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**The Economic and Political Influence of Margaret Thatcher's
Legacy on Toni Blair's Leadership
(1979-2007)**

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DECLARATION OF INTEGRITY

I, **Guerguet Chahra**, solemnly declare that the dissertation titled **The Economic and Political Influence of Margaret Thatchers Legacy on Tony Blair’s Leadership (1979-2007)** submitted to the Department of the English language and Literature at Biskra University is entirely my own work, free from plagiarism, and has not been submitted to any other educational institution. I have appropriately acknowledged and cited all sources used, and I have conducted myself with academic integrity throughout the process. I understand the severe consequences of academic misconduct and affirm the authenticity of my dissertation.

Signature

Dedication

If I used all the existing words, they would not express my thankfulness to ALLAH for all the gifts and opportunities He gave to me to do this modest work.

I would like to dedicate this work to my beloved parents, to whom I am sincerely grateful for their tremendous efforts, support, and encouragement to reach this stage.

To my dearest brothers, Yacine, Okba, Hamza and to my lovely sister Sara and their children, Imad, Mohammed, Yahia, Achwak, Malak, and Manar.

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Abstract

Over the course of the 20th century, there were substantial changes in British politics, and new political parties were created to implement similar ideas. Thatcherism completely changed British politics and had a disastrous impact on the Labour Party. This study solely looks at the rules. From 1979 until his resignation in 2007, Blair presided over the Conservative and Labour parties as their leader. It aims to illustrate and analyze the manner in which Tony Blair's New Labour embraced Thatcherism. By analyzing the similarities and differences between Blairism and Thatcherism, these evaluations are made. It was used to reveal both ideologies in terms of the comparative methodology. By taking a liberal stance, the Labour Party was able to reconstitute itself, and Blairism was seen as a continuation of Thatcher's capitalism with some social values preserved. Consequently, the word "Blatcherism" was coined.

Key words: Blatcherism, Thatcherism, Blairism, Conservative, and Labour

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General

Introduction

War is not usually associated with revolution; rather, it can relate to a variety of fundamental changes that take place over time. Actually, Margaret Thatcher's election to office in 1979 brought about a number of changes that may be considered revolutionary.

In fact, Britain was considered and frequently referred to as the sick man of Europe in the 1970s. The economy was in a steady decline and the unemployment rate was high. Despite repeated economic setbacks, the Labour Party, which held onto power from 1974 to 1979, mainly relied on the support of trade unions and pursued an extremely interventionist agenda. There was a reduction in economic growth, and the only source of economic support was the North Sea oil resources.

Margaret Thatcher and her Conservative government unveiled an ambitious plan after winning the general election in 1979, but it turned out to be especially daring. It included a major privatization push, a decline in governmental interventionism, and structural adjustments. There have been numerous constructive social disputes. These factors clarify the causes of the Tories' victories in the general elections in 1983, 1987, and 1992. The Labour Party had to drastically alter its policies in order to win back the support of British voters, abandoning the outdated philosophy that had contributed to Britain's problems in the 1970s. Tony Blair and the Labour Party eventually won elections in 1997 and were re-elected in 2001 and 2005 by embracing a neo-liberal orientation in the British economy.

The political views inside the Conservative and Labour parties have significantly shifted, as demonstrated by this dissertation. Between 1990-1997 and 1997-2007, it focuses on a few key areas of government strategy and policy as well as on a few key changes. Additionally, it compares and contrasts the ideology of the two governments throughout the aforementioned eras, which were known respectively as "Thatcherism" and "Blairism." It is generally acknowledged that the emergence of Thatcherism was the primary concern in twentieth-century Britain. Thatcher, her philosophy, and her legacy

are still contentious and polarizing subjects. Was Thatcherism's emergence a true turning point in British politics then? Additionally, the Labour Party's resurgence as "New Labour" occurred throughout the last decade of the twentieth century. What then were the primary factors and conditions that contributed to the Labour Party's comeback? In addition, Tony Blair's modernisation of the Labour Party and his absorption of a large portion of Thatcherism drew a number of criticisms and incomplete assessments. How much of a Thatcherite were Tony Blair and the New Labour Party?

These research questions lead us to the following hypotheses: The Thatcherism era may or may not mark a turning point in British politics. In fact, the Conservative Party's weakness, the Labour Party's modernisation, or even Blair's personality in comparison to John Major, the then-prime minister, may have contributed to the Labour Party's resurgence. Also, how much of a Thatcherite were Tony Blair and his party.

After giving this subject—"Lost in Ideologies: Comparing Thatcherism and Blairism"—a lot of thought, I realized how important it was to understand the major political ideologies that dominated British politics and the most divisive Prime Ministers in British history. Examining the causes, characteristics, and goals of Thatcherism; their effects on British society; and the reasoning behind the Tony Blair-adopted policies that helped the party regain electoral ground and win three terms in office. This dissertation seeks to explain how Thatcherism was successful in bringing about a significant reorganization of power in British politics and the economy, especially how it affected the Labour Party's stances. On the other side, it clarifies how Thatcherism compelled other political parties to reevaluate their stances, notably how it affected the Labour Party's policy.

This dissertation is divided into three chapters to address the questions highlighted before. The first chapter examines the Thatcher period in British politics, including Margaret Thatcher's tenure as prime minister, how the conservatives gained control of the government in the general election of 1979, and Thatcherism as an ideology.

Thus, Chapter two covers Tony Blair's political career from 1994 until 2007. It discusses some of his political ideas and ideals from his New Labour initiative through his three years in power and departure in 2007, as well as the changes he carried out during that time.

Chapter three deals with the legacies of both leaders and their actual impact on the British society. It analyzes the similarities and differences between the two leaders' positions and their respective policies. The emphasis is on how much Thatcherism permeated Blairism.

The methodological process of this work is historical and comparative because of the nature of the topic which is a comparison between two different ideologies that belong to different political spectrums. I organized this work chronologically, beginning with the changes and policies that Thatcher and Blair both implemented from the very beginning. The next section compares and contrasts the two ideologies before analyzing the resultant term, "Blatcherism," which combines Thatcherism and Blairism. The goal is to demonstrate how Thatcherism has been accepted by Blair and New Labour.

Chapter One

Thatcherism: An Overview

Introduction

The first female prime minister of Britain, Margaret Thatcher, had a profound impact on global politics in the 20th century. Known as "The Iron Lady," the woman led the Conservative Party for a very long time, first as the leader of the opposition from 1975 to 1979 and then as prime minister from 1979 to 1990. She did this by winning three consecutive general elections with two landslide majorities. She was renowned for fighting against labour unions and implementing liberal economic policies in Britain.

This chapter discusses Margaret Thatcher's social, economic, and political policies. The effects of Thatcherism on British society both during and after Thatcher's time as prime minister are also taken into consideration.

1.1 Margaret Thatcher's biography

Margaret Hilda Roberts was born on October 13th, 1925, in Grantham, Lincolnshire. She was raised as a devout Wesleyan Methodist and went to the Finkin Street Methodist Church because her father was an Alderman and a Methodist local preacher.

Margaret Roberts, the youngest child of grocery store proprietors Alfred Roberts and Beatrice Stephenson, went to Hunting Tower Primary School and won a scholarship to the Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School. She was a terrific student who was actively participating in class and consistently improving her grade point average, according to the school's statistics. Following that, she was awarded a second scholarship to study chemistry at Somerville College of Oxford University.

Margaret Roberts was chosen to serve as the head of the university's Conservative Association Oxford University. She was greatly influenced by Friedrich Von Hayek's political ideas, which argued that authoritarian governments are to blame for the disruptive actions of

the state. discretion (Reitan 31). In 1947, she graduated with second-class honours from the Chemistry Department.

After graduating, Margaret Roberts moved to Colchester, Essex, where she looked for a job but was turned down because she was regarded to be "headstrong, obstinate, and dangerously self-opinionated" (*italics mine*).

Later, when the executive directors of the Dartford Conservative Association were looking for candidates for the parliament, she joined the local Conservative Association and represented it at the London Party Conference. She was a captivating speaker who unexpectedly won the 1951 election. She met wealthy businessman Denis Thatcher during the ceremony of her official adoption as a conservative candidate, and they later got married. She worked as a research scientist and was a member of the group that developed the ice-cream melting technique. She obtained her barrister certification in 1953 with an emphasis on taxation.

1.2 The political life of Margaret Thatcher

Mrs Thatcher's political views were evident very early. Thatcher was chosen as the Conservative Party's candidate for Finchley in 1958 after suffering repeated defeats. She was elected as an MP in the 1959 elections, making her the youngest woman in the House of Commons.

While serving as an MP, Thatcher vehemently defended her principles and her party's actions in the case of She let renters buy their council homes since she represented housing and land. She opposed the death sentence and argued in favour of legalizing abortion, decriminalizing homosexuality in men, and relaxing divorce laws. She was also in favour of the practice of birching being reinstated as a form of accepted corporal punishment. She challenged the Labour Party's tax policy in 1966 before the convention of her party, saying that it was "not only geared toward socialism but geared toward communism" (Osborne).

Mrs Thatcher was promoted to the position of Parliamentary Undersecretary in the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance before being chosen to serve as the Heath shadow government's spokesperson for fuel and power. After that, she was promoted to Education and then to Shadow Transport Spokesperson.

After the general election of 1970, she was chosen to serve as secretary of state for science and education. In her first few months in the government, Thatcher cut spending. She was known as "Milk Snatcher" because she abolished the free milk program for students in grades seven through ten. She faced numerous protests as well as scathing criticism. She was so upset by the public response that she considered quitting politics. "I learned a valuable lesson," she declared. I had acquired the most political odium for the least amount of political advantage (Reitan 15). Thatcher reportedly chose against shutting off milk because she was concerned about how the public may react, according to UK SECRET, which was published in 2001.

According to UK SECRET published in 2001, Thatcher decided against cutting off milk because she was worried about how the public might respond. She later got the cabinet to adopt her suggestions on high school meal costs and not paying school fees, however, her plea for relief of library fees was turned down (UK secret).

