

What was the negative impact of Thatcher?

Thatcher would fall from power in 1990. Many supported her but many detested her! In her second term she declared, 'there is no such thing as society!' and it did appear, in many respects, that the old fabric of society was decaying.

Task: Research each group/individual to complete the tables below. Explain how Thatcher's actions and policies angered them and what these people tried to do about it.

Key Cabinet members: Lawson, Heseltine, Howe, Heseltine		
We hate her because ...	What we did about it:	How effective was this?
Working-class inner-city Londoner		
I hate her because ...	What I did about it:	How effective was this?
A Northern coal miner (supporter of Scargill)		
I hate her because ...	What I did about it:	How effective was this?

Northern industrial worker in a mechanised factory plant		
I hate her because ...	What I did about it:	How effective was this?
Member of the National Front		
I hate her because ...	What I did about it:	How effective was this?
A teacher in a Midlands Comprehensive school		
I hate her because ...	What I did about it:	How effective was this?

An unemployed family on a council estate in Liverpool		
We hate her because ...	What we did about it:	How effective was this?
An African immigrant in Brixton		
I hate her because ...	What I did about it:	How effective was this?
Catholic and Anglican bishops of Liverpool (Worlock and Sheppard)		
We hate her because ...	What we did about it:	How effective was this?

An IRA and Sinn Fein supporter		
I hate her because ...	What I did about it:	How effective was this?
CND and Greenpeace activist		
I hate her because ...	What I did about it:	How effective was this?
Animal Liberation Front supporter		
I hate her because ...	What I did about it:	How effective was this?

Intellectual playwrights (David Hare, Howard Brenton and Alan Bleasdale)		
We hate her because ...	What we did about it:	How effective was this?

Note: welfare spending did go up! Many public services (schools, roads, buses) were not privatised.

Many continued to support Thatcher - why?

Middle class service industry worker in South East	Banker and stock broker in the city of London
I support Thatcher because ...	I support Thatcher because ...

Extension

- Consider you and your family's current life and circumstances (job, where you live, etc). If it was the 1980's and Thatcher was in power, how would you and your family view her? Explain your views.
- Create a 10 question test on what you have found out. Test another student.

Teacher notes

You could allocate each of the 13 groups/individuals to different students to research and present back to the class.

Once complete you could then follow up with a hot-seating exercise where students have to imagine they are a member of society in Thatcher's Britain and explain how they feel about her.

A guide to the sort of content you might expect is given below:

Key Cabinet members: Lawson, Heseltine, Howe, Heseltine		
We hate her because ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • she is too autocratic! 	What we did about it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howe resigned from government. • Lawson and Heseltine moved to back benches where they mounted opposition to her. 	How effective was this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thatcher was eventually forced out! 'Regicide' as her own cabinet asked her to resign in 1990.
Working-class inner-city Londoner		
I hate her because ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Poll Tax attempt • she demonised Ken Livingstone (looney left) and got rid of GLC • unemployment up to 3 million! • she allowed further immigration placing pressure on jobs and helping reduce workers' wages. 	What I did about it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • riots in Brixton and Tottenham in 1985. • Poll Tax demonstrations in London - 250,000 at Trafalgar Square in 1990 and Militant Tendency set up Anti-Poll Tax federation. Major rioting! 	How effective was this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was greater spending on services • Poll tax not passed.

A Northern coal miner (supporter of Scargill)		
<p>I hate her because ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Poll Tax attempt. • She demonised Scargill, Gormley (looney Left). • unemployment up to 3 million! • My wife has become the main bread winner, I have lost my job and am drinking heavily. My son has had to move away to find work. 	<p>What we did about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Miners' Strike 1984-5. 	<p>How effective was this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strikes were defeated (the NUM and Nottinghamshire Miners did not unite and neither did Gormley and Scargill). • 1979 - 200,000 miners; 1990 - 60,000 • Within 15 years membership of the NUM was down 30% from 1975. • Oil and Gas became main energy and 'King Coal' was dead.
Northern industrial worker in a mechanised factory plant		
<p>I hate her because ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Poll Tax attempt. • the North/South divide has widened. • unemployment and closed factories - focus on South East. • unemployment is up to 3 million! • Mechanisation has meant I may lose my job. 	<p>What we did about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strikes. 	<p>How effective was this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not very! But in the 1990's the government begins to invest further in the North and Midlands.
Member of the National Front		
<p>I hate her because ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is too much immigration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ e.g. Brick Lane 'Banglatown' in London. ○ 50,000 in Bradford are Asia • the Immigration Act of 1981 not enough! • immigrants taking public service jobs and getting low pay. 	<p>What we did about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protested and support for the National Front increased. 	<p>How effective was this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1981 Immigration Act attempted to curb immigration.

