

Source 9



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source 10

# Socialist Worker

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



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

# PARALLEL HISTORIES

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

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

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

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

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

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



The march through Goldthorpe (Pic: Socialist Worker)

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

# PARALLEL HISTORIES

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

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

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

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

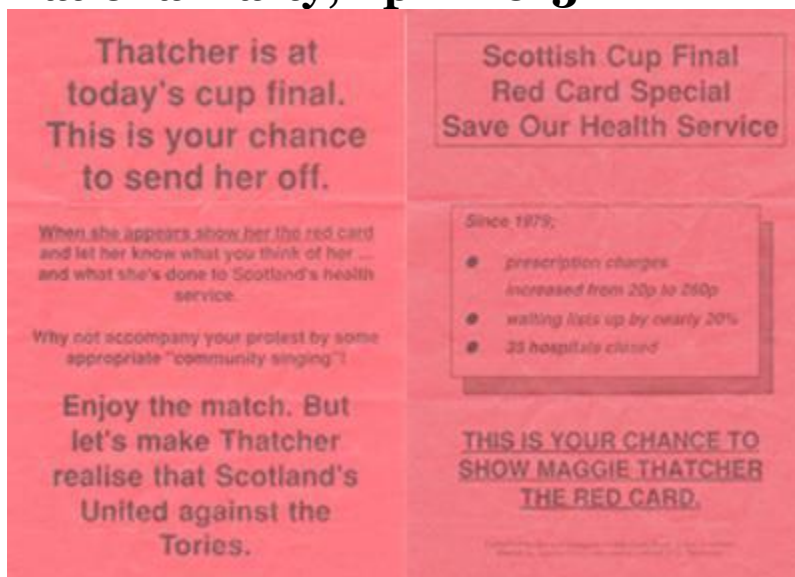
“We saw our families go to soup kitchens,” she said. “Now a funeral that costs millions is thrown in our face.”

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

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

## Source 11

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



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

# PARALLEL HISTORIES

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

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

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

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

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

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