe



The funeral of Tory Margaret Thatcher today, Wednesday, was marked by pride and dignity – the pride and dignity of ex-miners who celebrated her death.

# PARALLEL HISTORIES

There was a carnival atmosphere in Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire. Over 2,000 ex-miners, their families and supporters marched with an effigy of the hated Tory leader in an open coffin – then burned it.

Cheers and chants of “Maggie, Maggie Maggie – burn, burn, burn” rang out as the pyre was lit on waste ground in a street of boarded up houses. Ex-miners threw pint glasses at it as the coffin caught fire.

Thatcher destroyed the lives of ordinary people in Goldthorpe. Robbie Conway told Socialist Worker, “This has been in the pipeline since the strike – we’ve saved bottles of champagne or rum for this.

“Everyone cheered when Saddam Hussein’s statue was pulled down. Why not celebrate Thatcher’s death?”

Many people talked about the ferocity of the police against striking miners during the 1984-85 strike. “Police ran riot down these streets,” said one.

“They’re saying we should respect Margaret Thatcher and her kids but what about our kids? The police scared them to death. They were bastards, they jeered at our clothes and trainers.”



The march through Goldthorpe (Pic: Socialist Worker)

Many talked about the battle at Orgreave coking plant, when police charged into picketing miners.

# PARALLEL HISTORIES

Ann Guy said, “My auntie lived at Catcliffe down from Orgreave. She hid miners in her cellar because they’d run from the police.

“It’s a wasteland now. There are only shit jobs that nobody wants. I’m a carer and I get £80 a week. The Tories spend more on a bottle of wine.”

Others were there for those who didn’t live to see Thatcher’s death. One protester explained, “My dad died at 39. There was no work after the strike and he couldn’t bear it.”

Mary, a care worker who has just been made redundant after 24 years, said Thatcher was “wrong about everything”.

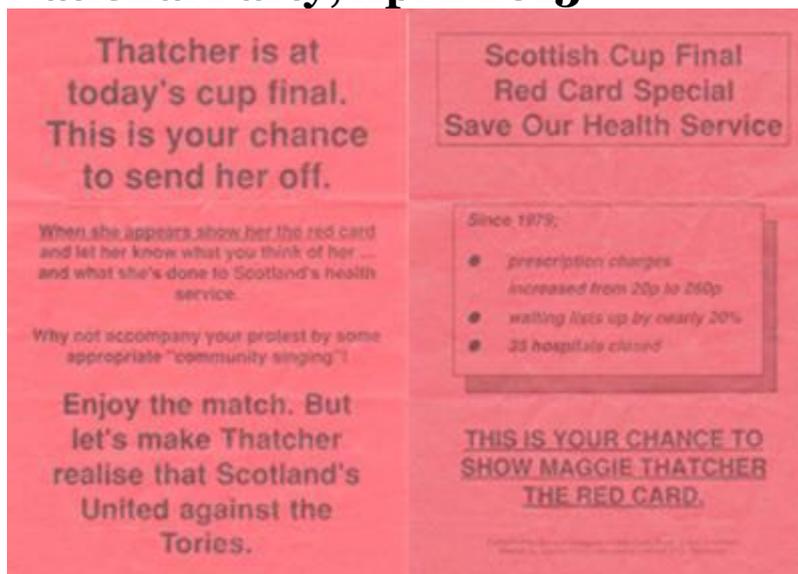
“We saw our families go to soup kitchens,” she said. “Now a funeral that costs millions is thrown in our face.”

Celebrations continued at the Rusty Dudley pub with fireworks. The wife of a seriously disabled miner summed up the mood. “He had to work on his hands and knees,” she said. “But we won’t bow to Thatcherism.”

<https://socialistworker.co.uk/news/thatcher-s-coffin-goes-up-in-flames-in-goldthorpe/>

## Source 11

### Interview with Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, April 2013



*Red cards held up by Dundee United and Celtic football fans in 1988*

# PARALLEL HISTORIES

As an unintended consequence of some of her policies, she accelerated a move toward a Scottish Parliament. She managed to alienate a full spectrum of Scottish society.

A very interesting thing happened one weekend back in '88, when Prime Minister Thatcher went to the Scottish Cup final between Dundee United and Celtic — or Celtic and Dundee United depending on your point of view — but the point about it is that both sides' fans held up red cards as Prime Minister Thatcher presented the cup. Football fans are not always known for joining together, so it was a very effective demonstration.

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The point is, that was a huge sway for Scottish society. I opposed Margaret Thatcher's economic policies, I thought they were mistaken. But I've always held the belief that the reason Margaret Thatcher had the political effect she did in Scotland was about the social direction of her policies. [It was] exemplified in the poll tax but also in a range of other statements such as, "There's no such thing as society. There are only individuals," which ran counter to a collective consciousness of Scotland. What is that collective consciousness if it's not a national consciousness?...

It was indeed an unintentional effect. I think it genuinely puzzled her. I suspect what she was running across was a different national consciousness. The poll tax wasn't just unpopular in Scotland, but it didn't have the same political effect because in Scotland it represented a wider social agenda that people found impossible to accept.

Therefore, I quite freely say that she did accelerate the move toward a Scottish parliament because people no longer saw the parliament as a nice idea. They saw it as something essential to protect the social fabric of the country.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2013/04/09/scotlands-independence-leader-on-how-margaret-thatcher-helped-scottish-nationalism/>