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**Popular Culture and Margaret Thatcher, the
Media Image of the “Iron Lady“**

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracovala samostatně a použila jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

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.....

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1 INTRODUCTION

I have chosen “Popular Culture and Margaret Thatcher, the Media Image of the Iron Lady” for a topic of my bachelor thesis. The main purpose of this thesis is to analyse Margaret Thatcher’s political life and her public image based on the British press and through popular culture and to compare it with the way in which she is generally perceived these days.

Margaret Thatcher was a leader of the Conservative Party and became the first female Prime Minister of Britain in 1979. She was known for her attacks on labour organisations and the massive privatisation of social housing and public transport.

The thesis is divided into two parts – a theoretical part and an analytical part. The first part provides general information on her political career and then concentrates on her three terms as Prime Minister. This section is ended with the chapter on Thatcher’s life after politics. For example, she wrote books about her experience as a world leader as Prime Minister. Then, it is followed by a chapter about her death and funeral. The very last chapter is devoted to the relationships she had with her husband Denis Thatcher and, more importantly, with Ronald Reagan with whom Thatcher shared similar right-wing and pro-corporate political philosophies. I have included the details and articles from selected British press outlets.

The analytical part is focused mainly on a documentary, the film (*The Iron Lady*). I provide a complete analysis of this film in which I focus on the content, costumes or soundtrack. Furthermore, I analyse what parts of Thatcher’s life were emphasised by filmmakers and what parts were not. This part exploring the film is also accompanied by a chapter that discusses reactions by critics and awards. The second part is devoted to the analysis of selected songs on the *YouTube* platform, particularly the 1980s songs. I am going to analyse her mainstream media in order to determinate whether this tends to be negative, positive or neutral. The purpose of this section is to show the present image and legacy of Margaret Thatcher.

The primary sources used for the theoretical part are for instance *A Portrait of the Iron Lady* presenting her whole life as well as *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. For the second part *Popular Culture, Geopolitics, and Identity* and *Popular Culture and World Politics: Theories, Methods, Pedagogies*. Both of them describe Popular Culture perfectly. Other sources also include newspaper articles published by the British press, such as *The Independent*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Sun*, *The Guardian* or *The Daily Mirror*.

2 EARLY LIFE 1925 – 1947

Knowledge of the early life and the study background of Margaret Thatcher as a tool to understanding what she achieved later in her life.

2.1 Childhood

Margaret Thatcher was born in Grantham, Lincolnshire in the UK on October 13, 1925. Her maiden name was Margaret Hilda Roberts. Roberts' Methodist family was a lower-middle-class. Her father owned a grocery shop, above which they lived. Alfred Roberts (the father) worked as a grocer, but he was also a town councilman and for a short period Grantham's mayor. Beatrice Roberts (the mother) worked as a dressmaker. Margaret Roberts was working in the family shop likewise. Her main job there was counting the change and weighing the flour. This helped her to learn how to be frugal, to save and to understand the principles of the industry. ¹

2.2 Education

Margaret Roberts did not attend any public school (Eton or Harrow) as most of the British aristocracy did. She went to a Grammar School. As a student, she was very hard working, and she was aware of her unnatural power. Thanks to her effort she made, she was accepted in Oxford University at Somerville College in October 1943. This college was only for women. ²

She studied Chemistry which helped her politically as she was a president of the university's Conservative Association. However, she received a second degree in Chemistry which did not help her academically. She was concerned not to be that intelligent as expected. For two years she attended two years of part-time study to pass the bar exam and become a

¹ BERLINSKI, Claire. *"There is no alternative": why Margaret Thatcher matters*. New York: Basic Books, 2008, p. 15-17.

² BERLINSKI, Claire. *"There is no alternative": why Margaret Thatcher matters*. New York: Basic Books, 2008, p. 17.

lawyer. During the study, she was working full-time as a research chemist. By that time Margaret aimed for elections to the Parliament.³

2.3 Relation towards her parents

Margaret's relationship towards her parents was significant too, mostly in the way of how they influenced her. Margaret Thatcher always appreciated her father more than her mother. The British newspaper *The Independent* published an article in which their relationship is nicely described. "*I loved her dearly,*" *Lady Thatcher said of her mother in an interview in the Daily Express in 1961, "but after I was 15 we had nothing more to say to each other."*⁴ Her elder sister Muriel bared resemblance to their mother. There was a special bond between them that young Margaret did not want to interfere with. Another reason was that her mother was not interested in politics at all. She was more a landlady. Therefore she formed more of a bond with her father who introduced his daughter into world trade to her daughter and the complexity of the free market.⁵

Her father was Grantham's mayor. Thus he took part in political life. His position as a Wesleyan lay preacher gave him plenty of opportunities to be a public speaker. He passed those experiences on to Margaret, and during her childhood, she became a public speaker as well. Every Sunday she was reading from the pulpit.⁶

³ BERLINSKI, Claire. *"There is no alternative": why Margaret Thatcher matters*. New York: Basic Books, 2008, p. 18-19.

⁴ The Independent. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/the-woman-who-brought-up-margaret-thatcher-8570609.html>. [Retrieved 24 January 2018].

⁵ The Independent. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/the-woman-who-brought-up-margaret-thatcher-8570609.html>. [Retrieved 24 January 2018].

⁶ BERLINSKI, Claire. *"There is no alternative": why Margaret Thatcher matters*. New York: Basic Books, 2008, p. 16.

3 EARLY FORAY INTO POLITICS 1948 – 1959

This chapter is focused on Margaret Thatcher's two attempts to win a Parliament seat, her personal life, and political career.

After university studies, young Margaret Roberts was looking for a job and went through many job interviews. She started working for a firm BX Plastics in Manningtree, Essex and joined the local Conservative Party. By that time she lived in the town called Colchester. She participated in the Conservative Party annual conference in 1948 representing the Oxford University Conservative Association. Dartford Kent constituency officials offered her to run for them. Margaret was the youngest candidate on January 31, 1949; she was only 23 years old. One of the most critical months was February 1949. Her name was put on the list of candidates post ante by the party's HQ. She received 100% support of the entire constituency. At her formal meeting, on which she was pledged, she also met businessman Denis Thatcher who liked her speech. Margaret Roberts started to feel some discomfort on account of the distance between Essex and Kent and decided to quit BX Plastics. She moved to central London and joined J Lyons as a research chemist.⁷

In 1950 the General Election was held, Margaret, who was only 24, was running for the Parliament. She was in the right position. She was young, single and attractive, lived close to London and was close to the media. Another General Election was held shortly. Margaret Thatcher moved to a small apartment in London. She lived close to Denis Thatcher in St. George's Square Mews, Pimlico. She was occupied with politics and meetings during the weekends. Their relationship started to be more serious.⁸ In 1951 Margaret Roberts, aged 25, failed in the Election for the second time. The same year Denis Thatcher proposed Margaret to marry

⁷ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008. p. 35-36.

⁸ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008. p. 36-38.

him and so they were engaged.⁹ Winston Churchill was Prime Minister from 1951 – 1955 and the Conservative Party won.¹⁰

Margaret Roberts and Denis Thatcher got married in December 1951 in London, at Wesley's Chapel. On her wedding day, Lady Thatcher was wearing the blue velvet dress and the hat of the same colour with the white ostrich feather as a decoration. The family of Roberts was Methodist, and the Methodist wedding was her father's wish also the last significant bow to her father.¹¹

As she was interested in law, Margaret Thatcher started to study it and became a barrister. The year 1953 was a lucky one because twins were born to Margaret and Denis, they named them Mark and Carol. Only four months after giving birth she passed her bar exam and officially became a barrister. That made it possible for her to join Chambers as a pupil.¹²

Another General Election in 1955 was won by the Conservative Party resulting in Prime Minister Anthony Eden. Margaret Thatcher decided not to run in 1955 as she was a young mother. She did run the Elections in 1959. Inhabitants of Britain were a little bit unsure, and after giving a speech, they kept asking her whether it was possible for her to be an MP with two young children. Margaret Thatcher felt very confident. She was able to organise her life not the least thanks to the support from her husband and a nanny. In 1958 she ran for a seat in Finchley in north London. Sir John Crowder was retiring as MP. Margaret was eager to win the seat. Therefore, she did research on Finchley and current local issues. She worked on her speech to be perfect and even more confident. Margaret Thatcher became MP for Finchley on October 8, 1959. She was 34 years old.¹³

⁹ BERLINSKI, Claire. *"There is no alternative": why Margaret Thatcher matters*. New York: Basic Books, 2008, p. 18-19.

¹⁰ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008. p. 39.

¹¹ WAPSHOTT, Nicholas. *Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher: a political marriage*. New York, N.Y.: Sentinel, 2007, p. 30-31.

¹² BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008. p. 40-41.

¹³ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008. p. 42-44.

4 POLITICAL LIFE 1959 – 1979

On 5 February 1960, Margaret Thatcher gave a speech in which she presented her first piece of legislation concerning a private member's bill. She was able to organise labour and trade union power. For example, the press was not allowed to be a part of their meetings. She became minister of pensions in October 1961 (for three years) under Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan. The less important ministry led rather by women. She took the lead and started to work on issues such as national insurance. The year 1964 was the year the Labour Party won the General Election. At that time her marriage was in danger as she was preoccupied with politics.¹⁴

4.1 Opposition

The Conservative Party was in opposition from 1964 to 1970. Party leader Alec Douglas-Home resigned and was replaced by Edward Heath, for whom Margaret Thatcher also voted. During the years in opposition, she filled in several positions. The most important ones were in the shadow cabinet and secretary of education. In the time of opposition, Margaret travelled abroad for self-improving purposes. She visited the United States in 1967 and 1969, but also Sweden, Israel, and the Soviet Union. The two trips to the USA were crucial. She liked its inhabitants' energy. Margaret thought of United States as an example and model for the United Kingdom. She got inspired by their belief in free market and the fiscal regime.¹⁵

4.2 Education Secretary

The General Election followed in June 1970, and the Conservative Party won. Edward Heath appointed Margaret Thatcher his Secretary for Education. She was a proponent of grammar schools and universities. She was very determined and even respected by the civil servants, but they were

¹⁴ CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 13-14.

¹⁵ CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 15-16.

not overly keen on her because she was never that interested in them. Thatcher made some decisions as secretary. She wanted to cancel *Circular 10/65* talking about adoption of a comprehensive school. She worked on politics made by Labour government. Open University was something she believed in and in what she saw an educational opportunity even though her cabinet colleagues disagreed.¹⁶

The British press *The Independent* wrote of her; “As *Education Secretary in Edward Heath’s government her decision in 1971 to stop the provision of milk for junior school pupils prompted the playground taunt “Thatcher, Thatcher, milk snatcher.”*¹⁷

To her saving money, it was more important than free milk for children. Through this step, she became very unpopular in Britain. It took two years for this affair to subside. Heath’s government was in trouble. Because of the miner strikes, they only worked three days a week. Edward Heath aimed to restrict growing trade union militancy; the inflation was rising. Thatcher was against the trade unions militancy, on the other hand, she supported a policy of U-turns. The General Election in February 1974 won the Labour Party, and Heath resigned.¹⁸

4.3 The leader of the Conservative Party

The Conservative MPs did not want Heath as a leader. They were eager for a change; they did not vote for Margaret because her policies were different. The MPs did not even know her opinion on many issues. She found herself in a weak position because of her gender and her humble social origins. Even though, Thatcher worked diligently and tried to do better. She asked Gordon Reece (television producer) for help, regarding what to wear and how to speak. The Soviet Union was being set on world

¹⁶ CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 17-18.