In 1974, Thatcher took over the Ministry of Environment and Housing, where she made an effort to raise money to enable local governments to transition to the relative tax system. After the conservatives lost the 1974 general election and Enoch Powell³, their major rival, resigned, she wanted Keith Joseph⁴ to challenge Heath.

Heath is vying to lead the Conservative Party. Joseph's lecture from October 19, 1974, in which he said that disadvantaged people should stop having so many children since they "create troublesome children... Sherman contends that there is a threat to the balance of our human population. Then he endorsed Thatcher, who had decided to confront Heath and withdrew. Mrs

Thatcher showed she was a determined campaigner on February 11th, 1975, when she gained more surprise votes than Heath and easily won the election for leader of the Conservative Party and leader of the opposition.

Former Conservative Party leader Margaret Thatcher was a harsh critic of the Soviet Union. "The Russians are determined to dominate the world, and they are swiftly gaining the tools necessary to establish the most powerful imperial state ever," said Union in her 19 January 1976 speech on foreign policy. The Soviet Politburo's members are unconcerned with the ups and downs of popular opinion. They value weapons more than butter, whereas we value practically everything before guns. They are conscious of the fact that they are just a superpower in the military sense. They are a failure on a human and financial level (Speech at Kensington).

Captain Yuri Gavrilov responded to her position in an article titled "Iron Lady Raises Fears" (Speech at Kensington) that was published in the Soviet Army publication Red Star. a nickname Thatcher frequently used since it is associated with someone who keeps their word.

Thatcher promoted many positions within the Conservative Party. Ralph Harris⁶ and Arthur Seldon⁷, who believed that the economy would gain from less regulation, lower taxes, and more freedom for individuals and businesses, had a significant impact on her thinking (Blundell 190). Additionally, they thought that the welfare state, which was detrimental to the nation, was the issue. Thatcher believed that individual responsibility and hard labour were the only ways to achieve national prosperity: "We want a society where people are free to make decisions, to make mistakes, to be generous and caring. This is not a Speech to Zurich:

"We live in a society where the state is responsible for everything and no one is responsible for the state." This is what we mean by a moral society.

The situation for Labour deteriorated throughout the winter of 1978–1979, commonly referred to as "The Winter of Discontent." Complete social, political, and economic chaos prevailed throughout the coldest winter since 1962. The trade union movement succeeded in overthrowing James Callaghan's government. Conservatives criticized the Labour Party's economic theories and proclaimed, "The Labour Party is not working" (Great Leaders, 2009). As a result, the Callaghan government was toppled in 1979 after the Tories won 43 seats in the House of Commons.

1.3 Thatcher as the prime minister

Following the historic 1979 election, Margaret Thatcher became the first woman to serve as prime minister of Great Britain. With Airey Neave's words from St. Francis' prayer, "There is no work to be done," Thatcher began her term in office with a clear grasp of the difficulties that lay before her. Additionally, she stated, "I know full well the responsibilities that await me as I enter the door of No. 10, and I'll strive unceasingly to try to fulfil the trust and confidence that the British people have placed in me and the things in which I believe."

The majority of them were employed by the Heath ministry when Thatcher took the oath of office at No. 10 Downing Street, at the request of Queen Elizabeth. One of them was Sir Keith Joseph, whose opinions on economics had a big influence on Thatcher.

At the time Thatcher took government, Britain was in the worst situation imaginable. According to her, her goal was to revive a country that was in decline (Reitan 27). In the first Queen's Speech, delivered on May 15, 1979, she announced that her government was committed to conducting business (Seldon and Collings 31). Thatcher had the guts to make such a big change to the political and monetary systems in Britain during her rule. Thatcherism is the term for the particular ideology and political tactics she used to accomplish her goals.

1.4 Thatcherism as a concept

Butskellism was supplanted by Thatcherism as the dominant philosophical movement. Because she was a politician who had committed a crime, Thatcher repudiated the post-war consensus that both the Conservative and Labour consecutive governments had established. She had branded it morally bankrupt and advised it to adopt what she dubbed "Victorian Values."

Margret Thatcher was neither a political thinker nor an economist. Thatcher's political ideology was more of a course she had established for herself and stuck to than it was a novel economic theory. It embodies her leadership, political, and economic beliefs. Under Thatcherism, the right wing's ideology advanced.

According to Gamble, there is no one concise definition of Thatcherism. The term "Thatcherism" is pertinent to describing what transpired after 1975 since Thatcher used her influence as a leader to further the tenets of the New Right. It was created as a result of the need to protect the economy and reconstruct the State (1-3).

Whether or whether Thatcherism is a coherent ideology is a topic of debate among political scientists. One of those who thinks Thatcherism doesn't make up a coherent worldview is Charles Moore, deputy editor of The Daily Telegraph, who asserted that it isn't even an economic theory. This confluence of beliefs about human potential in political society is powerful (Evans 02).

Nevertheless, it was believed that Thatcherism had significant ties to "pragmatism, flexibility, compromise, and common sense" and had been influenced by monetarism (Evans 2-3). On the other hand, Marxism, which opposes capitalism, saw it as a cutting-edge theory that supported the upper class's control of the capitalist system in terms of both economics and politics.

Other Thatcherism interpretations existed, such as Jim Bullitt's. He claimed that Thatcherism as an ideology had little impact on the political performance of the Thatcher administration.

Tories because they never had a clear ideological purpose and always opted for pragmatism. He believed that "statecraft," which refers to the conservatives' ability to consistently win elections, political dominance, and governing skills, was the best way to comprehend Thatcherism. (Evans 02)

1.5 The Departure of Thatcherism

After Margaret Thatcher led the Tories to prominence as a strong right-wing government, they faced opposition from both the country's leftist opposition and the countries of the Eastern Bloc during the Cold War. Despite this, they began "the rolling back of the state" (Collette and Keith 01) with principles and methods that were in stark contrast to the governing party's philosophies: self-help stakeholder capitalism in place of the welfare state, privatization in place of nationalization, a competitive market economy, undermining of the unions, and less government. Their main objective also included improving the electoral fortunes of the Conservative Party. When it came to social concerns, Thatcher's views on immigration and ethnic groupings were evident.

with some exceptions, there had been no humanitarian case for accepting 1.5 million immigrants from South Asia and elsewhere. It was essential to draw a line somewhere... it was quite wrong that immigrants should be given council housing whereas white citizens were not... People are rather afraid that this country might be rather swamped by people with a different cultures (Swaine). However, Because Thatcher valued the independence that comes with ownership, she permitted tenants of municipal homes to buy their own homes from the local government.

To contain inflation, the Tories introduced monetarism¹³ in terms of economic policies. Thatcher and her chancellor Geoffrey Howe¹⁴ employed monetarist tactics to combat inflation because it was brought on by the quick expansion of the money supply. They reduced the money supply, reduced government spending, and raised interest rates to prevent careless borrowing. With their assistance, the rate of inflation was successfully reduced from 19% in 1979 to 5% in 1983 (Lynch 121). However, unemployment dramatically increased from 1 million in 1979 to more than 3 million by that year (Collette and Keith 08). The recession and rising unemployment in 1981 led to social discontent and violent riots.

Thatcher's tactics began to be questioned by the "Wets"¹⁵ in the Conservative Party, and the media grabbed the opportunity to discuss the need for a necessary policy "U-turn"¹⁶. Thatcher said, "To those waiting with bated breath for that beloved media term, the "U-turn," I have only one thing to say: You turn if you want to, in her 1980 speech to the Conservative Party Conference. Seldon and Collings claim that the lady isn't for turning (p. 126).

Another key Thatcherism objective was to weaken the unions. Thatcher was convinced that the trade unions' hegemony over British industry was to blame for the UK's poor economic performance. She believed that the economic stagnation that prevailed under Labour's rule was entirely their fault. She also thought union leaders were working toward their own goals and referred to them as "the enemy within" (Blundell 121). She made an effort to undermine their authority primarily for this reason. When they felt their demands were not being met, trade unions developed a tactic of extorting money from both the Labour and Conservative governments by threatening strikes and sit-ins. The money donated to the strikes and protestors came from the government, the workers' wages, and the workers themselves.

Thatcher decided to start an institutional war to control the unions. Her recommendations (from Winter of Discontent) include giving individual workers more rights and influence and adopting secret ballots for union decisions. Additionally, she advocates for "widespread secret

ballots around the trade union movement, widespread secret ballots on union elections, and widespread secret ballots on industrial disputes." When her ideas were rejected by the other parties, particularly the Labour Party, she went out to convince the regular union members that strikes harmed them as well as the British economy. It appears Thatcher was successful in decreasing union support. In the 1983 general election, only 39% of union members voted for Labour.

Thatcher sought to resurrect the "Victorian ideals" she had been raised with when it came to privatization. "My policies are based on what I and my family have experienced, not some economic theory," she declared. I was among the millions of individuals who learned how to budget, put money down for a rainy day, pay bills on time, and support the police (Great Leaders, 2007). She defines these values as "to work hard, to improve yourself, to live within your income, to be a good member of your community, pride in your country, self-reliance and self-respect." She gave this statement in a radio interview.

Hayek's philosophy of liberty also informed her belief that people should be free and responsible and that free markets are the economic expression of free people. According to Hayek, free markets provide individual liberty. The state's interference in the market, on the other hand, was what distorted the way liberty worked. Thatcher was dedicated to putting an end to governmental meddling in business. She unveiled an improved privatization strategy aimed at limiting the power of the biggest state-owned corporations. During her first term, the denationalized industries were not well-known.

However, Thatcher's foreign policy was a mix of contradictory elements, including strong ties to the United States, a distrust of Europe, and a ferocious resistance to communism. Thatcher thought that the "special relationship" between the US and the UK served British interests. The shared language and history between the British and American presidents continued to be an important point of connection after the Second World War. Mrs Thatcher

held the Anglo-American alliance in the highest regard. According to Thatcher, "We should never again find ourselves on the opposite side of the United States in a major international crisis affecting British interests" (McCormick). The failure of the Suez War in 1956, which resulted in the withdrawal of British, French, and Israeli aggression against Egypt, taught her this lesson.

