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**Women's Representation during
Margaret Thatcher's Premiership
and the Shadow of the Falkland
War (1982)**

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Didication

*In the Name of God the Most Merciful and the Most Compassionate
To the apple of my EYES, my MOTHER Khadidja.*

To the HARD WORKER whom I take my power, my FATHER Sadek.

*To the people who believe in me my sister: Samia, my brothers Islam and
the little Abdelbasset.*

*To the woman who taught me how to give without waiting for reward my
precious Grand Mother.*

And all my relatives, friends, and colleagues

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Abstract

The starting point of this work is the Falkland Islands which are considered as set of territories and the only question for dispute. In the past, the Argentine government attempted to claim ownership of the Falklands. Question of sovereignty go straight to the heart of the Falkland Islands. After all attempts failed, the Argentine government invaded the islands illegally. The emphasis of this study is upon analyzing the British response for the Argentine invasion. Seemingly, the outbreak of war between Britain and Argentina gave Britain a new trend of victory. For Thatcher, the Falkland war was considered as the last gasp against the Argentine military dictatorship. The application of the task forces as method has significant impact for the British government. Thatcher useful plans and strategies helped Britain to recapture the Falklands and win the war in 14 June 1982. At that time, Britain underwent a significant transformation in Thatcher period. It was Thatcherism as a literary term, political name and achievement for Thatcher. Feminisation was a central theme in Thatcher's political and social actions. She represented woman during her political carrier by upholding them, and giving opportunity for young ladies to keep up with political life.

Key Words:

-Argentina - Falkland Islands - Sovereignty - Thatcherism
-Britain - Feminisation -Task Forces - war

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General Introduction

General Introduction

The Falkland Islands are set of archipelago that located in the South Atlantic. They composed of the East, the most populated capital 'Stanley' and the West side. In the past, these territories witnessed a long dispute that started with Spain, France and Portugal who claim their first discovery of the Islands and continue with Britain and Argentina who imposed their Sovereignty on these lands. At first view, the Falkland Islands turned to an international Question when the other countries like U.S. and Italy attempted to find solutions. This later makes the Falkland Islands such a nightmarish dream for Britain and Argentina because; they failed to find a common solution for this crisis.

Seemingly, the events that came before the Falkland war marked a period of decline in Britain and Argentina. The British government suffered from political crisis under the Thatcher's Premiership. She received critical judgments from the Conservative Party members because, she is simply a woman. There was a period of economic recession as a result; most of the workers faced the issue of unemployment.

In the Argentine side, the government suffered from political decline in the period of Galtieri leadership. The Argentine regime was criticized because Galtieri was so naïve, unable to take the right decisions and able to give random discourses. More importantly, he wanted to show his political position that is why he failed in the trap of exaggeration. Another problem touched the economic level was that the government took much interest of the military level and imported the arms for the juntas. The result was more foreign debts and the government relationships were not good in the west.

At the heart of this decline, Argentina wanted an effective solution and so Galtieri aimed to serve its domestic policy. The government used the Falklands as the only playing card so; the Argentineans invaded the islands illegally. In the British side, there was much infuriation against this invasion. The Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher told the only mediator General Al Haig about her intention of declaring the war against Argentina. However, he replied that there were peaceful negotiations for this crisis. In this period, both Britain and Argentina refused to surrender. The less the Argentine government insisted on the matter of invasion the more Britain wanted to recapture the Falklands. The British response for this invasion was sending the task forces. The year of 1982 witnessed an escalation of the conflict in the west. After long negotiations both Britain and Argentina failed to find a common solution as a result, there was the declaration of the Falkland war.

The Falkland war simply pinpoints the most significant events in the British history. It started with sending the British air and submarines task forces. At that point, the Argentine juntas underestimate the power of British army forces. So, there was the sinking of 'General Belgrano'. As a result, the Argentine army put their arms and surrendered.

Essentially, the end of war witnessed a bright but gloomy era of defeat for the Argentine junta's dictatorship as well as General Galtieri. Britain finally won the war and recaptured the Falklands. In the political side, Mrs. Thatcher regained her position in the Conservative Party. The government depended much more on the level of tourism. This can flourish the economy of Britain and so the government focused on the discovery of oil in the Falklands.

The purpose of this study is to analyze how Thatcher used the military forces as successful means to win the war, and how she represented women in politics throughout her premiership. I choose this topic because, I want to fill the gap and deal with women's representation and Feminisation. By writing this thesis I want to examine how Thatcher gave opportunity for women to occupy high positions in politics. Moreover, Thatcher strong personality represents her gender and the British women.

To study this topic, we are going to ask two main questions that will help us to shed light on Thatcher domestic policy. We want to know whether the method of the task forces was effective in winning the Falkland war and enhancing Thatcher domestic policy. The second was how Thatcher represent woman during her presidency, in the Parliament and the Conservative Party?

To answer the above questions, the work will be divided into three chapters. The first one will be historical; we are going to discuss the history of the Falkland Islands starting from the first claim and discovery to the process of imposing sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. Then, we are going to mention the beauty of the islands as a touristic resort.

The second chapter will be almost analytic. We will deal with the internal situation where we take Britain and Argentina as samples. We examine the decline that touched every country before the war in political and economic side. Then, we tackle the reasons that led to the declaration of the Falkland war, starting from internal contest between Britain and Argentina to the illegal invasion of the Falklands by Argentina. After that, we demonstrate the British response for the invasion by preparing the task Forces.