¹⁷ The Independent. [online]. 2016. Available from: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/margaret-thatcher-regretted-snatching-milk-from-school-children-for-two-decades-a7500171.html>. [Retrieved 27 January 2018].

¹⁸ CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 18-20.

domination. In her two speeches, she denounced the Soviet Union. For that the press wrote; *“Evans, in his file that day from Moscow, wrote, “British Tory leader Margaret Thatcher was today dubbed ‘the Iron Lady’ by the Soviet Defense Ministry newspaper Red Star.”*¹⁹

The period (1975 – 1978) before another election was called the “winter of discontent.” Miners were on strike as they wanted higher wages. Petrol stations were closed, and ambulances did not operate. In her elaborated campaign she claimed that Labour could not be in control. She wanted to restore Britain’s greatness. Her majority in Finchley was now doubled to 7,878. She became the first female Prime Minister on 4 May 1979, and her life in 10 Downing Street began.²⁰

¹⁹ The Washington. [online]. 2013. Available from: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2013/04/08/irony-lady-how-a-moscow-propagandist-gave-margaret-thatcher-her-famous-nickname/?utm_term=.11c0b0f7cd31. [Retrieved 28 January 2018].

²⁰ CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 20-27.

5 MARGARET THATCHER'S PREMIERSHIP 1979 – 1990

Friday 4 May 1979 – *The Guardian*; “*Thatcher takes over No. 10. Voting split in regions dims Tories’ high hopes.*”²¹ *Daily Mirror*; “*Maggie’s made it! Now for No.10.”it’s wonderful!*”²²

The period of her power is called Thatcherism. She was elected as Prime Minister three times in a row, thus for 11 consecutive years. Margaret Thatcher changed economic policies. Moreover, as her campaign marketing man *Maurice Saatchi* said; “*She developed all the winning arguments of our time – free markets, low tax, a small state, independence, individuality, self-determination.*”²³

That is also related to the idea of the American dream which was promised to be restored by American President Ronald Reagan in 1980. According to his statement, America was a place where “*everyone can rise as high and far as his ability will take him.*”²⁴ Reagan’s vision of the American dream was to cut taxes and reduce government social programs. As the economy revived and was growing, it helped Reagan win the re-election in 1984. Critics referred to deficits, and they had doubts whether cutting taxes would revive the American dream for all the people, or only for the privileged ones.²⁵

²¹ The Guardian. [online]. 2011. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/theguardian/from-the-archive-blog/2011/jun/02/guardian190-thatcher-is-pm-1979>. [Retrieved 28 January 2018].

²² The Daily Mirror. [online]. 2013. Available from: <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/margaret-thatcher-dead-leading-political-1818674>. [Retrieved 29 January 2018].

²³ The Guardian. [online]. 2013. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/apr/08/what-is-thatcherism-margaret-thatcher>. [Retrieved 30 January 2018].

²⁴ HowStuffWorks. [online]. Available from: <https://people.howstuffworks.com/american-dream4.htm>. [Retrieved 30 January 2018].

²⁵ HowStuffWorks. [online]. Available from: <https://people.howstuffworks.com/american-dream4.htm>. [Retrieved 30 January 2018].

6 FIRST TERM 1979 – 1982

She named her allies Geoffrey Howe Chancellor of the Exchequer, Joseph, her secretary for industry and Carrington for foreign policy. Between years 1979 – 1981, there were still problems with high inflation, risen prices, unemployment, and strikes. Howe presented in his first budget cutting of income tax (from 33% to 30%), value-added tax doubled to 15%. From October 1979 it was stated that the value was controlled by foreign exchange markets and not by the government. In his third budget, the duty increased on petrol, alcohol, cigarettes and reduced government borrowings. Many of economists were dissatisfied with present policies.²⁶

6.1 Domestic policy

Thatcher was preoccupied with the sale of council houses; it is well known that people were able to purchase and own their property. In 1980, according to The Housing Act, 5 million council house tenants were given purchase rights. The second area of domestic policy was Northern Ireland. Her main aim here was the instinctive unionism. She never conceded to Irish terrorism, but Dublin and Washington were interested in this topic. In December 1980 IRA (Irish Republican Army) prisoners were on strike, and British delegation visited Dublin to meet with the Taoiseach, Charles Haughey. Thatcher started to be involved in foreign policy affairs.²⁷

6.2 International policy

Thatcher did not have much experience as a high-level diplomat. However, she wanted Britain to be great again internationally. She got on well with her Foreign Secretary Carrington; he was well travelled. He taught her intricacies of international affairs. Rhodesia was the first triumph of Thatcher and the last British imperial colony in South Africa. White minority and black people went into the Cold War as a result of which Ian Smith

²⁶ CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 29-33.

declared independence but Britain did not agree. After meeting at Lusaka in 1979, Britain hosted a constitutional conference at Lancaster House. They appointed a temporary governor and held General Election for all Africans. Temporary governor, Soames was sent out by Thatcher. He successfully supervised election in February 1980. Above all in April Zimbabwe became independent. Thatcher was very uncompromising with European Communities (EC) and with Brussels bureaucracy. She aimed to reduce the cost of British membership (£1 billion). In Dublin 1979 she refused EC's proposal cut of £350 million. At the meeting in Luxemburg in May 1980, Carrington accepted the agreement of £760 million offered by EC in April 1980.²⁸

Margaret Thatcher visited Moscow, where she met with the Soviet Prime Minister, Alexi Kosygin, in June 1979. In particular, when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, she was even more dissatisfied then than with the occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968. In fact, for her, the relation with the United States was essential. She went to Washington in 1981 to meet with new President Ronald Reagan. They were different personalities; still, it worked well between them. They were against the Soviet Union yet, together they were in agreement on liberty and free-market and cutting taxes. It is possible to consider her visit as a great success.²⁹

6.3 The speech “The lady’s not for turning”

She delivered her most famous speech in October 1980 at the conservative conference. She was urged mostly by Heath to change her economic policy regarding the unemployment and economy in recession. She refused to change, and she was very determined. Sir Roland Millar, her speechwriter, who inserted the line “you turn” advised her to put stress and emphasised the “you.” The speech was greatly received by all the

²⁷ CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 33.

²⁸ CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 34-37.

participants.³⁰ One of the most popular quotes on tenacity from her speech was selected by *The Independent*, "To those waiting with bated breath for that favourite media catchphrase, the U-turn, I have only one thing to say: You turn if you want to. The lady's not for turning."³¹

6.4 Summer of discontent

Thatcher's domestic policy did not work well in spring 1981. Unemployment, wages, prices, and inflation were rising. There were riots all over Britain related to high unemployment. Later in 1981, Thatcher was the most unpopular premier because of her performances on Poll Tax. The Labour Party was going more to the left. The new Party Social Democratic (SDP) was established. By spring 1982, there were three major parties; Labour, SDP Alliance, and the Conservatives. The most unpopular was still the Conservative Party, and it did not look surely as a winner of another election.³²

6.5 The Falklands War

It took eleven weeks to fight and win the Falkland Islands, situated in the South Atlantic. Britain did not concede to give up these islands neither did the Islanders. What they wanted was to defend their honour as a nation.

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On 5 and 6 April 1982, naval force sailed from Portsmouth. Ronald Reagan was not involved but Caspar Weinberg, the American secretary of defence, provided military assistance. He let them use their island in mid-Atlantic where they were granted permission to refuel, not to mention acceleration of the missiles. On May 2, 323 people died in Argentinians'

²⁹ CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 37-38.

³⁰ CRINES, Andrew Scott, HEPPELL, Timothy. DOREY, Peter. *The political rhetoric and oratory of Margaret Thatcher*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. p. 89-91.

³¹ The Independent. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/iv-drip/the-ladys-not-for-turning-margaret-thatchers-best-quotes-8564574.html>. [Retrieved 1 February 2018].

³² CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 39-44.

³³ THATCHER, Margaret. *The Downing Street years*. London: HarperCollins, 1993. p. 146.

cruiser sank by the Brits. 20 soldiers died in British destroyer sank by Argentinians on 4 May. It was followed by the landing of 3000 troops on the Falklands. The British were winning. The Port Stanley combat lasted for four days, and finally, it was recaptured by British troops on 14 June 1982. The day after, over 11,000 Argentine troops surrendered to the United Kingdom. Due to that victory, Thatcher's political prospects were extensively transformed. She took a serious risk, but she proved herself to be the "*Iron Lady*." Thatcher welcomed them in Portsmouth where the victory parade was arranged for the soldiers. It cost £3 billion to replace ships and to maintain British military personnel. The Falkland victory was Thatcher's triumph, but it would not happen without the American assistance by Weinberg.³⁴

³⁴ CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 47-51.

7 SECOND TERM 1983 – 1987

The Conservative Party won the General Election in June 1983 with a result of 42.4 percent. Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister for another term. Her clothing style and performing became to be regal and also she began to use the majestic plural “we” in her speeches. ³⁵

7.1 Domestic policy

She presented her radical policies with a certain determination. It concerned reforms in the public sector, first and most importantly education, NHS (National Health Service), trade unions and privatisation. Her main aim was to create a free economy. She started her privatisation program. In 1984 the state shares in British Telecom were sold. Later in 1986 privatisation of British Gas was realised. As a result was that they sold shares to the public, to ordinary people. She was indeed satisfied with this program as it was advantageous. In *The Telegraph* they mentioned; “*During the Thatcher years, more than 50 companies were sold or privatised – including the dozens from the power and water industries – raising more than £50bn for the Exchequer.*” ³⁶ She wanted people to be independent, responsible and to have a possibility of calling something their own. ³⁷

Another transformation concerns trade unions. According to the acts in 1984, 1988 and 1990, the individual workers had more rights and the power of trade unions was cut off, for instance, the closed shops were one of the consequences. The union membership was dropping; meanwhile, the ownership of shares of trade unionists was rising. ³⁸

³⁵ CANNADINE, David. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 55-58.

³⁶ The Telegraph. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/alistair-osborne/9980292/Margaret-Thatcher-one-policy-that-led-to-more-than-50-companies-being-sold-or-privatised.html>. [Retrieved 4 February 2018].