Heath claimed that closer ties to Europe are essential for Britain's future in the European setting, while Thatcher disagreed. She voted in favour of Britain joining the European Community (EC) in the 1975 referendum, while strongly believing that Europe should consist of sovereign states, each following its interests. She had her first dispute regarding the UK's financial support for the EC with one of her fellow Europeans in November 1979. She saw that the UK makes greater financial contributions to the EU budget than it does receipts, and she thought that this disparity needed to be corrected. "I want my money back!" she cried. (Blundell 153) at Dublin's highest point. She engaged in a protracted diplomatic battle before reaching her. Subsequently, the British budget contribution was reduced in line with the country's GNI¹⁷ at the 1984 European Council conference in Fontainebleau (Evans 83).

On March 1, 1981, Irish military prisoners at Maze prison in Belfast began a hunger strike. Thatcher responded by taking a firm stance against IRA¹⁸ terrorists who attempted to overthrow British rule in the area using violence. Thatcher remained steadfast and refused to budge, saying that "crime is a crime and has nothing to do with politics" (Republican Hunger Strike) despite pressure from the beloved Bobby Sands. As a result of the strike, a Republican politician passed away in custody. In contrast to her hard attitude, she still showed some flexibility in 1985 when she signed the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which gave the Dublin government a consultative role in Ulster matters and allowed for improved security cooperation between the British and Irish governments.

By 1982, radical Thatcherism had given Britain's stagnant economy a boost, but Thatcher had evolved into the nation's least popular prime minister. She was only able to survive because of the Falklands War. During Margaret Thatcher's presidency, it marked a turning point. When the South Atlantic's Falkland Islands were invaded, Thatcher "reacted like a lioness whose cubs were threatened" (Reitan 46). She sent out special naval forces to drive the invaders out and capture the islands. Even though the effort was in danger due to the islands' distance from England, it was successful. Thatcher's popularity peaked during the Falklands War, which aided in her landslide victory in the 1983 general elections.

1.6 The Peak of Thatcherism

The Conservatives promised to uphold Thatcherite ideas in their electoral platform. They won the general elections by a wide margin. In truth, Thatcher's second premiership saw the emergence of many of the most significant Thatcherite concepts.

According to Seldon (101), Mrs Thatcher was much more interested in the results of her programs than in the process of governing. She persisted in criticizing governmental inefficiency and interference from the State, nevertheless. One of her measures in this regard was the dismantling of the Greater London Council (GLC) and other metropolitan councils. She expanded the authority of the British Parliament in Westminster and the British central government in Whitehall, while simultaneously reducing the authority of elected local administrations (Gamble 124).

Thatcher's fight against labour unions was undoubtedly her most difficult one. This was her biggest challenge as a leader. Coal miners had been on strike for a year to protest the privatization of the sector and mine closures. She put a stop to their struggle. The strike effectively shut down the majority of British industry. To put an end to it, the government destroyed the closed shop¹⁹, provided coal for power plants, and enacted a law allowing

workers to announce strikes and sit-ins rather than trade union leaders, which means that strikes are only permitted if the workers approve of them (Lynch 128). The unions also had to pay heavy fines if they called for illegal strikes.

The NUM²⁰ had previously compelled the Heath government to quit, but Thatcher refused to do the same and instead began a ferocious anti-union campaign. The latter was successful in making unions subject to legal regulation, and their numbers fell from 13.5 million to less than that. Ten million were spent during Thatcher's premiership (Evans 39).

Thatcher made no further concessions in her commitment to bringing down inflation in terms of the economy. As a result, inflation soared dramatically in 1988, jumping from 3% to 8%. On the other hand, Nigel Lawson²¹ upheld Thatcher's economic tenets. Integrating the reduced rates and exemptions, converting to indirect taxes, cutting taxes, and controlling governmental borrowing and spending are all examples of tax reform. Additionally, up until 2007, the North Sea oil business made significant profits (Reitan 55). There is no question that these actions played a part in the British economy's boom in 1986. 1.8 million persons were unemployed in 1990, down from 3.4 million in 1986 (Lynch 122).

However, the privatization plan has come to be synonymous with Thatcherism, despite opposition from Marxists. Seldon and Collings claim it was a "key element of Thatcherism" (p. 27). British Coal, British Steel, British Airways, British Telecom, British Petroleum, and British Aerospace were among the notable state-owned companies that Thatcher privatized by 1987.

Thatcher focused on this approach to encourage competition, boost productivity, break up monopolies, get rid of corruption, strikes, and bureaucracy, encourage investments, and create "shareholding democracy." Along with privatization, the Thatcher administration launched a deregulation drive to encourage economic growth. Transportation companies were deregulated, and credit and exchange regulations were removed. The consequence was an increase in

shareowners from 2 million in 1979 to 9.2 million in 1987 (Holmes 59), and an increase in government revenue from privatization from £377 million to £7000 million in 1989 (Lynch 133).

In terms of foreign policy, Thatcher was the only European leader to oppose the unification of Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. She believed that Germany might become a rising power after two World Wars in which Britain fought to prevent German control over Europe. Even though we've beaten them twice, the Germans are back. Before permitting a united Germany to flourish at the heart of Europe, she believed that another 10 or fifteen years should pass. The architect of Germany's unification process Helmut Kohl was the driving force behind it since she had rejected the idea of a federal Europe, which added to her growing hate of Germany. She lauded the overthrow of communist regimes throughout Europe and referred to it as a political transformation that would not be forgotten, but she refused to admit that Germany had reaped the greatest benefits. Thatcher faced strong criticism for her racism and shortsightedness about her German policy. (Roberts)

Despite her anti-European views, Thatcher backed the Single European Act (SEA), which imposed non-tariff trade obstacles between the 12 members of the European Community. Her free market economics theory was upheld by the program. But as 2002 progressed, she began to see her decision to ratify the SEA as "a terrible error" because it marked the beginning of the EURO and, to this day, the main source of divisions within her party.

Thatcher's strong personal bond with President Ronald Reagan was a major factor in her allegiance to the United States in the international arena. The daughter of an English grocery store owner and the former Irish-American Hollywood star is now connected by a strong belief in capitalism and antipathy to communism. Reagan and Thatcher became good friends and had similar worldviews. She referred to him as the "second most important man" in her life. As

prime minister, she has frequently reiterated her support for NATO and the need for closer connections with the US.

. The United States invaded Grenada, an independent country and Commonwealth member, when it Therefore, it was not surprising that Thatcher refrained from criticizing Washington explicitly in October 1983, either in parliament or the British Commonwealth or the Security Council, without first contacting Britain. On April 14, 1986, when the United States bombed Libya, Thatcher was once more the only European leader to provide Reagan access to British air bases. Thatcher, against opposition from her party and many of her Western allies, backed the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), sometimes referred to as "Star Wars," which was launched by US President Reagan. The intention was to intercept Soviet ballistic missiles in space (Holmes 85). Britain was viewed as the United States' most powerful ally as a result, and the British Foreign Office was permitted to communicate or confer with Washington's decision-makers directly.

She didn't distinguish between Communism and Nazism in Nazi Germany, and she liked to think of the word Nazi as an acronym for National Socialism. This led Thatcher to say that Soviet Russia was akin to post-1945. Thatcher believed that democracy and communism could never coexist, which contributed significantly to the fall of communist governments and the end of the Cold War. In actuality, the Cold War and relations with the Soviet Union were among the issues that dominated British foreign policy throughout Thatcher's tenure. She was aware that the objective was to persuade central and eastern European nations to renounce their communist philosophies. a factor in the collapse of the Soviet Union.

She strengthened the political, cultural, and economic linkages between these areas and the West. She visited Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia in the 1980s. She backed economic and political reforms in these countries and used every opportunity to tout the benefits of democracy and the free market. The liberation of Central and Eastern Europe from communism,

to which many of Thatcher's detractors believe she made a significant contribution, was one of the major changes in Europe and the globe since the end of the Cold War.

Thatcher also played a significant role in improving relations between the East and the West. She was one of the first world leaders to realize that Mikhail Gorbachev's transformation of the Soviet system played a significant role in accelerating change. His description by her was "a peculiar Russian." Thatcher claimed that the success of Glasnost and Perestroika has unquestionably benefited the West. Ronald Reagan, who served as a bridge between Moscow and Thatcher, was persuaded by Washington that the West could begin communicating with Gorbachev. We can accomplish business together (Great Leaders, 17). She subsequently travelled to Moscow for the first time in 1987.

Without question, the economy was booming during Thatcher's second term. The economy of the state was booming. She became the first British politician to win three consecutive national elections when she easily won the 1987 general election.

Thatcher maintained her revolution during her third term by establishing a uniform curriculum for schools²³ and giving private companies control over the housing and healthcare industries. Margaret Thatcher's resignation as prime minister, however, was finally brought about by disagreements and divides over two very important issues: "Europe" and the "poll tax."

Thatcher faced strong criticism for her attempts to implement the "Community Charge," also referred to as the "poll tax," which was a fixed levy to pay the local government instead of the domestic rates. The tax was equally imposed on adults who were wealthy and those who were not, which made the concept very divisive. As a result of public protests and divisions within the Tory party, Nigel Lawson was forced to resign as Chancellor of the Exchequer in October 1989.

Thatcher emphasized her ardent opposition to the idea of European unification in a well-known speech at Bruges, warning of the danger of "a European superstate exercising a new dominance from Brussels" (Seldon and Collings 141). Her scathing remarks predominated the majority of the European press. The 1990 summit in Rome saw the introduction of the "Delors plan" 25. It was required, by UK politics, that "the European Parliament shall be the democratic body of the Community, the Commission the executive, and the Council of Ministers the senate." Thatcher said, "No! No! No!" in response to an inquiry about the British viewpoint on these initiatives. She objected to it because it would give the European Parliament in Brussels a portion of Britain's independence and power.

