

THE RT HON MARGARET THATCHER, MP,  
PRIME MINISTER, FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY AND  
MINISTER FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Conservative Member of Parliament for Barnet, Finchley, was appointed Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service on 4 May 1979, following the success of the Conservative Party in the general election of the previous day. She is Britain's first woman Prime Minister.

Margaret Hilda Thatcher was born in 1925, the daughter of a grocer who was active in local politics as borough councillor, alderman and mayor of Grantham. She went from elementary school to Kesteven and Grantham Girls' High School, won a bursary to Somerville College, Oxford, and obtained a degree in Natural Science (BSc). She is also a Master of Arts (MA) of Oxford University.

On leaving Oxford she worked for four years as a research chemist to an industrial firm, reading for the Bar in her spare time. She was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1954, and practised as a barrister, specialising in taxation law.

While an undergraduate she was President of the Oxford University Conservative Association. As Miss Margaret Roberts she contested two parliamentary elections for the Conservative Party, in 1950 and 1951, before being elected (after her marriage) to the House of Commons in 1959 as Member for Finchley. She represented Finchley until