³⁷ CRINES, Andrew Scott, HEPPELL, Timothy. DOREY, Peter. *The political rhetoric and oratory of Margaret Thatcher*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, p. 95-96.

³⁸ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008. p. 128-129.

7.2 IRA (Irish Republican Army)

One of the victims killed by the IRA was Airey Neave, Thatcher's right-hand man, in 1979. The Catholic supporters of IRA wanted Northern Ireland to be part of the Republic of Ireland. However, Thatcher did not accept their violent means rather than the political ones. Since she became, Prime Minister IRA murdered many people and soldiers. Number one target was also Margaret Thatcher after the terrorists' protests and hunger strikes. Her annual party conference took place in Brighton in October 1984. They threw a giant bomb into the Grand hotel where they were staying, few hours after midnight, that time she was awake as she was preparing her speech for the next day. Margaret Thatcher survived but many others were injured, and five people died. She gave a very successful speech the next day in which she declared; "*all attempts to destroy democracy by terrorism will fail.*"³⁹ The Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed by Margaret Thatcher and Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald, in November 1985, stating regular conferences between Britain and Ireland on topics like politics and security.⁴⁰

7.3 International policy

Thatcher was supported by Ronald Reagan, and he made efforts to help her with the IRA issue and America also helped Britain during the Falklands War. For those reasons, American soldiers were allowed to bomb Libya from UK bases in 1986, as agreed by Thatcher and Reagan. Libya's Colonel Gaddafi helped the IRA. Thatcher considered herself as anti-communist and enemy to the Soviet Union. The leader of Soviet Union was Mikhail Gorbachev from 1985. After the meeting, where Thatcher and Gorbachev talked together, she described him as somebody; "*we can do*

³⁹ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008. p. 135.

⁴⁰ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008. p. 128-129.

business with.” Their political systems were different but one matter they had in common, to stop the Cold War and never fight again. ⁴¹

⁴¹ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008. p. 133, 144.

8 THIRD TERM 1987 – 1990

She became Prime Minister for the third time in 1987. In this term, reforms were supposed to be focused on public services. First reforms were applied in education; state schools were liberated from local authorities, and more importantly, they founded a national curriculum. The Department of Environment met with disappointment. They did not succeed in improving public housing estates. Margaret Thatcher avoided reforming the National Health Service. For this reason, people were more uneasy as there were inadequate facilities and long queues. Chancellor Nigel Lawson's presented in his budget in 1988, the rate of income tax was cut to 25%, and the higher one was cut to 40%. He required of Margaret Thatcher to enter into the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM). Mrs Thatcher disputed with her other colleagues about ERM and mainly about European integration, in general, because she was great Eurosceptic. She also refused to agree on the proposed Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) which was presented before June 1988 at Madrid European Council by Jacques Delors. Afterwards, Howe and Lawson were ejected from their functions.⁴²

8.1 The Bruges Speech

On September 20, 1988, Margaret Thatcher was invited to the College of Europe at Bruges to give a speech. This speech was not a success; it was a rather infamous one. In this speech, she gave her opinion on the European integration process. She intended for collective cooperation among the states but not under the condition of taking decisions by appointed bureaucracy, centralised in Brussel. At this time people saw it as a sign of xenophobia. She completed her speech with a warning against Utopian goals; *"Utopia never comes," she said. "We should not like it if it*

⁴² The Telegraph. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/margaret-thatcher/8094213/Margaret-Thatcher-obituary-Life-during-her-third-term-in-office.html>. [Retrieved 4 February 2018].

did."⁴³ The Belgian Prime Minister disagreed with her statement, claiming that European unification is based on peace and prosperity and not on a utopian concept.⁴⁴

8.2 Resignation

Thatcher did not stand much chance to win the next election. She lost Howe and Lawson; Bruges speech was unpopular. In the year 1990, she made one of her worst decision. They accepted a reform called Community Charge, also the Poll Tax. This meant that adults had to pay a fixed payment to their local authorities. The Central London erupted into riots. The Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe could not stand what was happening at that time and how she attacked Jacques Delors. Therefore, he resigned. Thatcher won the first ballot on 20 November 1990 with 204 votes. The second ballot on 27 November 1990 won John Major, her Foreign Secretary and he became the leader of the Conservative Party.⁴⁵ Margaret Thatcher left her flat at 10 Downing Street with her eyes filled with tears and with words; *"We're leaving Downing Street for the last time after eleven-and-a half wonderful years, and we're happy to leave the UK in a very much better state than when we came here."*⁴⁶

⁴³ BERLINSKI, Claire. *"There is no alternative": why Margaret Thatcher matters*. New York: Basic Books, c2008, p. 322.

⁴⁴ BERLINSKI, Claire. *"There is no alternative": why Margaret Thatcher matters*. New York: Basic Books, c2008, p. 321-323.

⁴⁵ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008, p. 157-163.

⁴⁶ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008, p. 163.

9 LIFE AFTER POLITICS

This chapter examines what Lady Thatcher was doing after her premiership.

After 11 and half years Margaret Thatcher did not leave the public and political life. She spent time writing her memories, today's best sellers – *The Downing Street Years* (1993), *The Path to Power* (1995) and in 2002 she wrote *Statecraft*, based on the international affair experiences. In June 1992 she was titled as Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven and became a member of the House of Lords. ⁴⁷

As we learned from previous chapters, Thatcher was an opponent of the European Union and federalising Europe. She continued to talk about this issue in her speech in 1993 from the House of Lords. She believed in the principles of constitutional freedom, democratic institutions and Parliamentary responsibility to the people. For those reasons, Thatcher supported neither the Maastricht Treaty nor the ERM. ⁴⁸

Lady Thatcher established The Margaret Thatcher Foundation. Money raised from her speeches went, of course, to that foundation and were used as a help for international students. She established the Chair of Enterprise Studies at Cambridge. ⁴⁹

Thatcher made three journeys to the United States. First one was in 2004 for the Ronald Reagan's funeral, her beloved friend. Two years later she visited the States for Caspar Weinberg funeral, her supporter during the Falklands War. In September, the same year, she attended a memorial service in Washington D.C. devoted to the 5th anniversary of the terrorist attack on World Trade Centre in New York. ⁵⁰

⁴⁷ The Telegraph. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/margaret-thatcher/8094280/Margaret-Thatcher-obituary-Life-after-politics.html>. [Retrieved 7 February 2018].

⁴⁸ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008, p. 169.

⁴⁹ The Telegraph. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/margaret-thatcher/8094280/Margaret-Thatcher-obituary-Life-after-politics.html>. [Retrieved 7 February 2018].

⁵⁰ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008, p. 169-170.

Besides travelling to the USA, in 2009 Margaret Thatcher was invited to the Vatican, where she met with Pope Benedict XVI during a private audience. In her honour, Thatcher's sculpture was placed in the House of Parliament in September 2007, and her official portrait hangs in Downing Street. They paid tribute to her for what she did for Britain. Her health condition was getting worst since her first series of a heart attack in 2002, and she was advised by her doctor to rest more. Thatcher's husband, Denis Thatcher, died in 2003. The short-term loss of memory was caused by dementia she was diagnosed with as her daughter Carol mentioned.⁵¹

Lady Thatcher came back again to 10 Downing Street in June 2010 as a guest of David Cameron and was invited to participate in a dinner party at Aitken's house. *"Mr Aitken, a former Tory minister, told the Sunday Telegraph: 'I had one member of the cabinet (at the table) who asked something about David Cameron. She obviously didn't get who David Cameron was. I can't ever say I felt protective to her when she was in power, but I felt very lovingly protective towards her then.'"*⁵²

⁵¹ The Telegraph. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/margaret-thatcher/8081180/Margaret-Thatcher-dies-life-after-office.html>. [Retrieved 9 February 2018].

⁵² The Daily Mail. [online]. 2012. Available from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2086941/Margaret-Thatcher-dementia-The-Iron-Lady-didnt-know-David-Cameron-was.html>. [Retrieved 9 February 2018].

10 MARGARET THATCHER'S DEATH

Having another stroke, Margaret Thatcher died on April 8, 2013. She died in the Ritz hotel in London. The following days till her funeral were dedicated to her political colleagues, who gave speeches to pay honour to the Britain's first female Prime Minister.⁵³

10.1 Responses by politicians

At the time when Thatcher died, the leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister was David Cameron. He gave a speech in the House of Commons on behalf of the Conservative Party. In his statement, Cameron was talking about Thatcher's policy and her personality. He talked of her as a great Prime Minister, let alone an extraordinary leader. Cameron appreciated her work and everything she made for Britain after the post-war decline as well as her belief in democracy and keeping the British currency. In his speech, David Cameron did not forget to mention Thatcher's family, her husband, who always stood by her side, her two children Carol and Mark and her grandchildren. He talked of her as a powerful person, who was not afraid to fight for the rights and better country even though, she was a female politician. She definitely was a national, conviction politician, who also had a relevant position abroad. David Cameron closed his remarkable speech with the affirmation that; "*she made our country great again.*"⁵⁴

More than 150 Labour MPs rejected to attend the tribute session for Margaret Thatcher. Which resulted in an article in *The Sun* saying; "*150 MPS snub Commons Maggie tribute.*"⁵⁵

On behalf of the Labour Party in opposition, the speech was given by the Leader Ed Miliband. In his speech, he was focused on her personal achievements and political career. He called her person who "*broke the*

⁵³ HADLEY, Louisa. *Responding to Margaret Thatcher's death*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. Palgrave pivot, p. 2.

⁵⁴ HADLEY, Louisa. *Responding to Margaret Thatcher's death*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. Palgrave pivot, p. 38-42.

⁵⁵ The Huffington Post UK. [online]. 2013. Available from: http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/04/10/the-sun-and-daily-mirror-_n_3056232.html. [Retrieved 10 February 2018].

mould” because of her gender and that she was the first female Prime Minister. He appreciated her economic policy, attitude to Falklands and warning of the climate changes threat. On the other side, Miliband criticised Thatcher for the Poll Tax mistake and her opinion on integrated Europe. Nevertheless, he paid respect to her and her death.⁵⁶

Moreover, how was the response from all over the world? She had a great relationship with the United States, particularly with Ronald Reagan. Former President Barack Obama appreciated her for the principals of freedom and liberty and that she strengthened the UK and USA relationship. The situation in Eastern Europe was similar. Margaret Thatcher brought about the end of the Cold War and Communism. Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, former Czech President Václav Klaus and German Chancellor Angela Merkel paid tribute to Margaret Thatcher for what she did in Eastern Europe.⁵⁷

Also, British press covered Thatcher’s death. In particular, *The Daily Mirror* presented it with the headline; *“The woman who divided a nation.”*⁵⁸ *The Independent*, on the other hand, wrote; *“the woman who changed Britain.”* They commented her life as; *“She was one of the two great prime ministers that the United Kingdom has had since the Second World War.”* Or as *“And denationalisation, or “privatisation” as Mrs Thatcher called it, was one of the most prominent aspects of her period in 10 Downing Street. Indeed we largely live in Thatcher’s Britain.”*⁵⁹

⁵⁶ HADLEY, Louisa. *Responding to Margaret Thatcher's death*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. Palgrave pivot, p. 42-44.