A uniform European currency, the "Euro," that would be utilized by all member states was also part of the proposal. Thatcher was hesitant about Britain joining the European Exchange Rate Mechanism because she thought doing so would mean giving up sovereignty. According to UK politics, she subsequently said that "the European single currency was an attempt to create a European super state and would fail economically, politically, and socially."

It was clear that this tremendous hostility toward the European alliance was having detrimental ramifications. In November 1990, Geoffrey Howe, a pro-European and supporter of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), resigned from his position as foreign secretary. That was a major defeat for Thatcher, and it ultimately led to her demise. Sir Jeffrey, a well-known Conservative MP, also announced his resignation after which Michael Haseltine²⁶ decided to challenge Thatcher for the position of party leader. She managed to capture him on her first attempt. Without addressing her advisors, she said that she would "fight and fight to win".

Her ministry allies pushed her to go, though. In November 1990, she decided to give up and go out of grief. Later, she supported John Major, who would continue the Thatcherite agenda, since he was "stolid." The Tories chose John Major as their leader on November 27, 1990, even though he was a duller leader (Lynch 154).

1.7 Conclusion

Thatcherism was the answer for those who were always questioning whether or not people could influence the path of events. Thatcher was the first female prime minister, making her accomplishments the foundation of her legacy.

Margaret Thatcher established her political philosophy known as "Thatcherism" with the help of three key factors: the election of a new leader, the development of new ideas, and Thatcher herself as a potent politician. Thatcher was the longest-serving prime minister in British history since Lord Liverpool in the nineteenth century. She possessed a range of leadership qualities, including dominance, realistic ambition, aggressiveness, conviction, and patience.

However, as a political enterprise, Thatcherism was successful in achieving its main objective, which was the restoration of the Tory electoral, ideological, economic, and political hegemony. Thatcherism failed to achieve all of its economic goals. A new dominating party system was created as a result, and it governed for eighteen years.

Chapter Two

Blairism as the New Leadership

Introduction

Tony Blair, whose full name is Anthony Charles Lynton Blair, strived to advance in politics what his conservative father could not. Tony Blair was born in Scotland. Contrary to his father, Blair joined the Labour Party, became its leader, and went on to serve as one of the nation's youngest and most enduring prime ministers.

2.1 Toni Blair's Biography

Anthony was born to Leo and Hazel Blair in Edinburgh, Scotland, on May 6, 1953. In 1954, Blair's family relocated to Australia before coming back to the UK to settle in Durham, where his father taught law at Durham University.

. Tony Blair started attending Durham's Chorister Public School when he was eight years old. Infancy shown intelligence in him. He attended Edinburgh's prestigious Fettes College from 1966 to 1971. His professors hated him because he was a rebellious adolescent. According to the biography by John Rentoul (Pugh), every instructor I spoke to while doing research for the book said he was a real pain in the rear and that they were glad to see him go. At St. John's College in Oxford, Blair resumed his law education and graduated with a second-class grade in 1975. He then joined Lincoln's Inn and registered as a student barrister. While attending college, he played guitar and sang for the rock group Ugly Rumors.

Blair's brother is a high court judge, and both of his parents were lawyers and politicians. He was motivated to enter politics by his surroundings. In reality, he started to show a political leaning when he was twelve. He participated in a mock election at his school as the Conservative candidate. Anglican clergyman Peter Thomson made a big impression on Blair while they were both students. Later, according to him, Peter helped him rediscover his left-wing ideologies, desire for social change, and religious beliefs (wheeler). Blair embraced liberal opinions and regularly engaged in philosophical discussions with pals like Thomson. Hinman

wrote During these late-night talks, Tony seems to have formed the political beliefs that have shaped him ever since. (26) After graduating, he entered the left-wing political scene.

1976 saw Blair working as a student barrister in Derry Irvine's offices, when he first met Cherie Booth, his future wife. They were married in March 1980 and had four children. Blair made the decision to join the Labour Party in the early 1980s. He was put forward as the Labour candidate for Beaconsfield in 1982. Even though Blair did not win the election, he was regarded as a candidate with the support of Trindon branch Secretary John Burton, the local Labour Party selected Tony Blair as their candidate after creating the Sedge field constituency for the 1983 general election. He was the last contender to be added to the shortlist before the election. Blair was chosen to represent the Sedgefield District in the House of Commons despite the party's defeat in the general election.

Blair outlined his own views on socialism in his first speech to the House of Commons as a member of parliament on July 6, 1983: I identify as a socialist because, in my opinion, socialism most closely reflects a life that is both moral and logical at its finest (Radice 44), not because I read a book that piqued my intellectual curiosity or out of blind tradition. He also brought up the issue of too much unemployment. He asserted that without employment, his people "wonder how they can afford to get married, to start a family, and have access to all the benefits of society that they should be able to take for granted" (Richards 31), in addition to the shame of being compelled to be inactive.

The Party members were impressed by Blair's diligence. He was included on a committee to look at a measure submitted by the Conservatives to change the trade union law by Blair's success-making shadow employment secretary John Smith. He was promoted to the position of assistant Treasury spokesman in 1984. The Labour Party has gone through one of its toughest times since Blair joined. The general election of 1987 wasn't any better than the one before it, in 1983. Only 31.5 percent of the vote was cast for the party (Hinman 44). However, the dismal

election outcomes and declining standing of Labour in the British political system prompted party head Neil Kinnock³⁶ and some members to consider modernizing the party by altering its core ideologies. Tony Blair backed Kinnock's policies, particularly those that supported the Conservatives' privatization agenda and, more significantly, those that sought to limit the authority of the trade unions.

Blair was given a promotion to become the Trade and Industry spokesperson following the 1987 general election. He was also a part of the CND at the time. Later, in 1988, he was appointed to the shadow cabinet. He was appointed the shadow secretary for energy, where he fought the Tory government's 1989 proposal to privatize the electrical industry. Although he personally opposed nuclear power, he also defended his party's resistance to it.

Blair was named the shadow Employment Secretary by the year's end 1989. Blair had to battle the unions in order to end the closed shop policy as part of the party's modernization programme. Following his attempts to address this issue as well as others relating to employment, such as minimum wage and full employment, he acquired the support of his party members and increased his notoriety with the general public.

After the 1992 general election saw another Tory triumph, Neil Kinnock was forced to step down, and Tony Blair was appointed the shadow home secretary by the new Labour leader John Smith.

The most significant occasion for Blair in his role as shadow home secretary was his trip to the United States where Gordon Brown, a shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, is in power. President Bill Clinton's ideas and programs, which assisted in bringing the Democratic Party to power, had an impact on the two friends. After 12 years, the party is back in power. Clinton triumphed because he inspired his party to move to the center and forsake its socialist policies. In reality, John Smith, a traditionalist labor, was wary of Brown and Blair's influence as a result

of the "Clintonization" and cautioned against any attempt to fundamentally alter the party because it would undoubtedly produce conflicts within the party: Everything about this Clintonization is just irritating everyone. Stop rocking the boat with all this talk about modernisation and change. It will only further split the party. We will prevail if we stick together. Do simply stop talking (Hinman 53).

2.2 Tony Blair's Political act

Blair invited his best friend and political ally Gordon Brown to compete for president after Kinnock resigned in 1992. He was sure that Brown was the only person who could reform the Labour party and restore it to power because it needed a youthful, strong modernizer. Though Brown declined to confront John Smith, he obviously had Blair's support because of their longstanding friendship, which existed even before Smith was a member of Parliament. Blair was loyal to Smith, but he was also convinced that Smith was a traditionalist who would not

permit the party to undergo any significant change. As a result, Blair believed that if the party didn't change its outdated policies, it would be difficult for them to accomplish their goals. Blair has also grown more certain that he should follow Brown's lead and that politics is pointless if he won't rule and implement his beliefs: "What was the point of politics if not to win power, govern, and put your beliefs into practice?" (Blair 62).

Blair's political career unexpectedly changed in 1994 when John Smith unexpectedly passed away from a heart attack and he made the decision to run for leadership. Gordon Brown was the only challenge he had to overcome. Blair did not want to confront his political big brother or, as Blair put it, the person who taught him how to run a campaign. He made an effort to convince him to drop out of the competition. Peter Mandelson, a friend of both, assisted in persuading Brown that Blair was likely to lead the party to victory in the upcoming general election. Additionally, polls revealed that Blair was more well-liked by voters. Gordon Brown

made the decision to resign in order to prevent the pro-modernization vote from becoming divided (based on historical figures).

Tony Blair was chosen as the Labour Party's leader on July 24th following a highly successful leadership election, making him the party's youngest-ever leader. Blair made the following vow while serving as the leader of the Labour Party in the opposition: "Right, I'm bored of this Opposition malarky, I want to be PM... what has come home to me more than anything else is the utter futility of Opposition." I didn't join the Labour Party to voice my disapproval. I joined it as a member of the government, and I'll work to keep it that way (Metro).

He challenged the conventional political approach used by his party and transformed it into the "New Labour Party." Blair and a group of modernizers, including Gordon Brown, Peter Mandelson, and Alastair Campbell, have pulled the Party to the center, abandoning its left-leaning positions. By amending Clause IV of the constitution, they renounced the nationalization strategy that the party had committed to, limited the influence of the trade unions over the party, suggested measures to combat inflation, and backed Britain's accession to the EU. In national municipal elections in 1995, Blair guided his party to a substantial victory over conservatives (Gallagher). At the dispatch booth, he used the chance to disparage John Major: "I lead my party, he follows his." (4) Seldon

2.3 The New Labour

When the then-Prime Minister John Major declared that the Parliament would be dissolved and that general elections would be held on May 1, 1997, the New Labour party unveiled its platform, "New Labour, New Britain," which included novel and radical policies. In their manifesto, the Tories pledged not to raise income taxes, to rebuild the NHS, to spend more of the nation's resources on education, which was their top priority. However, education spending has been the Tories' worst failure. By fostering competitive industry both domestically and

abroad, reforming the Bank of England, lowering unemployment, toughening up on crime and the causes of crime, and laying the groundwork for a modern welfare state, firms may grow. to give Britain the leading position in Europe and to decentralize political power throughout the UK (Politics resources).