A teacher in a Midlands Comprehensive school		
<p>I hate her because ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Poll Tax attempt. my pay is being cut in 'real terms' and my pension is at risk. the lack of investment in schools and services means that schools are increasingly difficult to manage and behaviour in poorer areas of North, Midlands and Wales is worsening. 	<p>What we did about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strikes. 	<p>How effective was this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited! However, investment in schools and services increased in the 1990s.
An unemployed family on a council estate in Liverpool		
<p>We hate her because ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Poll Tax attempt. unemployment up to 3 million! privatisation means that many businesses have cut back on jobs and pay. the 'Right to Buy' means lots of council houses have been sold and not replaced. We have few choices of where to live and there is a big queue for housing. We have to live in a rented flat on an undesirable estate. 	<p>What we did about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> riots in Liverpool 1980/81 and increased youth violence. 	<p>How effective was this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right to Buy continued for decades.
An African immigrant in Brixton		
<p>I hate her because ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Poll Tax attempt. 	<p>What we did about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> riots in 1985 Brixton. 	<p>How effective was this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Racial tensions continued.

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Catholic and Anglican bishops of Liverpool (Worlock and Sheppard)		
<p>I hate her because ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> of the lack of social cohesion - too much emphasis on the individual and greed 'there is no such thing as society'. 	<p>What we did about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Faith and the City' published to protest against moral decline. campaigning and spoke out against problems. 	<p>How effective was this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some very public impact.
An IRA and Sinn Fein supporter		
<p>I hate her because ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thatcher is a fierce unionist and maintains British soldiers in Ireland. IRA prisoners are held in the Maze Prison and do not have special category status. 	<p>What we did about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hunger strikes in 1980/81. 	<p>How effective was this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine died (including Bobby Sands who had won election to the seat of Fermanagh). IRA and Sinn Fein realise gun and ballot box combined can work. Gerry Adams elected to West Belfast seat in 1983.
CND and Greenpeace activist		
<p>I hate her because ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in 1979 the US was allowed to place Cruise Missiles in the UK. 	<p>What we did about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenham Common Camp and Protest 1983 - 14 mile long human chain! 	<p>How effective was this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Massive media coverage and at the end of the Cold War Cruise Missiles are shipped back (many women stayed until 2000!)
Animal Liberation Front supporter		
<p>I hate her because ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> she allows animal testing and does not pass laws against it. 	<p>What we did about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eco-terrorism: arson attacks, letter bombs! 	<p>How effective was this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased regulation.

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Intellectual playwrights (David Hare, Howard Brenton and Alan Bleasdale)		
<p>I hate her because ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Poll Tax attempt. the lack of social cohesion - too much emphasis on the individual and greed 'there is no such thing as society'. 	<p>What we did about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> television and stage plays, books and articles. <i>Spitting Image</i> and <i>Private Eye</i> lambasted Thatcher! 	<p>How effective was this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very public opposition encouraged a more critical attitude towards the government.

Middle class service industry worker in South East	Banker and stock broker in the city of London
<p>I supported Thatcher because: I was able to buy shares in privatised businesses and these went up far quicker than average shares (numbers of share owners went up from three million to nine million thanks to deregulation). I have been able to buy my council house thanks to the 'Right to Buy' (two million new home owners). This has helped me with social mobility and I am proud to be a home owner!</p>	<p>I supported Thatcher because: the Stock Exchange in the City is now deregulated and big fortunes can be made. The City of London is again a major global trading centre. Lower taxes are great! Personal pensions give me other people's money to trade on the exchange too!</p>