⁵⁷ HADLEY, Louisa. *Responding to Margaret Thatcher's death*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. Palgrave pivot, p. 46-48.

⁵⁸ The Telegraph. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/margaret-thatcher/9980529/Margaret-Thatcher-how-the-papers-covered-her-death.html>. [Retrieved 11 February 2018].

⁵⁹ The Telegraph. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/margaret-thatcher/9980529/Margaret-Thatcher-how-the-papers-covered-her-death.html>. [Retrieved 11 February 2018].

10.2 Margaret Thatcher's funeral

The funeral took place on April 17, 2013. The funeral service was held in the St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Her granddaughter Amanda was the first person who gave a speech, followed by the former Prime Minister David Cameron, according to Thatcher's request. In the day of her funeral, they did not think of her as a politician figured but the remembered her as a mother, grandmother, and wife. There was a great deal of speculation about how much money was spent on Thatcher's funeral. According to BBC, the state spent £1.2 million. Critics claimed that a funeral is believed to be a concern of dead's family or friends. Former Prime Minister David Cameron defended her. When she was in power, £75 billion was secured from the European Union during the British rebate.⁶⁰

A considerable number of people were anti-Thatcher and were protesting during the funeral. The slogan referred to left-wing members. *The Sun* described the protestors as; "*ragtag bunch of Lefties.*"⁶¹

⁶⁰ HADLEY, Louisa. *Responding to Margaret Thatcher's death*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. Palgrave pivot. p. 84-86.

⁶¹ HADLEY, Louisa. *Responding to Margaret Thatcher's death*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. Palgrave pivot. p. 91.

11 RELATIONSHIP WITH MEN

Many men dominated in Thatcher's life. This chapter is focused on the two most important men in her life, her husband Denis Thatcher and her close political friend Ronald Reagan.

11.1 Denis Thatcher

Margaret and Denis met in 1949. It was not loved at first sight; not least the first impression was tepid. In that time Margaret was only 23, and Denis was 36. When he proposed to her, Lady Thatcher had to think about it as she never thought about getting married, she loved politics. In 1951 they got married.⁶² She expressed herself; *'But the more I considered, the surer I was. More than 40 years later I know that my decision to say "yes" was one of the best I have ever made.'*⁶³

He was a successful businessman. Thus he was wealthy. It is true that his money helped Margaret to build her career as a politician. He was old fashioned and expected his wife to take care of the house and the children. He was a decent husband always present when she needed him. Denis Thatcher was a clever man of a good character. Mr Thatcher always supported his wife and stood by her side during and after her political career.

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11.2 Ronald Reagan

Both Margaret and Ronald were concerned about their countries after the Second World War, and the economy was in decline, so the "New Right" policies were to be implemented. In 1970 they were not seen as future leaders. Reagan as a former governor of California had a vision for the state of low taxes; he was the anti-communist and balanced budget. They first

⁶² The Daily Mail. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2313440/Margaret-Thatchers-marriage-ended-divorce-husband-Denis-suffered-nervous-breakdown.html>. [Retrieved 12 February 2018].

⁶³ The Daily Mail. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2313440/Margaret-Thatchers-marriage-ended-divorce-husband-Denis-suffered-nervous-breakdown.html>. [Retrieved 12 February 2018].

met during his speech in 1969 where Thatcher liked his political views. Another meeting in 1975 which was supposed to be short but they spent 2 hours together. When he became President of United States in 1980, Mrs Thatcher was contented. ⁶⁵ *“Reagan and Thatcher were both glamorous figures who, striding the world stage, appeared to agree on almost everything. As in many successful marriages, the pair were quite the opposite in character. Reagan was an eternal optimist, a sunny extrovert. Thatcher, by contrast, was a wholly practical, no-nonsense woman whose aggressive pursuit of argument and hectic, meddling governing style.”* ⁶⁶

From that time their special political relationship had begun, and they started with the adaptation of monetary system. Monetarism is considered as a success in foreign affairs. Thus they supported each other and not as a direct policy transfer.⁶⁷

One of their mutual objectives and issues was the expansion of economic freedom and the reduction of government not to mention the government’s place in people’s lives. Right after their first meeting, Mr Reagan called them as “soul mates” when it comes to their shared ideology and political system. ⁶⁸

One of the strong impacts was developing an enterprise zone to unify taxation. Thatcher borrowed inspiration from Reagan in the field of Trade Unions to defeat strikes. She was given the support of an American president. ⁶⁹

Privatisation and regulation of industries were more an issue for Britain and Thatcher than Reagan’s. The USA did not have that many

⁶⁴ The Daily Mail, [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2307709/Margaret-Denis-Thatcher-Why-think-know-wrong.html>. [Retrieved 16 February 2018].

⁶⁵ COOPER, James. *Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan a very political special relationship*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, p. 4-7.

⁶⁶ WAPSHOTT, Nicholas. *Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher: a political marriage*. New York, N.Y.: Sentinel, 2007, p. xi.

⁶⁷ COOPER, James. *Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan a very political special relationship*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, p. 69-70.

⁶⁸ WAPSHOTT, Nicholas. *Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher: a political marriage*. New York, N.Y.: Sentinel, 2007, p. 88-89.

⁶⁹ COOPER, James. *Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan a very political special relationship*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, p. 182-183.

industries to sell to shareholders as Britain had. Their opinions were slightly different in this problematic. During the Carter-Reagan epoch deregulation was one of the mutual themes in America. The fact is that the regulatory developments in America were exceeded by Britain's regulation. An extent of it was very large that in 1990 American regulators were noticed by British techniques. That means that the United States was deregulating while Britain was regulating.⁷⁰

For Thatcher and Reagan, the period of the Falklands War was crucial. It also tested the strength of their relationship. At the very beginning of the War, Ronald Reagan sent the message to Margaret, and he claimed; *"I want you to know how we have valued your cooperation on the challenges we both face in many different parts of the world. We will do what we can to assist you here. Sincerely, Ron."*⁷¹

Ronald was concerned about the relations between the US and Argentina in the case of military operations against the Falkland Islands as he was equally friend with both states. Ronald tried to persuade Margaret not to invade, but unsuccessfully. The UK and the USA have always had a very strong relationship, and because of their friendship and sharing democracy values, it was, though, impossible for the USA to remain neutral during the Falklands War. Thus, he declared his support for the British. Even when the War was about to start, Reagan again tried to persuade her to abandon the military action and gave her a call. This call made her very upset, disappointed and dismayed by his attitude to distract her from victory. As Thatcher was firm, she told him; *"This is a democracy and our island, and the very worst thing for democracy would be if we failed now."*⁷² Ronald

⁷⁰ COOPER, James. *Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan a very political special relationship*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, p. 177.

⁷¹ WAPSHOTT, Nicholas. *Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher: a political marriage*. New York, N.Y.: Sentinel, 2007, p. 164.

⁷² WAPSHOTT, Nicholas. *Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher: a political marriage*. New York, N.Y.: Sentinel, 2007, p. 181.

wrote Thatcher to congratulate her on her victory in the Falklands War and on her military success.⁷³

They did not succeed in everything they planned to in their administrations. In particular, Thatcher tried to persuade Reagan to be involved in the state budget deficit, but unsuccessfully. As a result of Reagan's administration disapproval, in 1981 economic policies were not change in Thatcher's government. For the reason that Reagan won the election, it helped Thatcher not to look reclusive and radical in the political mainstream. Their collaboration was important, and they were able to work together and develop policy even across the Atlantic Ocean.⁷⁴

⁷³ WAPSHOTT, Nicholas. *Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher: a political marriage*. New York, N.Y.: Sentinel, 2007, p. 161-184.

⁷⁴ COOPER, James. *Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan a very political special relationship*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, p. 185.

12 ANALYTICAL PART

The analytical part of this thesis is based on an analysis of the film *The Iron Lady*, which covers her whole political life. Furthermore, it continues with the analysis of selected songs mainly from the 1980s. In brief, the purpose of this part is to provide how Thatcher's image through Popular Culture appears to be and how she is perceived today. Firstly, it begins with the theory and definition of popular culture.

12.1 Popular Culture

The phenomenon called Popular Culture is a relatively new topic in academia. The Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies was founded at the University of Birmingham in England in 1960s. The study of culture has an important position at the University in general. Literature courses also take part in art curriculum, and they stand as a result of earlier plans about college objective. Moreover, it was the education of young men thus they know how to be a real gentleman in society. Not everyone had a knowledge of cultural traditions that is why the "*highlights*" of the study of culture were limited. As well as it is divided into different forms of culture such as painting or music.⁷⁵

Popular culture is considered mass consumption. It is easily available to most people because it includes television programs, films in cinemas, Internet, sport, novels, not to mention comic books and magazines. The opposite of popular culture is "*high culture*" also known as the culture of elites. "*High culture is culture distinguished by its connection to cultural elites.*"⁷⁶

There are several differences between these two cultures. Popular culture was regarded as a threat in the 1400s since they were given the invention of the printing press. The cultural authorities were more interested

⁷⁵ DITTMER, Jason. *Popular culture, geopolitics, and identity*. [Online-Ausg.]. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010, p. 23.

⁷⁶ DITTMER, Jason. *Popular culture, geopolitics, and identity*. [Online-Ausg.]. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010, p. 24.

in new sources of cultural production. Governments and parents were wondering with concern what their “*subjects*” were listening to, seeing or reading. “*Contaminations*” of the citizens often came from the government part. During the World War II, the content of messages was firstly studied due to suspicion of German propaganda efforts. It is similar to the effect of Facebook culture for instance, which is also associated with propaganda, especially in mediated messages, the youth are immersed in them. After World War II the awareness of popular culture was rising mostly among the young people in North America and Western Europe. Most of the households were allowed to have a television and young people who were having a part-time job or were getting money support from their parents also had their own spending money. In that time the companies like Hollywood studios or other corporations were growing owing to the fact that they were devoted to mass consumerism.⁷⁷

In summary, between the popular and high culture there is not a clear divider, but still, there is aesthetics. The definition of high culture is to be of “*higher quality*” in comparison to popular culture. It is necessary to consider this divide as indefensible because every person has a different vision of quality.⁷⁸

Despite that, popular culture is opposing folk culture which is a traditional culture in particular place. It is highly connected to globalisation, understood as a revolution in communication and transportation. Namely presented in popular culture are “*ethnic*” restaurants, “*world music*” or the yoga boom. Traditional folk culture in the East is being sold to the Western part of the World. That is an example of Orientalism. Thereby many parts of the World think of popular culture as a steamroller. Since popular culture incorporates into itself the parts of folk culture that are demanded by Western costumes. The consequence is the destruction of modern Western

⁷⁷ DITTMER, Jason. *Popular culture, geopolitics, and identity*. [Online-Ausg.]. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010, p. 23-24.