A political earthquake, as Tony Blair (Blair 20) described it, and a momentous win for the Party, New Labour and Tony Blair won with 418 seats. However, the Conservatives suffered a historic setback as well, winning only 165 seats, their fewest since 1906 (Politics 97).

Before Blair's significant revisions and the rejection of the Marxist ideas that guided it, the Labour Party could not have won this election. Additionally, advertising and media relations were key factors in the party's success. Peter Mandelson used a TV visual campaign to present a contemporary and appealing image of New Labour, and Alastair Campbell won the support of well-known conservative publications like *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail*, and *The Independent* (Seldon 254–255). Additionally, Tony Blair's professional campaign, which was powerful, alluring, effective in communicating, young, and beautiful, was a major factor in the campaign's success.

2.4 The Concept of Blairism

The concept of "Blairism" describes the ideologies and standards upheld by Tony Blair. Blair, who switched parties to form the "New Labour," adopted a Third Way worldview, an interventionist foreign policy, a strong emphasis on education, strong support for European integration, and record public service spending.

2.5 The New instead of Old

It was imperative that the Labour Party undergo organizational and programmatic adjustments as a result of the party's repeated failure to win a general election since 1979. Consequently, how did the Labour Party become "New"? What are the primary distinctions between "old" "New" Labour, too?

Since the party's founding by labor unions and social organizations, it has been assumed that it is geared toward socialism, in which the government provides housing, jobs, and health care. However, following the crushing defeat in the general election of 1979, many As Kinnock renounced the unpopular old party ideas, particularly the nationalization of some industries, reforms were implemented. Kinnock also fought to eliminate the left-wing Militant tendency from the party in an effort to shift the party toward the center. He also strove to modernize the party to improve its chances of winning elections.

The most significant shift in the party's history occurred under Tony Blair's leadership. Blair has been convinced that the Labour Party need dramatic reforms in its thinking, style, attitudes, platform, and policies ever since he joined the organization in 1983 (Blair 58). According to him, the hard left had to evolve or perish since it was a live movement rather than a static historical figure. If the world changes but we don't, then our contribution to it is rendered useless. Our values are no longer valid. concepts and just solidify into dogma (Metro). He maintained Kinnock's efforts to transform the party from the hard-left stance that the "Old" represented to a new center-left party renamed "New Labour".

Before assuming the party's leadership and following the implementation of his "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime" policy, which differed from the Conservatives' "tough on crime," Blair was keen to reform the Labour party. His first step towards a new and modern one was to back John One Member, One Vote (OMOV) decision made by Smith. The decision was

made to alter the party's customary system of electing candidates in a number of elections, which gave labor unions the upper hand because their members were regarded as supporters and therefore had block voting rights. Later, the OMOV was accepted with modifications to the roles played by the unions, party members, and MPs in deciding who would lead the party. A real OMOV was used for the first time in the 2015 leadership election, and Tony Blair was chosen as the party's leader under that system in 1994 (Rentoul 206-18).

However, Blair's top priority after assuming power with the opposing party was to It was the goal of the "New Labour" architects to drastically change the iconic Clause IV of the Labour Constitution. It was the primary component of the party's philosophy, ideology, and socialist affiliation. It was regarded as a clear statement of the party's commitment to nationalization and common ownership There have been numerous unsuccessful attempts to change the Clause for more than 30 years, but Blair's determination to win the general election and alter the old party's foundations, along with his support for a free market approach, led him to announce his intention to do so at the 1994 party conference. He won a contentious vote in 1995 to modify Clause IV after a protracted battle with the opposition.

There are philosophical, ideological, and political differences between Tony Blair's new party and Old Labour. The Old supported shared ownership and was a staunch socialist. While the New Labour initiative as a whole adheres to a centrist mindset, its policies are a blend of right- and left-wing ideologies that support both capitalism and socialism in accordance with the so-called "Third Way" philosophy (Hunt-Smith). Another difference is the transition from a party that advocates for a sizable welfare state to one that believes in a smaller welfare state based on the tenet of "hand up, not hand out" and that the government should stop meddling in businesses. According to Blair (Metro), "New Labour doesn't believe it is the job of government to interfere in the running of businesses." In the modern society, he continued, "we should and always would fight for social justice, but that didn't mean more state control" (Blair 59).

Most left-wing intellectuals, commentators, and philosophers accepted Blair's views at initially because they were primarily oriented at regaining the party's position and ending the Conservatives' dominance, notwithstanding their objections to his reversal of traditional social democracy. Additionally, they expected that Blair's views would eliminate the hotly debated impacts of Thatcherism, which had sparked various responses. However, they quickly grew critical of "Blair's conservative accusing him of straying from classic Labour beliefs, such as giving up social democracy and social equality, and turning the party into one of the middle and upper classes first-class service. Blair explained his actions in this context by saying: "The reason we have been out of power for 15 years is simple: society changed, and we refused to adjust...Modernization, in my opinion, is not about dumping principles; on the contrary. It's reclaiming what the Labour Party actually stands for, according to Metro. Blair was criticized for allegedly incorporating some Thatcherite ideas. They contended that New Labour is merely a continuation of Thatcherism and is identical to Thatcher's efforts to reconcile conventional conservative and classical liberal ideals (Romero 44-51).

2.6 The Rise of Blairism

Since its leader was neither a traditional left- or right-wing politician, as he stated: "I was and remain first and foremost not so much a politician of traditional left or right, but a politician of the middle," the New Labour movement adopted a strategy that is "neither the first way of the old nor the second way of the right" (Driver, Martell 67). contemporary (Blair 10). Indeed, the development of Anthony Giddens'44 Third Way by the party, which sought to offer a synthesis between capitalism and socialism, had an impact on the New Labour's political ideology.

Giddens claims that politicians and writers have already employed the Third Way idea. The Middle Way, written by Harold Macmillan in 1938, introduced the concept of the Third Way by advocating a compromise between capitalism and socialism (Robert et al).

Giddens coined the phrase "Third Way" to refer to a revitalization of social democracy as well as an effort to move past both traditional social democracy and neo-liberalism. He asserts that there are two guiding concepts behind the Third Way philosophy. The first is "no rights without responsibilities," which holds that the government has obligations to its people while also preventing the welfare state from discouraging employment. The second tenet is "no authority without democracy," which states that the only way to establish power is through democratic means.

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Giddens stated that social democrats were motivated to increase the role of the state, while neo-liberals wanted that role to decrease in his explanation of the Third Way ideology, its aims, values, and agenda. On the other hand, under the Third Way, it is necessary to reconstruct the state by going beyond those on the right and left who believe that the government is the "enemy" and the "answer" respectively (Mckenzie 66).

The Third Way, according to Tony Blair, "stands for a modernized social democracy" (Romano 03). He represented a synthesis of right- and left-wing views. He disagreed with the neo-liberal thesis that the economy can be managed by the market. While doing so, he observed that the left's belief in the state's economic intervention was out of date (Mellbye). In an effort to blend neoliberal economics and social ethics, he adopted the neo-liberal idea of wealth creation and tempered it with traditional socialist values like equality of opportunity and redistribution.

Blair concentrated on implementing his domestic program, where he expanded government control over public sector changes and launched new reform measures, after the Great Friday Agreement and the Kosovo War gave him significant popularity.

2.7 The Economy under Tony Blair's Leadership

Gordon Brown, the most powerful chancellor in British history who presided over the country's longest stretch of economic expansion, received the reins of economic authority. His guiding principle was to increase wealth and control the state budget deficit so that money may be saved and invested in the public sector (Romero 77). In order to ensure a budget surplus on public services for the following years, he adhered to the conservative government's spending projections during the first two years (Lynch 175).

The independence of the Bank of England was one of the first reforms implemented by Brown and his colleagues. Following the conservative monetarist philosophy of "non-interventionism," they gave it authority over interest rates. Furthermore, the Reagan-Thatcher viewpoint that "economic growth" Growth was dependent on promoting more private investment, and this idea dominated New Labour's economic strategy (Denzau, Roy, 2008). Their neoliberal policies aided private industry and business in growing their financial activity. Furthermore, maintaining a low unemployment rate was Blair and Brown's key economic

achievement. Additionally, according to HM Treasury and the Bank of England (In images), inflation has been held at a historic low.

Tony Blair vowed fundamental transformation of public services in his 2001 election platform, including a "much closer relationship with the private sector" (Blair 314). He also announced a budget increase. Most pundits thought that Tony Blair won his second general election victory in 2001, called the "quiet landslide" by the media, because of his economic achievements during his first term.

Real household earnings in Britain increased by 18% between 1997 and 2006 under Blair's premiership, which saw stable economic growth. It was the longest stretch of continuous expansion in 200 years. Even so, the UK continues to have poorer productivity than its key rivals in the US and Europe. Additionally, the enormous increase in personal debt brought on by high housing costs and easy availability to credit cards was one of the major economic failures under Blair and Brown (in images).

Concerning a different matter, constitutional reform was one of the main themes of the Labour platform. According to Coates et al. (80), Blair's modernization-focused constitutional change was "inspired by notions of democracy, decentralization, accountability, community, and cooperation." On the one hand, Tony Blair committed to decentralizing power in the UK, which led to devolution referendums in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and England in 1997 and 1998, respectively. Each referendum received a "yes" vote, and authority was distributed.

In Scotland, devolution took over legislative competences, fiscal policies, and other responsibilities in health, education, social services, transport, environment and agriculture. The Welsh Assembly, however, lacked legislative powers as defense, foreign policy, social security, employment and constitution that remained under the Westminster Parliament. In England, the implement of a decentralization system by establishing eight Regional Assemblies to support

the English Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) in order to foster economic growth around England. The members of the previous bodies were appointed by local government and not directly elected.

