The Falklands War

The Falklands War was a conflict between England and Argentina over a small territory of Falkland Islands which were historically (quite disputably) English territory. The war started on 2nd of April in 1981.

After Argentinian soldiers captured the English military base in Falklands and all peace negotiations failed, prime minister - Margaret Thatcher – announced a formation of Maritime Exclusion Zone and a Task Force of over hundred ships (including civilian) was formed.

The most decisive act was the battle of Goose Green followed by capturing of the city of Stanley. The amphibious operation started with landing of about 800 men in San Carlos, who after capturing the city marched towards Darwin and Goose Green. After that, joined by fresh reinforcements, they made an attack on the positions of Argentinian troops situated in mountains west of Stanley. After hard battles fought overnumbered and in rough terrain, English soldiers captured all the important strategical points near Stanley and began the siege of the city. The Argentinians being heavily shelled from the sea capitulated on 14th of June 1981.

Margaret Thatcher

She was the Prime Minister of United Kingdom for three electoral periods. During eleven years she was in charge of the county (1979 – 1990) she made UK a stable and prospering country throughout a highly needed reformation of the state policies. She had a really critical posture to the Keynesian system which was in practice in UK’s government. Although the reformation was necessary, many of her steps were seen as too radical. She was both hated and loved at the same time. In fact, she mastered the art of being at the edge of the blade.

For instance, when she was elected and the country was struggling with a huge depth, unemployment and social services at state of absolute collapse. Despite that all she made steps which were viewed as insane by many. She started selling government-run industries, which were unprofitable and poorly led, what unleashed an enormous wave of unemployment - caused by private owners reducing the size of overstaffed companies – and a lot of worker strikes. This was followed by series of budget cuts, like reducing unemployment benefits, and restriction of the rights of worker unions followed new tax system. Although the economy benefited from 400% rise, the unemployment was at its higher point since The Great Depression. She was being heavily criticized by the Labour party condemning her every step and claiming that she returned the society to the times of Industrial revolution by favouring rich over casual workers. Despite having hard time in Parliament, she persevered having her own opinion and not letting anyone to change her mind. Because of that fact she was nicknamed Iron Lady by a Russian reporter. In 1984 an attempt of assassination of her was carried out via bombing a hotel she was staying in. Regardless of that, she gave speeches at the conference the very next day as scheduled.

Maybe she would not be elected again after her first term and all her reforms would be cancelled, if she didn’t take a part in a War of Falklands. By gaining a support of America, France and many others and winning the conflict, she showed the world, that UK still a proud and strong nation.

Margaret Thatcher one of the most impressive Prime Ministers of UK. Her legacy still has a worldwide influence on contemporary politics.