⁷⁸ DITTMER, Jason. *Popular culture, geopolitics, and identity*. [Online-Ausg.]. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010, p. 25.

entertainment and commodities. Popular culture is also defined as a limitation to material goods and elimination of cultural practices. To put it more simply, what you consume defines yourself.⁷⁹

Both comparisons (“*folk*” and “*high culture*”) with popular culture are instructive. Both of them constitute the definition of popular culture with its polar opposite. It follows that popular culture is a threat. Many cultural authorities have a pessimistic view of popular culture, which negates the power ascribed to popular culture. To illustrate, with a connection to Hollywood films, orchestra or cinemas, they always say that the fault is in the audience, what the audience decided to watch. It is no more an issue of popular culture but of the quality of the audience. All these three cultures are connected to identity. The division of people, who either produce it, consume it or use it for themselves. According to popular culture, we know who we are, how people understand us or whom we tend to be.⁸⁰

12.2 Popular Culture and Film

When the relationship is explored between persons involved in the political life a great number of people suppose that films give a political analysis. In some cases, they are more absorbed by the film form rather than by the narrative or content. Cinematic art is focused on politics because it appeals to reality and its senses and it is familiar to people. It is proved by the composition of words, images, and sounds as well as how the common models of perception are disabled.⁸¹

“*Corroborative images*” are supplied by the films, and it is introduced by Siegfried Kracauer, these images are out there to convince you to believe, not to see. Another term a “*seer*” created by Gilles Deleuze. This

⁷⁹ DITTMER, Jason. *Popular culture, geopolitics, and identity*. [Online-Ausg.]. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010, p. 25-26.

⁸⁰ DITTMER, Jason. *Popular culture, geopolitics, and identity*. [Online-Ausg.]. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010, p. 27.

⁸¹ CASO, Federica. HAMILTON, Caitlin. *Popular Culture and World Politics: Theories, Methods, Pedagogies*. Bristol, E-International Relations, 2015, p. 84.

term is assembled in many films which are critically oriented. The “seer” is, “one who must ask herself/himself ‘What am I seeing?’”⁸²

When analysing a film, it is important to focus on critical theorising and to read about it. Afterwards, one should perform how the mainstream accounts have been challenged.⁸³

Many films are also seen as propaganda films. What we see in these films must provoke a sense of certainty in us. It could be either the documentary that presents evident reality or the fiction with desirable end.⁸⁴

When we talk about film and critical analysis, it is necessary to mention that a political pedagogy is also provided and that the dramas of individual lives are exceeded. According to the critics, feature films emphasised the experience of individuals, in the second place those films express certain historical moments and the experiences of individuals are thus surpassed. Above all, we understand films as an instrument by which the mapping of the world system is done. Based on Fredric Jameson, a “narrative structure” is provided by a “motif of conspiracy.” Collective relations and epistemological issues are both brought into focus.⁸⁵

12.3 Popular Culture and World Politics

Popular culture represents world politics through media. Many Americans know about world events only from what they read, see or hear in media and what they read in fictional texts produced by popular culture. Political effects are created by this popular and media representation. Moreover, it means that the amount of attention given to world event is in many cases different. We understand the relations between world politics and popular culture as a “*reflection*” metaphor. Popular culture, such as TV, film or news media, is questioned to explain how popular culture reflects the

⁸² CASO, Federica. HAMILTON, Caitlin. *Popular Culture and World Politics: Theories, Methods, Pedagogies*. Bristol, E-International Relations, 2015, p. 84.

⁸³ CASO, Federica. HAMILTON, Caitlin. *Popular Culture and World Politics: Theories, Methods, Pedagogies*. Bristol, E-International Relations, 2015, p. 84.

⁸⁴ SHAPIRO, J Michael. *Cinematic Geopolitics*. Abingdon, Taylor & Francis e-Library, 2008, p. 4.

⁸⁵ SHAPIRO, J Michael. *Cinematic Geopolitics*. Abingdon, Taylor & Francis e-Library, 2008, p. 41.

“real world.” World politics is constituted by popular culture. The objects of popular culture texts are discursively constructed.⁸⁶

12.4 Cultural Consumption and Cultural Practices

It is necessary to realise the discursive labour. The method a text will be read/ interpreted consumed/ is not determined by the position of a subject’s identity. It is known that the artefacts of popular culture are perceived differently. The consumption consists of the meanings and its production, reproduction, transformation, and maintenance.⁸⁷

Consumption is mostly focused on the text. However, consumption is one of the most important cultural practices. For example, the grocery shopping is a popular culture practice. These groceries are linked with political choices and discourses, namely luxury, fair trade, organic produce yet with nutrition. The relationship of PC and WP is formed by the people’s shopping habits, how they decide what to buy, to say nothing of their emotions for particular brands or objects. It is not only politics of states which use popular culture. It is all of us who are preoccupied with these relations.⁸⁸

“We buy Disney toys and visit Disney World; we create and patronise the restaurants on our high streets; we watch films, TV, and YouTube.”⁸⁹

⁸⁶ CASO, Federica. HAMILTON, Caitlin. *Popular Culture and World Politics: Theories, Methods, Pedagogies*. Bristol, E-International Relations, 2015, p. 18-19.

⁸⁷ CASO, Federica. HAMILTON, Caitlin. *Popular Culture and World Politics: Theories, Methods, Pedagogies*. Bristol, E-International Relations, 2015, p. 20.

⁸⁸ CASO, Federica. HAMILTON, Caitlin. *Popular Culture and World Politics: Theories, Methods, Pedagogies*. Bristol, E-International Relations, 2015, p. 21.

⁸⁹ CASO, Federica. HAMILTON, Caitlin. *Popular Culture and World Politics: Theories, Methods, Pedagogies*. Bristol, E-International Relations, 2015, p. 21.

13 ANALYSIS OF THE FILM *THE IRON LADY*

For the analysis, I chose the film *The Iron Lady*. This film was made in the year 2011 by female director Phyllida Lloyd. The film is based on Abi Morgan's screenplay. American actress Meryl Streep represents the main character, Margaret Thatcher. Other characters are Denis Thatcher (Jim Broadbent), Margaret Thatcher as a young lady (Alexandra Roach) and Geoffrey Howe (Anthony Head).⁹⁰ We can consider this film as a documentary about Margaret Thatcher, the first female Prime Minister.

The film looks at her past, it is made retrospectively, she is ill-health, and it is hard for her to dispose of her deceased husband's things. The film takes place at her house and then on specific places when she remembers her early life and political life such as Parliament, 10 Downing Street, and several other places. The main purpose of this film is to present her life and, most importantly, her political life as she was a very special person for Britain and the World.

Certain occasions or things are taking her back to her life when she was younger. We can see this right in one of the opening scenes. Her assistant arrived, and she was telling Thatcher her plans for the upcoming week, she mentioned the concert of Rogers and Hammerstein to which Thatcher was invited. That immediately reminds her that she saw the film *The King and I* earlier with Denis. Moreover, the beautiful song "*Shall We Dance*" plays in the background.

I would like to analyse whether the film has any messages or whether they are just trying to evoke emotions, analyse whether the film mostly concentrated on politics or not.

This chapter about the film will be divided into seven parts relating to the filmmaking and the film itself.

⁹⁰ CSFD. [online]. Available from: <https://www.csfd.cz/film/291197-zelezna-lady/prehled/>. [Retrieved 15 March 2018].

The very first scene begins with an old lady buying milk, and she is surprised that milk is that expensive as we can see in her facial expression. This scene is entirely uninteresting; we do not know exactly what to expect from the film. Another thing is that even nobody in this shop and then in the street recognises the former Prime Minister and Thatcher looks very confused.

13.1 Director

The film is basically rather based on the position of a woman, her inspiration for others and a demonstration of what political life connected with making decisions and not having time for the family do to such a person. They decided to present her as an old lady who is seriously ill. We can see a doctor appointment even though Thatcher was always telling that she was fine, it is not said in the film, but we knew that in her real life she was diagnosed with dementia. She struggled because her husband was already dead and in some way, Thatcher was not able to accept it and still imagined his presence and talked to him. When watching the film, it may look slightly confusing and chaotic at the beginning.

For instance, the memories of the past are not made progressively. After the "*Shall we dance*" scene, she goes back to the memory of her as a grocery girl, then of the IRA attack and afterwards it takes us to the dinner of the Conservatives, she hoped to be a candidate for the Parliament.

There is no doubt that even the TV series there could be made about her life as it was very extensive. Nevertheless the director made some cuts, and for example, there is the scene when she failed the election for the first time in 1950, and suddenly we are in the year 1959 in which she earned the seat in the Parliament. In between, we can only see her two twin children and engagement with Denis Thatcher. Of course, this period was filled with much more events. On the other hand, what we can see as a deficiency of scenes is that there is mentioned shortly that the nickname The Iron Lady

was given to her by the Soviet Union, but without reason and specification who called her that.

Also, international affairs are hardly ever mentioned. From the theoretical part, we have learned that international business was significant to her as well as the relations with particular leaders.

The director stressed her parents and the contrast relationship. Her father influenced her in every way possible, primarily in politics whereas her mother did not even show pride when young Roberts was accepted to Oxford University. Here the director stuck with reality. The pace is sometimes rather slow, mostly at the beginning, but on the contrary, some scenes begin to accelerate dramatically. Also, the soundtrack helps to reinforce the pace of the editing.

13.2 Cinematography

Most of the film is set in the house of Thatcher, where she lived after leaving 10 Downing Street. The interior is beautiful, elegant and noble. The walls are decorated with many framed photos as a memory. All of that evokes in audience pleasant atmosphere that she had a beautiful place to stay. When Thatcher is watching another terrorist attack on the television, it strongly reminds her of the IRA attack in Brighton. The camera is focused on her shaking hand holding a glass and her scared face evoking bad memories. Margaret Thatcher has always been an opponent of terrorism.

Another well-done background is in the streets where tons of trash, chaos, and the strikes were. We can see how Britain looked during the Thatcher administration, and of course, the Labour Party blamed the Conservative Party.

What is very interesting and many viewers do not see it at the first sign is the magic of details in the film. When sitting at the table with her daughter Carol, in front of the mirror we see a real photo of a young couple Denis and Margaret (see the appendix 1). Besides, the actress learned to

sign in the same way as real Margaret Thatcher. Alternatively, in the background of the bedroom, there is a golf set because Denis loved playing golf. It is also shown in the video records which Thatcher was watching. Slightly disturbing is how much alcohol she drinks and the only whiskey. Those scenes are pointless for the whole story about Lady Thatcher.

13.3 Screenplay

The screenplay of this film is sometimes quite boring. Mainly the dialogues with dead Denis Thatcher are not amusing at all, and the film would look better without them. As we know, Margaret Thatcher felt comfortable among men. Thus the film is full of Thatcher's monologues in which she enforces her opinions and acts persuasively.