The modernization of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, on the other hand, is part of parliamentary reform. Blair made many changes to the House of Commons' election system, including the Alternative Vote⁴⁶ and Proportional Representation, which would have replaced the current First-Past-the-Post system⁴⁸. But the electoral majority of the new Labour party thought the reform was unnecessary. Regarding the House of Lords, Blair's administration enacted the House of Lords Act in 1999, eliminating hereditary lords' ability to serve in the chamber after 700 years (Lynch 175). In 2001, they were down to 92 from 759. In a nutshell, the two Houses' inability to complete or implement reforms "prevented Parliament from becoming a fully representative body" (Romero 76).

In terms of Northern Ireland, Tony Blair strove to carry on the peace process measures started by Margaret Thatcher and John Major. Since Lloyd George, he was the first British prime minister to have in-person discussions with the Republican leadership. Because of his close friendship with Bertie Ahern, the two governments cooperated to remove regional peacekeeping barriers (Bowcott)

Plans for a Northern Ireland Assembly with a power-sharing executive were among Blair's suggestions. an organization that connects Westminster and Dublin with devolved assemblies around the UK. Plans to free convicts and let the leader of the IRA sit in parliament are also problematic. But that was believed essential to bring about peace. One of Blair's most notable accomplishments while in office was the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, which was made possible by his tireless efforts. However, following allegations of a "IRA spy-ring," the power-sharing executive or Northern Ireland Assembly disintegrated at the end of 2002.

Stormont. The primary barrier to peace was also the futile efforts to decommission the IRA armaments.

However, following the St Andrews Agreement of October 2006 and the British Army withdrawal from Northern Ireland after declaring the end of its mission that it had been carrying out since 1969, Blair's refusal to "abandon the process in its darken moments" (Bowcott) helped restore the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2007 (all-party executive formed) (Lynch 210-213).

Tony Blair has made education his top priority in terms of social issues and public services ever since being elected Labour leader: Ask me what the government's top three priorities are, and I'll tell you: education, education, and education (Metro). He made an effort to begin the crucial adjustments that persisted for his three tenure. The government released the White Paper in schools during the first year, which gave a variety of solutions to the educational system's problems as well as an appraisal of the current status of education. Due to this, the government reduced the required curriculum for primary schools and increased the amount of time allotted to basic courses in order to implement the Literacy and Numeracy Programme for Eleven-Year-Olds.

In addition, the government included new statutory exams for assessing and grading teachers and students in primary and secondary schools. They also adopted a system of bonuses for effective instructors in order to encourage them and raise the standard of education. Additionally, they switched out underperforming schools for academies, which were successful and developed into centers of excellence (Seldon 361-384).

Along with expanding school types like independent schools, grammar schools, foundation schools, comprehensive schools, secondary modern schools, Fresh Start schools in Education Action Zones (EAZs), and Beacon Schools⁵⁰, Blair modernized Labour's philosophy of

comprehensive education. These initiatives allowed parents to select the school they wished for their children to attend. Indeed, Blair's educational reforms' most crucial step

a move toward a "more sober atmosphere" at universities was the introduction of tuition fees in higher education 51. While this has angered many, it is viewed as vital to attain this goal (Seldon 361-384).

Tony Blair honored his promise to prioritize education by investing millions in brand-new schools, additional employees, and better resources. But with the NHS, that was not the case.. He increased the marketization of the healthcare system while carrying out the conservative policies of the previous administrations

Tony Blair pledged to "save the NHS" in the Labour platform of 1997. He promised shorter wait times, less bureaucracy, and better services for everyone. Blair's contributions to the healthcare system can be broadly categorized into successes and failures.

Hospital overcrowding has drastically decreased, waiting times are decreasing, new services are provided (such as the Cancer Information Centre 2004), and the NHS direct service was established in 1998. By providing non-emergency cases with telephone counsel, this assisted in reducing waiting times.

The MRSA bug, on the other hand, is a concern in hospitals all over the country. Even though Labour invested millions in it, it persisted. Additionally, to the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) crisis that occurred prior to the 2001 general election. However, amid criticism that emphasized the health system's dismal underfunding and the developing trend toward privatization, New Labour was able to raise health rates and increase system efficiency and quality (Seldon 385-407).

Foreign Secretary in Blair's administration Robin Cook stated that New Labour would pursue a "ethical" foreign policy in 1997. Finding a more significant place in the world was one of Blair's defining characteristics as prime minister. Thus, the idea of the "Atlantic Bridge" is one of the key ideas that help us comprehend Blair's foreign policy. Although Blair thought that the problem might be resolved by multilateral efforts, he recognized the necessity of resorting to action when dangers to the safety of nations. Thus, in 1999, he established "Blair's Doctrine of International Community" (Ralph 5).

This ideology states that New Britain's foreign policy should be based on the premise that "acts of Genocide cannot, under any circumstances, be an internal matter, and any government that breaches human rights must lose international support. Perhaps for this reason, as announced by Blair, Kosovo has evolved into a matter of international security requiring a vital humanitarian intervention. As a result of Blair's political commitment to constructing the "Atlantic Bridge," NATO had already started its military action against the Slobodan Miloevich-led Serbian forces in Kosovo and Europe by that point.

Blair was the first British Prime Minister to attempt to stand at the center of social and political ties in Europe. He accorded them equal weight on the British foreign policy agenda without jeopardizing any political sector.

In fact, Tony Blair, who was notably pro-European, pledged to transform Britain into a powerful nation "at the heart of Europe." Blair stated during a speech in Warsaw that his government's stance on Europe would not align with those who "wanted the EU to neither with the "superstaters," those who "wanted the EU to replace the nation state and have maximum powers of control," who "wanted the EU to have the minimum power and still committed to the nation state and free market." He favored a "third way" in which the EU's member states maintain their individual sovereignty while working together on issues of shared concern (Lynch 195).

Compared to his predecessors, Tony Blair has given more attention to the creation of a "European security and defense policy." After decades of reluctance, this development was seen as a significant occurrence. Since Britain has historically taken a distinct stance on the continent as an island, and its preference remains Anglo-Saxon, it is crucial to emphasize the strategic significance of Britain's adoption of the defense position of the European integration file in the fields of security and foreign policy.

One of the main points of contention between the Western European nations for a long time has been the idea of European security. This concept had been split into two streams, the first of which was led by France and called for an independent European defense concept that maintained a strong relationship with NATO, and the other of which had Britain and Germany as its cornerstone and called for incorporating European defense into NATO's own strategy (Lynch 195).

In light of the political ramifications of the case, which would have placed the UK at the center of Europe, Blair endorsed Britain's adoption of the euro and dubbed any opposition "crazy": "Should we stand apart from the alliance right on our doorstep as a country?" To do that would be crazy. It is a union of economies. We shouldn't disengage for political reasons. That wouldn't, in my opinion, serve our national interests. It would, in my opinion, undermine our country's interests (emphasis added).

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to jeopardize the British economy, which was performing well, by abandoning the pound. He got the five. Economic tests, such as assessments of the euro's impact on jobs, inflation, and trade, are required as a condition for adoption (Ludlam and Martin 201-202).

Britain's relationship with Europe has been rocky at times, despite Blair's efforts to project a positive picture of Britain in Europe. For example, the United Kingdom declined to join the Eurozone. Furthermore, in relation to Britain's disproportional fiscal contribution, Blair attempted to negotiate the retention of the rebate gained by Margaret Thatcher in 1984, but he caved in to Europe in 2006. Furthermore, he was unable to get acceptable modification of the Common Agricultural Policy, which had never worked in Britain's favor. Furthermore, the EU imposed almost 300 regulations and directives on Britain in a single year, which the government accepted without debate.

However, in the context of the special relationship with the United States, Blair's friendship with Bill Clinton was truly unique, because they shared the same modernizing vision that transformed their respective parties, and both advocated the Third Way doctrine. Furthermore, Blair saw Clinton as a role model leader whose policies should be emulated in order to achieve electoral victory. Despite ideological and approach disagreements, Blair remains committed to the concept of friendship, even with George W. Bush. The events of 9/11 precipitated a significant and contentious connection.

Following al-Qaeda's 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington, the US launched its "war on terror" from Afghanistan with the goal of altering the rule by destroying the Taliban, which provided al-Qaeda with protection. As a result of the special relationship with George W. Bush and Blair both advocated for a worldwide coalition led by the United Nations and NATO as an essential and urgent step, claiming that the next conflict will be a global combat against terrorism (Seldon 605). This is a struggle between the free and democratic world and terrorism,

not between the United States of America and terrorism. In this hour of sadness, we in the United Kingdom stand shoulder to shoulder with our American friends (Dyson 79).

Critics claimed that Blair's unwavering support for America drove Britain to defend American interests through global wars. He sent British troops into combat five times during his first six years, while declaring that this may be the first generation in which no British soldier was sent to war (Blair: the inside story). Furthermore, many people see the war as the beginning of Blair's demise, and there have continuously been calls for troop withdrawal because the US "had no real need of any European military support" (Seldon 605).

Despite the fact that Labour's election manifesto in 2001 concentrated on domestic changes, particularly public services, Tony Blair devoted the British government's attention and resources to foreign affairs. Furthermore, he did not stop supporting America in prior conflicts, but instead established a new coalition with it in its war against Iraq, which overshadowed his second term.

Indeed, claiming that Saddam Hussein possesses weapons of mass destruction (WMD), Blair stated that Iraq poses a real and unique threat to the security of the United Kingdom and the rest of the globe. Before the American final decision to use military force to depose Saddam Hussein, he was convinced that regime change was the only solution to the risk (Dyson 98-126). Indeed, although Blair's government called for another UN Security Council resolution to launch legal military action after UN Resolution 144154 in 2002, it secretly agreed with Bush's administration to go ahead with the war against Iraq five months before the invasion without the need for a second UN Security Council resolution, as revealed by a confidential document later published in the Iraq Inquiry (Chilcot report).

