

Yaku rol' vidigrayut' zakhidni organizatsii u vreguluvanni konflikty na Donbasi [Remote employment]. Retrieved from: <http://ukr.segodnya.ua/politics/pnews/kakuyu-roligrayutzapadnye-organizacii-v-uregulirovanii-konfliktana-donba-sse-589728.html>

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## **THE INFLUENCE OF MARGARET THATCHER'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ON UK FOREIGN POLICY**

**Introduction.** British Foreign and domestic policy during Margaret Thatcher's rule is of interest to historians, public figures, and political scientists. "Iron Lady" is a political figure of great authority, popularity, and historical significance. She was a firm and unscrupulous politician who achieved her goals. Her political experience of governing Great Britain for ten years is of great historical significance.

**Review of the literature.** Many European, American, and British historians have devoted their attention to the historic figure of Margaret Thatcher including L. Zamyatin "Humpbacks and Maggie" [1], V. Deniskina "Political Portrait of M. Thatcher" [2], V. Popov [3], O. Lebedeva "Essays on British Foreign Policy" [4], S. Peregrudov "Thatcher and Thatcherism" [5], S. Peregudov, A. Terentyev "Iron Lady" [7] and oth.

"Margaret Thatcher: Man and Politician" by V. Popov [6] is a prominent source of information. The writer was a Soviet ambassador to Great Britain during M. Thatcher years. He describes "the Iron Lady" as a figure of a remarkable intelligence and abilities. Biographers K. Ogden [8], R. Lewis [9], D. Kavanagh [10], J. Thierry [11] also published their papers on the topic under consideration. In the book "British Conservative"[12] O'Garman describes the development and formation of conservative ideology.

**The objective of the paper is** to explore the foreign and domestic policy of Great Britain during the presidency of Margaret Thatcher, as well as to characterize the domestic and foreign policy, and determine the contributions to British policy.

**Results of the research.** Margaret Thatcher was a great British and international politician. Her political program was pragmatic and conservative. Experts credit Margaret Thatcher for putting the Soviet Union to its knees and ending communism. M.Thatcher's political and ideological interests have drawn considerable attention of the researchers. Thatcherism is implemented in more than 50 countries.

Research on Thatcherism is vast but lacks consensus. There has been a hot debate on the term "Thatcherism" because researchers tend to focus on different

aspects [5: 27]. Thatcherism is considered to be the ideology project with pragmatic aspects with its pros and cons. The common agreement is that at the time of Margaret Thatcher, Britain was in crisis and her rigid reforms moved it forward. Conservatives are consistent in reducing labor costs and social protection spending. Thatcher's harsh policies reshaped all the spheres of society with reforms. However, not all segments of society were satisfied with the new reforms and caused satisfaction.

In the 1980s, the domestic Conservative policies affected every sphere of British society and caused serious public discontent leading to the crisis of Thatcherism and the resignation of the Prime Minister [3: 287]. Main Thatcher's foreign policy aimed at restoring British authority and returning it to the status of great power. Some historians note that foreign policy success was achieved due to the strong leadership style of Margaret Thatcher.

Thatcher served as Britain's Chief of Staff for 11 years. She was the first woman in Britain to hold the top post. In her autobiography, Thatcher pointed out that her main merit as prime minister was the transition of British policy from soft socialism to the free market. She restored Britain's important role on the world stage with her unwavering commitment to freedom and human rights [8: 444]. Ms Thatcher came to power in 1979 and governed until 1990. She served as Prime Minister for three terms and became one of the most important figures in the history of Britain and around the world. She has made a significant contribution not only to British politics but also to world politics. She is considered an epoch in history and her political legacy is admired.

M.Thatcher pulled England out of a deep crisis in a very short time. Thatcher's social policy caused a strong negative reaction, but social issues were resolved. Summing up, the general years of Thatcherism were a period of prosperity. She managed to minimize government intervention, reduce social assistance programs, support small and medium businesses, introduce preferential corporate taxation and strict trade union policies. The Conservatives' tax policy, as well as measures to support business and sell shares to the population, helped strengthen the economic stability of the British society. The Conservatives managed to implement the main program-target settings of their party. However, the implementation of conservative measures revealed problems that later led to the crisis of the "Thatcherism" policy.

As for foreign policy, one can state that M.Thatcher always put the national interest of her country above all. Being the prime minister in difficult times for Britain, she was the impetus for a new one. It was she who radically changed the image of the British foreign policy. In her autobiography, M.Thatcher pointed out that her main merit as prime minister was the transition of British policy from soft socialism to the free market. Five years after M.Thatcher left office, she also credited the restoration of Britain's important role on the world stage with its unwavering commitment to freedom and human rights. She also stressed the importance of her decision to send British troops in 1982 in order to defend the Falkland Islands from the Argentine army.

**Conclusion.** In Britain the figure of M.Thatcher was, is and probably will remain controversial. Many scholars believe that her reforms undermined British

industry, sacrificed social values, destroyed the tripartite system, and set a time bomb in the form of financial liberalization. The country lives through high unemployment and falling GDP. M.Thatcher's political legacy and influence on Britain is perceived from different perspectives. Some admire her personality, steadfast character and iron will. On the other hand, some consider M. Thatcher policy as a failure and believe her influence was detrimental. Both parties acknowledge that due to M.Thatcher's policies Great Britain regained its status of great power and its role in the international arena increased.

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## **THE ISSUES IN THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Introduction.** The Westphalian system is considered to start after the Thirty Years' War in 1648. Many authors declare that it is a global system based on the principles of international law in which each state has sovereignty over its territory, to the exclusion of all external powers, with non-interference in another country's domestic affairs. The researcher, H. Kissinger, wrote: "*The Westphalian peace reflected a practical accommodation to reality, not a unique moral insight. It relied on a system of independent states refraining from interference in each other's domestic affairs and checking each other's ambitions through a general equilibrium of power*" [1: 3].

**Objectives of the paper** are to define the difference between the old Westphalian and current international systems and to offer an analysis of both systems to demonstrate the changes of world order from 1648 to 2000.

**Results.** A series of pacts make up the Peace of Westphalia at the beginning of the modern international system, in which external powers should avoid interfering in another country's domestic policies. The ratification of the Münster Treaty as part of the Peace of Westphalia ended the war. On that matter, Henry Kissinger wrote: "*The Westphalian peace reflected a practical accommodation to reality, not a unique moral insight. It relied on a system of independent states refraining from interference in each other's domestic affairs and checking each other's ambitions through a general equilibrium of power. No single claim to truth or universal rule had prevailed in Europe's contests. Instead, each state was assigned the attribute of sovereign power over its territory. Each would acknowledge the domestic structures and religious vocations of its fellow states and refrain from challenging their existence*" [1: 47]. Some authors argued that the Westphalian treaties had little to do with the principles which they are often associated with: sovereignty, non-intervention, and the legal equality of states. For example, a theologian Andreas