The scriptwriters were not afraid to use the statements Thatcher said indeed. Before entering the 10 Downing Street Margaret Thatcher gave an interview and cited the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi that is mentioned in the book too; *"Where there is discord, may we bring harmony. Where there is an error, may we bring truth. Where there is doubt, may we bring faith. And where there is despair, may we bring hope."*⁹¹

Those who did not know her legacy and politics might see the plot line as innovative and on the contrary, those who knew her life well, see it as unexciting.

The replicas of characters are believable. Most of them looked similar to the real person. Meryl Streep learnt the way Margaret Thatcher speaks beyond recognition, and indeed it emphasised the whole film. From the dialogues with her daughter is evident that Thatcher had troubles to remember some issues for example that her daughter was due to arrive to help her or that her son lives in South Africa. Moreover, when talking with Carol, Thatcher looks to be absent-minded in most cases. Here the director shows her ill-health. Also, from Carol's facial impression it is clear that it was

⁹¹ BLUNDELL, John. *Margaret Thatcher: a portrait of the Iron Lady*. New York: Algora Pub., 2008. ISBN 978-0-87586-632-1. p. 89.

tough for her to deal with her mother's illness and that Thatcher was accusing her from being tired and exhausted rather than finding a false in her.

Another example of the dialogue is with a doctor who is trying to help her, but she claims that she is all healthy. Again, she does not accept her illness and has the main word. Not to mention that she still repeats her father's words which influenced her the most. Or the dialogue with the US Secretary of State about the Falklands War, again she held her position and was determined that the Falklands War was necessary.

Sometimes it looks that she is in superiority and despises her colleagues. Her marriage struggled, too, as also in real life. In the film, the family was not supportive when she told them that she wants to run for the leader of the Conservative Party. That dialogue shows her dominance; she was not even interested in Denis health and their children. Denis Thatcher.; *"The doctors say I need to rest."* Margaret Thatcher.; *Do you need to rest?"* She was not emphatic at all, did not ask him what is wrong even though he looked quite nervous and tired.

13.4 Editing

In general, we may consider the editing as successful and continuous. It is continuous mainly at the beginning of the film. The editors used scenes in slow-motion when Thatcher remembers her children and the memories of her leaving the house and the children were sad and did not want their mother to leave. Otherwise, the film is full of fast editing which indeed helps the whole film and its pace.

During Thatcher's campaign to win the election and become the leader of the Conservative Party we notice many rapidly changing shots. In those shots, Thatcher is giving speeches about her visions of the British economy. The director showed only the positive reactions and success. To emphasise the scenes, editors often use real shots from that era. For

instance, unrest in the streets, miner strikes mostly during her first term. Or the shots of crowded places, people were applauding. It helps the audience to understand the younger one, to imagine how bad the situation was. The real shots do not fit in very well. It is clear that they are older and the quality is also not that efficient thus they are not realistic and not filmed within the film.

Also, in the end, the shots and editing are rather dramatic. At the end old Thatcher is packing Denis' things and finally is aware of his death. The pace is quick she is still going back in her memories and asking herself whether Denis was happy. Here the director refers to Margaret as a wife and a mother and how much she had to sacrifice to be in politics. It is evident from their dialogue. Margaret Thatcher; *"I don't want to be on my own."* Denis Thatcher; *"You're gonna be fine on your own, love. You always have been."*

The mistake made in the film is the disorder of the particular scenes. In the film, the Brighton bombing is firstly presented and in the second place the Falklands War, however, we know that it was oppositely. They put the Brighton bombing first because it is preceded by the IRA bombing around Britain.

She again remembered her father saying the words when they were hiding (the Roberts family) from the bombing when Thatcher was younger. She said; *"And now it must be business as usual."* The lighting applied in this film is darker and unimpressive. Inside the house, where old Thatcher lives, there are only table lights on and the setting is more likely dark.

Filmmakers decided to present her retirement period as unfortunate and underlined it with the lighting. There is a scene, where the lighting is very important. It is the one where Thatcher became Prime Minister. The former Prime Minister is standing there her back to the camera and waves to the audience. The strong lighting perfectly stressed her success to become the first female Prime Minister. The scene where her father sends young

Margaret to cover the butter is also complemented by lighting but more like a flash, changing of the dark with a strong light to her face expressing fear.

13.5 Costumes

When analysing a film, it is necessary to mention the costumes which captured very well the style of the film and they contribute to the whole conception. In the film, from the early age, Lady Roberts wore formal clothes, usually ladies suit (skirt and blouse).

Moreover, her dominance was a hat, handbag and twin set pearls. Her advisers told her to get rid of the hat, which was not a problem for her, but about the pearls she said; *“The pearls, however, are absolutely non-negotiable.”* And she claimed that it was the present from Denis when the twins were born to make it more interesting for the audience. Her style was elegant, even the scene where she was about to enter 10 Downing Street, the designers made her very similar dress Thatcher wore in reality too.

Another accessory which was kept in the film was bowed tie at the neck, which was typical for Thatcher (see the appendix 5). In one particular scene, where daughter Carol is helping her mother to undress, we can see that her wardrobe is made only of the blue suits in different shades. To compare it with reality Thatcher did wear blue suits often but also ones of different colours. In the film, we can see different colours of suits too, such as grey, brown or purple.

It is important to say that the costumes are mostly dark rather than cheerful. However, Thatcher was wearing more colourful suits in her lifetime. Also, the hairstylist imitated Thatcher’s haircut faultlessly. Meanwhile, for Carol, the designers chose an eccentric clothing style. For example, she wore fur coats, massive golden accessories with the purpose to attract audience’s attention. The community of men in the film always wear formal suitcases as it is typical for politics.

13.6 Scenography

Most of the scenes in the film *The Iron Lady* are genuine, and the filmmaker did make the right decisions here. In general, the scenography stressed the whole film experience of an individual. We are able to see the real areas also used to film this film. In particular, the House of Commons helps the audience to visualise how the Parties negotiate.

Otherwise, most of the film the setting is in the house where old Baroness Thatcher lives. The filmmakers equipped the scenes with accompanying commentary as they aimed to insert more information. When young lady Thatcher won the seat in the Parliament, she left her home, and her children were unhappy. Her first day in the House of Commons was important for the director as they showed the shots for the Parliament building especially the ceiling, statues, and halls. This was done to stress the importance that it was the beginning of her long political career. At the same time, filmmakers inserted quite a humorous scene to present the perception of women in politics. During her first visit to the Parliament Margaret opens the door with the sign – men members and then with the lady members sign where ironing board with iron is. That indicates the position of woman was elsewhere (a housewife) but not in politics and the mistruth about women. However, she proved them wrong in the film thus like in reality.

The real setting of 10 Downing Street, Thatcher, is entering her new home with determination on her face. Behind Thatcher are cheering crowds, holding posters. That indeed influenced the whole scene, and this is a credit to the director and others that they stressed the success of the woman. Thatcher's negative face is seen with rising unemployment and not working policy; people protest her again firmly. On the posters were slogans namely "*Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, out, out, out!*" or "*Go to hell Maggie!*" That gives the scene a new perspective, and the director also shows her weakness as a politician.

13.7 Music and soundtrack

The music is integral to the film undoubtedly. The soundtrack of *The Iron Lady* is rather diverse. We notice many different styles while watching the film. The melodies are alternating with songs. The filmmakers fictionalised the film *The King and I* to picture a love story of Margaret and Denis when they were young. The song “*Shall We Dance*” right at the beginning of the story and the second one “*I Whistle a Happy Tune.*” Both of them are excellent, and they complement the scenes.

In the background of almost all scenes, there are melodies sometimes more dramatic sometimes less. We register more dramatic melodies during the first negotiation in the Parliament or during the period as a grocery girl.

On the other hand, a less dramatic orchestra plays after the IRA killed Airey Neave. The winning song “*Soldiers of the Queen*” plays after the Falkland victory. That song perfectly completes the atmosphere that is accompanied by the authentic shots of celebrating Britain. This song by Leslie Stuart is usually used as a regimental song in the UK. Those scenes are followed by the scenes of her success and her second and third term (in very short version) as Prime Minister. While playing the song “*I'm in Love With Margaret Thatcher*” we can see how Britain profited and most importantly the Fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. This is the song which is completely distinct from the rest as it belongs to pop music and makes the film more entertaining.

“*Casta Diva*” from “*Norma*” plays on the very last day of Thatcher’s administration in 10 Downing Street. The former Prime Minister is walking down the aisle with her eyes full of tears. Opera music sounded flashy and differently in the background scene set in the 20th century. Despite that the music was applied appropriately and sufficiently.

13.8 Short conclusion

To summarise it briefly, the film presents a woman who is so absorbed by politics that her marriage and relations towards her children are endangered. Rather than that, we mostly see an old woman who remembers and goes back in her memories.

I find it entirely pointless that filmmakers decided to put the role of Denis Thatcher just as her fantasy. And the whole impression of the film is more suppressed by it. Individuals who might be interested in her policy and career are not able to learn it from that film properly. What we may see as negative is that filmmakers presented particular parts in a very short version and often mentioned tedious issues. For instance, during the period as the Education Secretary Thatcher did more important changes than closing schools (with no heating and no lighting).

More attention might have been paid to the film title (it was mentioned just in one sentence). As we learnt from earlier, Thatcher travelled and visited several states during her administration (she undertook many important journeys), and that is hardly mentioned, too. On the other hand, the Falklands War period is captured sufficiently. Despite that the performer of Margaret Thatcher, Meryl Streep, adopted Thatcher's manners, a way of speech, walking, and speaking excellently. A better way to learn about her life is to read a book than to watch this film.

13.9 Reactions and awards

The reactions by British critics published in the press were following. *"Meryl Streep's knockout performance lifts The Iron Lady out of complete mediocrity, but the film around her is wishy-washy and unfocused. Whether you love or loathe Margaret Thatcher, those are not things you can say about her."*⁹² David Gritten said for *The Telegraph*. And *The Guardian* published a response by Xan Brooks. *"One of Streep's finest-ever*

*performances. But beyond that — whatever Morgan and Lloyd’s intentions — it’s little more than a myth-enshrining exercise.”*⁹³

*Review written by The New York Times says; As for “The Iron Lady” itself, beyond the challenge it poses for Ms Streep, its own reason for being is a bit obscure. It is likely to be the definitive screen treatment of Mrs Thatcher, at least for a while, and yet it does not really define her in any surprising or trenchant way. You are left with the impression of an old woman who can’t quite remember who she used to be and of a movie that is not so sure either.”*⁹⁴

Also, the Czech website *iDNES.cz* published an article about the film in which is said that even Baroness Thatcher saw the film and she was pleased and moved. Moreover, according to David Cameron, the film should have been made after her death not before.⁹⁵

Phyllida Lloyds herself was not enthusiastic about making a film concerning Margaret Thatcher as she was a very controversial figure and politician. Lloyds was not her opponent, and she even did not vote for her in the election in 1979. Actually, her vision of the film was never to show her policy but rather the age and oblivion.⁹⁶

The Awards won in 2012 were the following; Meryl Streep for her performance of Mrs Thatcher won the Academy Award (Oscar) and BAFTA Awards for the Actress in a Leading Role nomination. The Golden Globe for the Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama nomination. Academy Award went to Mark Coulier and J. Roy Helland for the Best Achievement in Makeup.