2.8 The Fall of Tony Blair

However, in order to gain the support of the British people and global public opinion for the invasion of Iraq, Blair published an intelligence-based dossier about the dangers posed by Iraq, which became known as the Dodgy dossier. He stated, "We published a 50-page dossier detailing the history of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program" (Blair's Iraq statement to MPs).

Blair's desire to maintain a special relationship eventually led him to join the US in bypassing the UN and invading Iraq in 2003. The conflict cost him an overwhelming parliamentary opposition; 139 of his own MPs opposed the invasion, and several key cabinet ministers resigned (Dyson 108).

Critics warned that Tony Blair was committing himself and Britain to an endless and indefinite war against any dictatorship that America saw as a threat. He was resolved to be G. Bush's closest ally. Furthermore, his leadership style caused him to ignore broad criticism within his cabinet and foreign offices when making critical judgments. As a result, he took a very personal decision to invade Iraq.

Soon after, Saddam Hussein's regime toppled, making Blair's position more difficult. Was it a lie that there are no weapons of mass destruction? Sir John Chilcot has responded to his Iraq Inquiry 55, stating that Blair "was not straight with the nation over the war" (Chilcot). As a result, the Iraq war became a historical landmark in Blair's government, a turning point in his leadership's decline.

Despite Tony Blair's declining popularity in opinion polls, the election results were surprising. It resulted in a smaller Labour majority but a record third term for Tony Blair and his Labour government.

However, the most important issues that dominated Blair's final years in office and were the reasons for his leadership decline were: his relationship with his Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, the aftermath of the Iraq war, the London bombings in 2005, the referendum on the European constitution, cash for honors allegations, and his announcement of his resignation date a year before he intended to leave (he was the first Prime Minister to do so).

He lost soldiers, lives, and British dignity as a result of the Iraq War. This is the reason why Blair's failure will be attributed to this error as the biggest and most important one. In addition, Some critics also claimed that the conflict in Iraq directly contributed to the London bombings by fostering the establishment of ISIS and the spread of terrorism (Lynch 217).

Regarding Europe, Blair declared that it was no longer necessary to hold a referendum election to decide whether to ratify the European Constitution. The decision left the British people with the impression that their government had betrayed and disregarded them in regard to Europe (Hinman 109). In addition to his previous year's issues, the Blair administration was accused of abusing its authority in 2006 and 2007 by bestowing honors and peerages on affluent contributors in exchange for monetary contributions. The police questioned Blair for the first time as a serving prime minister during a criminal investigation. After a protracted police investigation into the "cash for Honours" controversy, it was determined in 2007 that there wasn't enough evidence to support prosecution.

Brown and Blair's relationship within the cabinet has deteriorated over Blair's final years. tenure. Blair didn't think Brown would be able to carry out the New Labour agenda, on the one hand: I didn't really think Gordon would push the agenda forward... Knowing this, something would be pursuing me. It wouldn't be precisely New Labour, but it also wouldn't be exactly Old Labour (Blair 508). Mandelson, however, claims that Brown eventually forced Blair out because he would not cooperate or work with him (Mandelson 427). Their ideological

convictions frequently accounted for their discrepancies. Blair's initiatives in education, health, and welfare were regularly resisted by Brown, a left-wing modernizer. Seldon, however, asserts that power, not principles or ideologies, was what ultimately separated the two men (Seldon 667).

After serving as prime minister for ten years, Tony Blair promised to step down within a year due to assassination plots and waning party support. On June 27, 2007, he announced his resignation as prime minister and then as leader of the Labour Party.

2.9 Conclusion

The Labour Party had a great day on May 1, 1997. After eighteen years of conservative dominance, it took back control under a youthful, ambitious leader who vowed to rebuild Britain under a new administration led by the "New Labour" party. Tony Blair's tenure as prime minister was marked by contentious accomplishments and disappointments.

However, Tony Blair was able to establish himself as a leader thanks to his ten years in office and three straight victories in general elections. Regardless of whether he met or exceeded expectations, he has been the most successful leader in the history of the Labour Party.

Chapter Three

Blairism vs Thatcherism

Introduction

Tony Blair's New Labour Party, which arose after four defeats in general elections and seemed to be accepting some of Thatcherism's key ideas and viewpoints, was the most significant legacy that Margaret Thatcher's downfall left behind.

This chapter focuses on the long-term consequences of Margaret Thatcher's and Tony Blair's policies on British society. Additionally, it contrasts and compares the two leaders and looks at how much Tony Blair's policies reflected Thatcherism and to what extent.

3.1 Thatcher's Reforms and its Impacts on Britain

Few post-war leaders were able to apply their principles with the same firmness and determination while still honoring their goals. In fact, Margaret Thatcher's achievements during the peace are on par with Winston Churchill's during the war. She altered both the political landscape of her nation and the entire world by her effective involvement in ending the Cold War.

Thatcherism and the so-called New Right ideology worked to overcome the Labour government's problem with welfare capitalism. These ideas were not new, but they were implemented thanks to Thatcher's guidance. Actually, Thatcherism was greatly influenced intellectually by Friedrich Von Hayek, who held that society should foster individual initiative and preserve diversity (Pugh and Carl 13).

Thatcher herself noted that no one could have predicted the extent of change in the 1970s. Ralph Harris and Keith Josef also had a significant impact on the Thatcherite Revolution. Lord Harris at the Institute for Economic Affairs and Sir Keith and I at the Centre for Policy Studies were the ones who started it all. Indeed, ideas and beliefs were just getting started (Blundell 190).

The radical former British prime minister was and continues to be divisive. In truth, Theresa Thatcher's legacy was vehemently contested in every aspect. Has she grown to comprehend the problems with the ERM? Has the UK become more fractious and less cohesive since she left, or has the economic environment changed as a result?

She saved Britain from annihilation, according to her supporters, and improved it. For them, she oversaw a period of growth in the service sector, a rise in home ownership, major expansion of the financial sector in London as a result of financial deregulation, and the end of Britain's status as "the sick man of Europe." Her ideology was effective in ending consensus, dismantling the trade unions, promoting individual responsibility, fostering closer ties with the United States, replacing Keynesianism with the free market, ensuring broad acceptance of the benefits of the free market, reviving state institutions, and rebalancing the British economy. While critics blamed her for the poll tax, unemployment, a decline in industry, an increase in economic imbalance, and the termination of free milk for schools.

Contradictions do exist in the Thatcherite legacy. Instead of falling, the tax bill had gone up. She opposed European integration but supported Britain's membership in the EC in 1975. Although she made an effort to cut back on spending, it reached record levels (Lynch 162).

No matter how you feel about Thatcher, she was a patriot who stood up for Britain and changed the nation forever with her policies. Thatcher's legacy includes the clear impact she had on her successor, the conservatives, and the labor movement. According to Labour Party leader ED Miliband, she "reshaped the politics of an entire generation." When making a speech outside Downing Street, David Cameron said:

. Margaret Thatcher not only led but also rescued our nation. We cannot deny that Lady Thatcher polarized opinion; she took a nation that was on its knees and made Britain stand tall again. She was and

still is an inspiration for many of us. She served as a force against which others could be defined. She loved this country with all of her heart, and if there is one thing that runs through all she did, it is that. She will be known for her involvement in significant political conflicts. Defeating the union barons, privatizing industry, fostering free enterprise, reviving the economy, allowing residents to own council houses, winning the Falklands War, bolstering our defenses, and contributing to the Cold War's victory (Chapman).

3.2 Blair's most Achieving Fulfillment

Blair's first term as leader saw changes to the left-leaning policies of the Labour Party. The modernizers adopted the Third Way philosophy as a fresh direction, shifting them slightly more to the neoliberal right than to the traditional left. The outcome was that, after 18 years of conservative rule, Blair was able to bring the party back into power.

The party was optimistic about what they might do to change the country and what they could achieve following the party's stunning victory in the 1997 general election, one of Tony Blair and his team's most major victories.

Tony Blair was successful in establishing himself as a dominant personality. He had plenty of justification for believing that his first four years in government had been productive. Two of his important legacies include peace and some kind of political normalcy in Northern Ireland following the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, which, according to Gordon Brown, is possibly his government's most successful legacy in terms of the economy. The National Minimum Wage Act, the Human Rights Act of 1998, and the Freedom of Information Act were among the reforming laws that Blair's administration also enacted. They were successful in transferring power to Scotland and Wales.

3.3 Tony Blair vs Margaret Thatcher

We see several similarities between the two presidents' terms in office. They were both the most powerful leaders of the 20th century and served as prime minister for the longest stretches of time. Thatcher served for eleven years and 208 days compared to Blair's ten years and 56 days.

They were both "transformative" leaders who changed the philosophies of their respective parties in order to win back supporters who had lost faith in them. Additionally, both of them worked to restore Britain's greatness and stop its fall as a result of the stagnation policies of the previous administration, making it, in the words of Blair, "the greatest nation on earth" (Romero 101).

They had more power than presidents to dominate rivals and coworkers. As a result of several internal coup attempts and instability caused by their presidential style of leadership, they left their parties (Orchard).

Despite these similarities, Blair and Thatcher were very different from one another. She enjoyed seeking for enemies, while he claimed to be everyone's friend. She was an unpopular and divisive figure while in power. The Iraq war had a significant negative impact on Blair's early popularity, but he later gained more notoriety. Another difference between Thatcher and Blair was that Thatcher lacked natural communication skills, whereas Blair's political abilities were largely reliant on his speeches (Bannister and Ben 3-4).

The two parties' attitudes to the resignation of their leaders also differ in another way. As we previously stated, the Conservatives continue to praise Thatcher and her accomplishments, as shown by David Cameron's assertion that "she saved our country." In contrast, when he took over as leader of the Labour Party in 2010, Ed Miliband declared that "the era of New Labour is over" (Philpot).