⁹² The Telegraph. [online]. 2012. Available from: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/film/8992846/The-Iron-Lady-What-the-critics-said.html>. [Retrieved 17 March 2018].

⁹³ The Telegraph. [online]. 2012. Available from: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/film/8992846/The-Iron-Lady-What-the-critics-said.html>. [Retrieved 17 March 2018].

⁹⁴ The New York Times. [online]. 2011. Available from: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/30/movies/the-iron-lady-about-margaret-thatcher-review.html>. [Retrieved 17 March 2018].

⁹⁵ iDNES.cz. [online]. 2012. Available from: https://kultura.zpravy.idnes.cz/zelezna-lady-thatcherova-se-konecne-videla-ve-filmu-a-byla-dojata-pxn-/filmvideo.aspx?c=A120115_174811_filmvideo_tt. [Retrieved 17 March 2018].

⁹⁶ The Guardian. [online]. 2012. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2012/jan/05/phyllida-lloyd-iron-lady>. [Retrieved 18 March 2018].

Mark Coulier, J. Roy Helland, and Marese Langan are winners of BAFTA Awards for Best Make Up & Hair.⁹⁷

⁹⁷ IMDb. [online]. Available from: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1007029/awards>. [Retrieved 18 March 2018].

14 ANALYSIS OF SELECTED SONGS

The second part of the analytical part is devoted to an analysis of four songs about Margaret Thatcher. Most of them are rather critical and protest, but I also chose a positive song.

14.1 John McCullagh, I'll Dance on Your Grave, Mrs Thatcher

The artist *Between the Wars* whose guest interpreter Jonh McCullagh recorded the song *I'll Dance on Your Grave, Mrs Thatcher*. The song is available on the album called *Won't go quietly* released in 2013.⁹⁸ The theme of the text comes primarily from the experience of the singer. In general, the text itself is simple and understandable.

The author of the text (John McCullagh) criticises the political situation in the UK and Margaret Thatcher's policy. Most importantly, this song was written as a protest to at that time situation in Britain and the period of Miners' strikes. The author expresses his opinions by this song not to mention the negative attitude to Thatcher's policy and that she closed down many of collieries around the UK with the purpose of profitability.

Just a lad of sixteen summers

When the mining gates locked

I stood there with me brothers

Some of their rifles cut

Just hold on to your shirt, me boys

This is going the whole way

The melody is not aggressive at all but it is calm, and the guitar is the primary musical instrument used. The optimistic melody does not support the character of the protest song.

⁹⁸ Soundcloud. [online]. Available from: <https://soundcloud.com/betweenthewars/ill-dance-on-your-grave-mrs-1>. [Retrieved 28 March 2018].

To write this song the author based it on his own experience. As he was one of the miners and he was dissatisfied with Thatcher's decisions. He also refers to the fact that he was not proud to be British because anyhow it killed his father (in the war). He was a member of the National Union of Miners, and they were in the war with the government, but the miners lost.

The refrains are changing with certain parts in which the negative view and reasons are described. In the text, we can find some unusual word forms to which not every person would understand. However, the refrain is to express their feelings and delight that Thatcher is dead because she was the reason why many miners lost their jobs.

However, we stood there all united

*Except the **scabs** down from the south (the person who refuses to join a trade union)*

With their cries for a ballot

Gone twenty years, now, since it came and went

But what for I hear you say

***Twas** for the right to earn a living wage (it was)*

The refrain;

So we'll dance

Yes we'll dance

We'll dance on your grave Mrs Thatcher

We'll dance

Yes, we'll dance

We'll dance on your grave Mrs Thatcher

14.2 The Larks, Maggie, Maggie, Maggie (Out, Out, Out)

Maggie, Maggie, Maggie (Out, Out, Out) is another protest song against Thatcher's administration.

The Larks was British punk, R'n'B, and even ska music band as they disintegrated in 1988.⁹⁹ The song was popular in the 1980's mainly in the course of the miners' strikes or Poll Tax demonstrations.¹⁰⁰ We may find the song in the album *Pain in the Neck* from the year 1987.¹⁰¹ The title was used on the posters of the Protestants during demonstrations as we can see it in the film scenes too.

The composers wrote a very easy and short text to understand the point to show their antipathy towards Margaret Thatcher. They wanted her to be out of her position. As we saw in the film, Thatcher was sitting in the car, and many demonstrating people were around the car holding the posters with that title. Therefore this song was suitable for the crowds of people who were dissatisfied with her policies and they were able to use it and sing it during the protests.

The melody is fast and lively. One singer sings only Maggie, Maggie, Maggie and others shout Out, Out, Out which nicely support the whole view of the song. The genre of this recording belongs more to rock and punk hence the singers' voice is quite hard and strict. With simple and repeated lines in the refrain, the composers reached the success of many Thatcher's opponents.

Maggie, Maggie, Maggie!

Out! Out! Out!

Maggie, Maggie, Maggie!

Out! Out! Out!

⁹⁹ Fear and Loathing, Fanzine. [online]. Available from: <http://www.fearandloathingfanzine.com/the-larks.html>. [Retrieved 25 March 2018].

¹⁰⁰ Time. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://newsfeed.time.com/2013/04/08/five-protest-songs-about-margaret-thatcher/slide/the-larks-maggie-maggie-maggie-out-out-out/>. [Retrieved 25 March 2018]. Anti-war songs. [online]. 2013. Available from: <https://www.antiwarsongs.org/canzone.php?lang=en&id=44199>. [Retrieved 25 March 2018].

¹⁰¹ Anti-war songs. [online]. Available from: <https://www.antiwarsongs.org/canzone.php?lang=en&id=44199>. [Retrieved 25 March 2018].

Maggie!

Out!

Maggie!

Out!

Maggie, Maggie, Maggie!

Out! Out! Out!

14.3 The Notsensibles, I'm in Love With Margaret Thatcher

This more likely positive song was written in 1979 by British punk rock band *The Notsensibles*. The producers of the film *The Iron Lady* used this song since one of the music supervisors was a band's fan. When the song was officially released, the independent chart placed the song in second place. However, 25 years later this recording reached the First Official Top 40 in the radio, Tory supporters' aimed to prevent the song, Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead to reach number one.¹⁰²

The pace is rapid and entertaining. In general, the text is again quite simple with two verses and most of the song we hear only the refrain.

I'm in love with Margaret Thatcher

I'm in love with Margaret Thatcher

I'm in love with Maggie T

On the first sign or the first listening, we may think that the song is positive. However, the important element used here is irony and ridicule which are used in verse below. The songwriter used simple words and referred to her as a sexy person whom he is attracted to when seeing her on television. During listening to the song, understand the refrain, the singer uses humorous and ironic voice accompanied by words *la la la*. That makes the whole impression even more interesting for listeners.

*Oh Margaret Thatcher is so **sexy***

¹⁰² BBC. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-22153268>. [Retrieved 28 March 2018].

*She's the girl for you and me
I go red when she's on the **telly**
Cos I think she **fancies** me*

There is no doubt that the song has a positive meaning and it was nicely presented in the film where this song served as a background to successful Britain after the Falklands War. Moreover, the band members add; "It was neither pro nor anti-Thatcher, but *revolved around the idea that no-one was too scared to get the piss taken out of.*" ¹⁰³

This song is an example that Margaret Thatcher was a controversial person. There were and still are people who appreciate her legacy and then there are those who do not like her, and the negative and protest songs are made.

14.4 Morrissey, Margaret on the Guillotine

The last song to analyse was recorded in the 1980s, and we may find it in his debut solo album called *Viva Hate* released in 1988. ¹⁰⁴ His original name is Stephen Patrick Morrissey, and he is a British solo singer and former singer of the band *the Smiths*. Morrissey is an icon of the pop music which was like an escape for him being a child and having an unhappy childhood. ¹⁰⁵

The song is short and consists of two verses and one main chorus. This is another song which is opposing Margaret Thatcher's tenure as Prime Minister. In general, she was the most hated by the working class in Britain. We can tell that it is a protest song right from the title. The author did not like her and used quite a strong word (guillotine) to express his hater towards Thatcher.

¹⁰³ Genius. [online]. Available from: <https://genius.com/Notsensibles-im-in-love-with-margaret-thatcher-lyrics>. [Retrieved 28 March 2018].

¹⁰⁴ The Daily Mail. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2465742/Smiths-singer-Morrissey-quizzed-Scotland-Yard-controversial-Thatcher-song-Margaret-Guillotine.html>. [Retrieved 2nd April 2018]. Genius. [online]. Available from: <https://genius.com/Notsensibles-im-in-love-with-margaret-thatcher-lyrics>. [Retrieved 28 March 2018].

¹⁰⁵ The Biography. [online]. 2014. Available from: <https://www.biography.com/people/morrissey-21415641>. [Retrieved 2nd April 2018].

A guillotine is a penalty machine used to cut off people's heads who were convicted of a crime. ¹⁰⁶

The topic of the song is clear, and so Morrissey wanted Thatcher to be dead. He was not expressing just himself but also the other humans to whom he refers as *the kind people*. He compared Thatcher's death to *a wonderful dream*, which is not ironic but he truly means it.

The first verse

*The **kind people***

*Have a **wonderful dream***

*Margaret on **the guillotine***

'Cause people like you

Make me feel so tired

Margaret Thatcher was indeed a controversial politician, but this personal song confession was extreme. Therefore, there is no wonder that Morrissey had some troubles with police and that he was quizzed to find out whether he was a treat to Thatcher or not. ¹⁰⁷

In the chorus there is a repetition of one interrogative sentence; *When will you die?* He was interested only in her death. The song continues with the verse, and the important element is his honesty. He was disgusted with her and with what she did so that his only concern was Thatcher's death. The author appealed to people for not hiding their "dream."

Second verse

And people like you

Make me feel so old inside

Please die

¹⁰⁶ Vocabulary.com. [online]. Available from: <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/guillotine>. [Retrieved 2nd April 2018].

And kind people

*Do not **shelter this dream***

The pace is very calm and slow. The singer stresses the words in refrain especially **you die**. The melody is rather unimpressive and does not support the whole song well.

When Thatcher died in 2013, Morrissey said; *"Thatcher is remembered as The Iron Lady only because she possessed completely negative traits such as persistent stubbornness and a determined refusal to listen to others."* Or; *"She was "barbaric" rather than made of "iron."* ¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁷ The Daily Mail. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2465742/Smiths-singer-Morrissey-quizzed-Scotland-Yard-controversial-Thatcher-song-Margaret-Guillotine.html>. [Retrieved 2nd April 2018].

¹⁰⁸ International Business Times. [online]. 2013. Available from: <http://www.ibtimes.com/margaret-guillotine-british-pop-legend-morrissey-rips-thatcher-video-1181187>. [Retrieved 2nd April 2018].

15 MARGARET THATCHER'S IMAGE THESE DAYS

This chapter is based on the Czech and British press and the articles that were written about her showing her image nowadays.

Margaret Thatcher was a very important person and example for the former President of Czech Republic Václav Klaus. He admired that she was willing to try something new and be different from other countries in Europe not to mention her efforts to make a complete transformation. That was mainly during the post-war era when Britain was disrupted by trade unions. Mr Klaus appreciated that Thatcher had the ability to make a change and fight against the trade unions. As we know, Mr Klaus is also an opponent of European Union, and that is another shared policy. For him was important Thatcher's speech in Bruges in which she wore against the centralisation in Europe and intensification of conflicts. And according to Klaus, she was not mistaken about it. During the Klaus' tenure (2003-2013) politics were inspired by the reforms Thatcher applied in Britain such as deregulation or privatisation of the economy. The difference between Britain and the Czech Republic economy was that in the Czech Republic there was no market economy and they had to build it from the beginning. In the interview, Klaus called Thatcher as his "*heroine*." Furthermore, he compared the privatisation system stating that in Britain it was enough to privatise three or four companies per year whereas in the Czech Republic it was necessary to privatise the same number per an hour.¹⁰⁹

Václav Klaus and Margaret Thatcher met many times before and during Klaus' tenure. Mr Klaus was invited to attend the funeral and was seated in the first line (even though some important politicians were seated far in the back). He was surprised that former and present politicians from Western Europe were not present and only American politicians attended the funeral. Because there were no politicians having a speech, the funeral was dignified. Václav Klaus remembers the very famous statement made by

¹⁰⁹ Klaus.cz. [online]. 2013. Available from: <https://www.klaus.cz/clanky/3347>. [Retrieved 5 April 2018].

Thatcher which was mentioned in the funeral ceremony as well; “*there is no such thing as society.*” Klaus recalled their meeting in Prague in 1990, Václav Havel and Marián Čalfa (Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia. 1989-1992) were also presented. For Klaus was important her stating that Prime Minister or President should always support their Chancellor of the Exchequer. Among other memories of Baroness Thatcher belongs the conference of company Pepsico in Venice. Together they run an interview for an hour on the stage. ¹¹⁰

British press *The Independent* published an article claiming Thatcher is the worst Prime Minister in 100 years on the grounds of a survey done by The Historical Writers’ Association (HWA). In that survey, the members had to express their opinions on 19 former Prime Ministers. In the first place was Lady Thatcher with 24% followed by 22% belonging to David Cameron. For instance, Sir Edward Heath (8%) ended up in fifth place. ¹¹¹

Next survey (asking about her policies) is released by *The Guardian* and based on the results the public and its opinions remain divided after Thatcher’s death. With 65% votes put Thatcher’s policy of council house sales in the first place also known as the famous “*right to buy.*” On the contrary, only 24% voters said it was no right decision. Thatcher’s determination to change the trade union power was always controversial. However, she gained the popularity of 50% of voters, and 34% of voter said it did not work. Margaret Thatcher was the most criticised for her policy of Poll Tax (community charge). According to the survey, it is a failure by a 70% to 14%. Which demonstrate that this decision was suitable and that outrage the Brits. The survey shows her positive image too. 50% of respondents evaluated her tenure as good on the other hand 34% of respondent said that she was bad for Britain. ¹¹²

¹¹⁰ Klaus. cz. [online]. 2013. Available from: <https://www.klaus.cz/clanky/3410>. [Retrieved 5 April 2018].

¹¹¹ The Independent. [online]. 2016. Available from: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/margaret-thatcher-worst-prime-minister-pm-david-cameron-century-100-years-a7367481.html>. [Retrieved 5 April 2018].

¹¹² The Guardian. [online]. 2013. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/apr/09/opinion-sharply-divide-margaret-thatcher>. [Retrieved 5 April 2018].

16 CONCLUSION

As initially stated, the main purpose of my bachelor thesis has been to analyse Margaret Thatcher's political life and her image in the British press and mainly in popular culture.

The theoretical part was based on Thatcher's political life and its most important moments. The end of this part was devoted to her death, funeral and the reactions by politicians from the Conservative Party, Labour, and the rest of the World. The very last chapter describes the relationships with her husband and with her very close friend, Ronald Reagan.

The most fundamental part of the thesis is an analytical part. This part is divided into four chapters, and each chapter deals with different issues. The film and songs analysed are an integral part of popular culture.

The first chapter centres on popular culture and provides a general definition. Then it continues by making a connection to popular culture. One aspect is popular culture and film, in which it becomes apparent that films based on politics and people involved in politics are sometimes more absorbed by the film form than narrative or content. However, making a film about politics is beneficial for filmmakers, as it is familiar to people as it connects or should connect with reality. This chapter nicely corresponds to the analysis of the film. Other two chapters describe world politics, cultural consumption, and practices. Moreover, it warns regarding popular culture and its impacts.

The second part, then, is the analysis of the film *The Iron Lady*. This chapter has nine small subchapters that analyse features connected to the film. In general, the film is based more on her advanced years and her illness, and step by step she remembers particular events of her life as a politician rather than of her political life and her achievements and failures. The filmmakers presented, on the one hand, her positive side, and the, on the other hand, her negative side as a politician, wife, and mother. We may see the positive in the Falklands War victory and the success of becoming

Prime Minister. The negative, though, is presented in the period of high unemployment and miners' strikes during her tenures. And last but not least, the Poll Tax implementation, which also according to survey by *The Guardian* (page 54), people find to be her worst decision. To summarise, the film appears rather neutral, as the director concentrated on Thatcher as an old lady and just showed some pieces of her life. Nevertheless, Meryl Streep (as Margaret Thatcher) performed indeed excellently, and she and Margaret Thatcher look very much alike (see the appendix 5).

The last but one chapter was based on the analysis of selected songs about Margaret Thatcher. Those songs definitely provide her negative image, even though there is one song assumed to be positive. *I'll Dance on Your Grave*, *Mrs Thatcher* and *Margaret on the Guillotine* are like personal confessions and present the hatred towards her. The famous protest song *Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, (Out, Out, Out)* was sung during protests and was even used in the film as a poster title. Those songs were written by lower-class singers who were very disappointed with Thatcher's policy, as she closed down many collieries in Britain. However, the more positive song *I'm in Love With Margaret Thatcher* does not depict her as the worst, even though the apparent irony is applied in the song's verses.

During the last analysis of her image these days, I found out that the former President of the Czech Republic was very much inspired by her policies and aimed to apply the same ones in Czech politics too. They met many times, and all of the meetings were significant for Václav Klaus. Finally, the surveys by *The Independent* and *The Guardian* are also included. These results are very negative and contribute to her negative image.

Further research could be based on some extensive analysis through popular culture, namely on her press coverage and analysis of comic strips which were drawn as well (I have included some in the appendices). Another suggestion is to make a survey for Czech and British citizens, in which we

would ask about their personal opinions on Margaret Thatcher, or whether they, especially the young generation, even know her.

Margaret Thatcher has been a very important and influential politician; she helped Britain recover again after the Second World War and made some important changes in the British economy.

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18 RESUMÉ

Mon mémoire de licence parle de Margaret Thatcher et sa vie politique at après politique donc c'est la partie théoretique. La partie analytique s'oriente vers son image médiatique où on fait la description du film « *La Dame de Fer* » et quatres chansons choisies. Le début de cette partie se focalise sur la culture populaire sa definition et exemples.

L'objectif de ce travail est définir si son image est plutôt positive, negative ou neutre.

Pour écrire ce mémoire de licence on a utilisé des livres anglais et beaucoup de sources de l'Internet. C'était pour le but de montrer ce que la presse britannique a écrit d'elle.

Selon l'analyse du film on peut dire que son image est neutre. Comme la metteuse en scène a décidé de ne pas présenter sa vie complète mais seulement les affaires les plus importantes. On l'a présenté comme une femme vieille et malade qui se souviens de certaines moments de sa vie.

Et s'on parle du sujet des chansons, ils sont assurément négatives et présente son image negative. Les chansons de protestation contre le gouvernement de Margaret Thatcher, par lesquelles les gens prennent en haine.

Margaret Thatcher était une politicienne très controversée. C'est toujours nécessaire de rappeler son administration et les bonnes actions que elle faisait pour le Royaume-Uni et pour le monde.

La recherche suivante peut comporter le questionnaire pour les Britanniques. On peut demander leurs opinions et leurs souvenirs de l'ancienne Premier ministre. Egalement, demander les enfants s'ils la connaissent.

19 APPENDICES

19.1 Appendix 1 – A young couple of Margaret and Denis Thatcher



Available from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2313440/Margaret-Thatchers-marriage-ended-divorce-husband-Denis-suffered-nervous-breakdown.html>, last updated 23 April 2013.

(This is the picture that was used by filmmakers in the film *The Iron Lady*, placed on the table in front of a mirror.)

19.2 Appendix 2 – Margaret Thatcher on the CD cover



not sensible's, I'm in Love With Margaret Thatcher

Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnToK3kSKKg>, last updated 27 February 2011.

19.3 Appendix 3 – Margaret Thatcher's caricature



John McCullagh - I'll Dance On Your Grave Mrs Thatcher

Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bJbeeKBPCU&t=46s>,
last updated 21 February 2010.

19.4 Appendix 4 – Margaret Thatcher’s campaign song on YouTube platform



It's Maggie for me! (1983 General Election Campaign Song)

Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWzJiacC5Nc&t=46s>,
last updated 21 February 2015.

19.5 Appendix 5 – Margaret Thatcher and her performer Meryl Streep (film *The Iron Lady*)



Available from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2073860/The-Iron-Lady-Friends-foes-Lady-Thatcher-verdict-Meryl-Streeps-portrayal.html>, last updated 14 December 2011.

19.6 Appendix 6 – Margaret Thatcher and the former President of the Czech Republic Václav Klaus



Available from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1221079/Vaclav-Klaus-Too-late-stop-Lisbon-Treaty-concedes-EU-leader-left-sign.html>, last updated 17 October 2009.

19.7 Appendix 7 – Margaret Thatcher is reviling her portrait at 10 Downing Street



It's Maggie for me! (1983 General Election Campaign Song)

Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWzJiacC5Nc&t=46s>,
last updated 21 February 2015.

19.8 Appendix 8 – Margaret Thatcher's caricature



'Ding Dong the Witch is Dead', Trafalgar Square, 13 April 2013

Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hvccEpOFhc&t=9s>, last updated 13 April 2013.