3.4 The Mixture of Blairism and Thatcherism

Margaret Thatcher significantly influenced the rise of the New Labour, just as she had previously significantly influenced the Conservative Party. When asked what her government's greatest achievement was, she named Tony Blair and the New Labour. We swayed the viewpoints of those who opposed us (Burns). Numerous experts noted that Thatcherian principles and ideology were absorbed into and institutionalized by Tony Blair's New Labour. They referred to this development as "Blatcherism." According to the Oxford University Press, "Blatcherism" is the result of combining Blairism and Thatcherism. According to the Oxford reference, Blair's adoption of Thatcherite ideals is incorrect. What proportion of Blairism was Thatcherism, then?

As we analyze their economic policies over the course of Tony Blair's administration, we will undoubtedly find striking similarities and continuity between Margaret Thatcher's economic policies and those of his government. Blair himself said in a statement regarding his decision to support the changes Margaret Thatcher had implemented: "I realized the legitimacy of the entire New Labour movement hinged on admitting that much of what she sought to achieve in the 1980s was unavoidable, a consequence not of ideology but of social and economic change." Britain needed the industrial and economic reforms of the Thatcher era (Blair 96).

Blair believed in the free market since it was an economic approach that was successful under Thatcher, more so than his conviction in state involvement, which was seen as a key Labour Party doctrine. He subsequently revoked Clause IV of the constitution, which mandated the party to engage in nationalization, while maintaining all privatizations. Additionally, he continued the "Private Finance Initiative"⁵⁸ policy of the Conservatives. Blair was eager to carry on the Thatcherite program of privatization, but there wasn't much left to sell, according to the author Earl A. Retain (230). There was a rift between The New Labour and the unions as

well, and Blair defended the Thatcherite changes that hurt them and diminished their power within the party, declaring: "There is no going back on the Thatcherite union reforms" (Metro).

Regarding foreign policy, notably the "special relationship" with the United States, Blair and Thatcher held similar ideas. In terms of policies and ideas, both British presidents agreed with their American counterparts, and their relationship was as friendly as Thatcher and Reagan's. Blair, though, continued his close relationship with George W. Bush despite their opposing viewpoints. The war on terror was waged "shoulder to shoulder" by Blair and George W. Bush, much as neo-liberalism was defended by Thatcher and Reagan.

Blair's social policy reflected the conservative, right-wing perspective on crime. His stance of "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime," and the heavy punishments he meted out were not in keeping with the left's values, which placed a higher priority on upholding civil freedoms. As a result, his stance on crime was consistent with Thatcherism.

Despite the conservative slant that the New Labour movement took on, Blair has yet maintained some of the fundamental principles of the Labour Party. The differences between Blairism and Thatcherism as a result, especially in their social agendas, were undeniable. Blair places a strong emphasis on the concept of community in his political outlook. The antithesis was thatcherism, which emphasized individualism and asserted that there was "no such thing as society" (Lynch 157). Blair also gave more thought to concerns of unemployment and poverty. He passed the National Minimum Wage Act of 1998 to raise wages and promote employment, especially in areas where the Thatcher administration had forced out the mining sector, such as Yorkshire, Newcastle, Durham, Wales, and Scotland's cities and villages.

Thanks to Blair's pro-mass immigration policies, the population of the UK also increased by roughly 3.2 million as a direct result of foreign immigrants. Blair defended Labour's policy by saying that a nation like Britain cannot succeed in the future unless it is welcoming to people

of other races, religions, and cultures (Walker). This idea was strongly opposed by Margaret Thatcher and her Conservative government, who supported a white, Christian society: "It is quite wrong for immigrants to get council houses ahead of white citizens," Thatcher (Swaine) said.

Another important difference between Blairism and Thatcherism was how Europe was viewed. As previously mentioned, Thatcher declined to join the European Exchange Rate Mechanism and the European Union. She claimed that doing so would mean giving up control. While Blair retracted the concerns voiced by the Major administration about the expansion of European dominance over the Social Chapter, regional policies, the environment, and criminal justice. Blair aspired to see Britain at the heart of Europe and was the most pro-European prime minister since Edward Heath. Gordon Brown and the general public were against the concept, but Tony Blair was determined to convince his cabinet and people of the benefits of adopting the euro.

The slogan "New Labour, New Britain" was used by Tony Blair and the New Labour Party in their 1997 general election platform. However, after Blair's premiership ended in 2007, commentators concurred that his policies were largely a continuation of Thatcher's legacy rather than original ideas for a New Britain. In his book "Thatcher and Sons," author Simon Jenkins voiced the same views and is reported as saying, "Their project after 1994 may have been sold as tactical, but it was also an attempt to create a new kind of government." Nigel Lawson, who served as Chancellor of the Exchequer during Thatcher's presidency, further stated, "I was always a little surprised that he was in the Labour Party at all." He is unquestionably the least socialist leader of the Labour Party in its history, according to the data (Hinman 43). Blair's chief of staff Jonathan Powel acknowledged that Margaret Thatcher was a role model for him, demonstrating how much her thought had influenced Blair (Pugh and Carl 295).

One of the most outspoken critics of New Labour was Tony Benn. He reiterated Thatcher's earlier statement that the New Labour was her greatest achievement and described it as "a Conservative idea." He claimed that free market ideals were "anti-Labour ideas" and that Tony Blair wasn't "truly a Labour man" (Delaney).

Despite the heavy criticism, particularly from the lefties, Blair has often maintained his commitment to the Thatcherite policies, which he saw as irreversible: "I always thought my job was to build on some of the things she had done rather than reverse them" (BBC). Peter Mandelson, another member of the Labour Party who shared this viewpoint, declared provocatively in one of his essays in 2002 that "We are all Thatcherites now" (Tempest).

In The removal of closed shops, union elections, income controls, unlimited government intrusion, and the sale of council homes, according to authors Peter Pugh and Carl Flint in their book "Introducing Thatcherism," have all been implemented (292). Blair also controlled his cabinet in a Thatcherite and presidential manner. That is as Thatcherite as you can get, according to 295.

3.5 Conclusion

It may be argued that between 1979 and 1990, Thatcher brought about enormous changes in politics, the economy, and society, and that Britain is still, in some ways, a victim of Thatcherism. She frequently spoke in front of the public, expressing her wish to preserve Britain from losing its status as a superpower by reviving ideas like liberty, commercial adventure, individual opportunity, and self-reliance.

A new political consensus was represented in the modernization of the Labour Party. They adopted Thatcherism's neo-liberalism and reformed themselves inside party rivalry in order to avoid spending a generation in opposition, keep up with modern society, and keep up with globalization.

General Conclusion

What distinguishes British politics is the stark ideological divides between the major political parties. Until the end of the twentieth century, both the Labour Party and the Conservative Party represented strong political allegiances to socialism and capitalism, respectively.

However, after eighteen years in the political wilderness, the Labour Party had to reconsider its policy in order to become a viable political party. The architect of New Labour, Neil Kinnock, John Smith, and Peter Mandelson, modernized the Labour party and produced Tony Blair, who won three consecutive general elections until his retirement in 2007.

Although New Labour was not born in a vacuum; rather, it was the result of numerous political and economic reforms carried out by the conservatives between 1979 and 1997. Given that it was embraced by the majority of Britons, especially those who were alarmed by the "Winter of Discontent," Thatcherism was in many ways "democratized." In actuality, Thatcherism had ushered in a new era for the Conservative Party. The party adopted "New Right" policies, shifting its foundation away from the post-war political and economic mainstream and toward personal conviction. In addition to the free market theory and privatization, the party also accepted monetary policy, which was previously of negligible importance.

The goal was to revive the pride and vitality of a "nation in decline." Under the "rolling back of the state," as Thatcher put it, the political climate in Britain transformed. By arguing that they were hurting the British economy, Thatcher damaged the influence of the trade unions. Additionally, she opposed the European Economic Community because she believed it was trying to establish a super state in Europe in order to impose Britain's dominance in both economic and political matters. In fact, Thatcherism persisted in influencing succeeding British

governments and British politics even after Thatcher left her position as prime minister. Thatcherism was a significant turning point in British politics for these and other reasons.

The key factors were Tony Blair's significant contribution to the party's reorganization, his leadership qualities, and the participation of the New Labour architects. Along with the embrace of Thatcherite economic principles, the Conservative Party also has flaws and growing party divides.

This dissertation demonstrates how Thatcher drove the Labour Party to substantially revise its policies in order to comply with her government's political objectives. They accepted the modifications Thatcher had made. They did away with article VI, which required them to be nationalized, and embraced neo-liberal principles and a privatization strategy Leftists opposed to the New Labour initiative criticized this and accused Blair of being a Thatcherite.

They also attacked his rising conservatism. In spite of the distinctions between Thatcherism and Blairism, Blair's support for many of Thatcher's policies—which depart from Labour's principles—illustrates how Thatcherite he and his New Labour were. Despite their differences and parallels, Thatcherism and Blairism are still contentious and polarizing ideologies. The legacies of Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher continue to be a source of debate and disagreement.

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ملخص

شهدت السياسة البريطانية تغييرات كبيرة خلال القرن العشرين، حيث تشكلت أحزاب سياسية مختلفة لوضع سياسات مماثلة موضع التنفيذ. لقد قلبت التاتشرية السياسة البريطانية وكان لها تأثير سلبي كبير على حزب العمال. تدرس هذه الدراسة اللوائح التي شغلها توني بلير كزعيم لحزبي المحافظين والعمل من عام 1979 حتى استقالته في عام 2007. ويسعى إلى إظهار وفحص كيفية قبول حزب العمال الجديد بقيادة توني بلير للتاتشرية. يتم إجراء هذه التقييمات من خلال فحص أوجه التشابه والتناقض بين بلير والتاتشرية. وفيما يتعلق بمنهجية المقارنة، تم تطبيقها لكشف كلتا الأيديولوجيتين. أعاد حزب العمال تأسيس نفسه من خلال تبني نهج ليبرالي واعتبرت بلير استمرارًا لرأسمالية تاتشر مع الحفاظ على بعض المبادئ الاجتماعية. ومن هنا تم إنشاء مصطلح Blatcherism

الكلمات الرئيسية : التاتشرية، بليرية، المحافظة، العمل، بالتاتشرية