In the last chapter, we will pinpoint the events that came before the Falkland war starting from sending the task forces to sinking of General Belgrano by Britain. Then, we discuss precisely how Britain wins the Falkland war and how the Argentine dictatorship regime fall. Finally, we discuss Thatcher representation of woman in politics in the light of her decisive decisions during her presidency.

Chapter One

Chapter One: Historical Background of the Falkland Islands

Speaking about the Falkland Islands is speaking about a long dispute between the British and Argentine powers, over whether these islands named the Falkland, or Islas Malvinas. Later on, it became as a source of struggle between countries. At the same time, it represents a symbol of power and dominance.

By now, thanks to its geographical location and its cultural history, the Falklands received French name which derived from the Spanish 'Islas Malvinas'. The Falkland Islands is not a mere name for the west; it is an important place or rather a site for many countries like Britain and Argentina to impose their sovereignty.

This chapter is thus divided into three sections. First of all, one will start with the initial part of this chapter by giving an overview about the Falkland Islands and representing its geographical location. Then, one will move smoothly to the second part by examining the events that preceded the first sighting for the Falkland Islands and last but not least, light will be cast on the reasons that led Britain and Argentina to struggle for the Falkland Islands.

1.1. An Overview about The Falkland Islands (1502-1701)

The Falkland Islands are territories that came as a reason of a long dispute between different powers. They are also known as the Malvinas Islands. One of the most powerful countries as Britain and Argentina attempted to capture those islands in the past. The Falkland Islands turned into a crisis when the battle had started between Britain and Argentina, in which they imposed their sovereignty over those Islands. Others such as Spain and France made big efforts to invade the Islands.

These Islands are considered as the main reason for the struggle between Britain and Argentina. What is significant here, is the way those islands became as a source of conflict in the eyes of Britain and Argentina. For Britain, these Islands reflected the image of power and dominance, for Argentina owning the Falkland Islands made the government take all the political, social and economic problems away.

To such extent, as Britain became interested in the Falkland Islands, the Argentine government cared for those lands and considered them as its possession. The conflict for these

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Islands was a peak to a long time of struggle which led to the declaration of the Falkland war. Before that both British and Argentine government suffered from political, economic and social problems. At that time, Britain was dominated by one woman. This woman was Margaret Hilda Thatcher and held the position of Prime Minister, whereas the Argentine government was ruled by General Leopoldo Galtieri.

1.2. The Falkland Islands Location

To know the history of the Falkland Islands, it is important to deal with its geographical location before going straight the islands as a question. However, when dealing with the historical background of these islands, historians found that the Falkland Islands are an archipelago¹ located in the South Atlantic Ocean. These islands consist of two main parts East and West Falkland and other small islands (Horan 3).

The Falkland Islands are located over 480 kilometres from the southern Coast of Argentina, in which it consists of several small unknown islands. It is approximately over 746 islands. The capital of the Falkland Islands is named 'Stanley' and where the majority of population live on the Eastern side of the Falkland Islands; the remainder live in the 'Campo'² (Edwin 1).

The Capital of the Falkland 'Stanley' has many characteristics where there is a combination between South American style and Victorian Architecture. There are also colourful houses, beautiful gardens, and several old ships. (oceanwide expeditions)³

2. Early Colonialism and Sighting of Islands (1592-1600)

Over all the countries that attempted to capture the Falklands, there is a dispute and every country wanted to support its presence in the west. At the first time, it seems that sighting for the Falkland Islands gave every country the power to impose its existence in the west. By the time the British government lost its highest position, other countries as Spain, Portugal and France

¹ A group of small islands scattered together.

² A local term derived from the Spanish word which means Countryside.

³For more insightful information and details about the Falkland islands characteristic see www.accredited-times.com/2017/08/25/falkland-islands-belong-argentina/

Chapter One: Historical Background of the Falkland Islands

claimed their discovery of these territories and every country has its motives behind sighting for the Falkland Islands.

2.1. Spanish and Portuguese First Sighting of Islands (1502)

From all different powers that support its presence in the west, there is the Portuguese country which claimed that it is the first country who sought for the Falkland Islands. In this context, historians indicated that the Portuguese were the first who discovered the Falkland Islands by the aid of the Italian sailor Amerigo Vespucci. He sailed with his three ships in 1502. Some historians thought that this considers the first European sighting of the Islands (Edwin xiv). From these sayings one can understand that the first European who landed in the Falkland Islands is the Portuguese.

On the contrary, the Spanish have another opinion about Falkland Islands discovery; in fact they argued that France is the first colony who had settled on the islands before anyone (Gustafson 11). The Spanish continued to visit the Falkland Islands by the help of Don Felipe Ruiz Puente⁴ when he sent a ship to the islands. After that, Captain Hunt of Port Egmont became anxious about the Spanish visit and he warned them. So, they returned because Hunt believed that the Falkland Islands were British (Gustafson 12).

2.2 Claims Sovereignty Over Islands (1765)

Claims power over the Falkland Islands has itself of course changed over the decades. Countries like Britain and Argentina struggled for a long time to take control for those islands. In this process, the most significance challenge for Britain and Argentina is to rule those territories.

In this context, when we talk about sovereignty a number of writers have expressed concern that there are many types of sovereignty. The writer Lowel S. Gustafson introduced his book *The Sovereignty Dispute over the Falkland* published in 1998 by talking about the sovereignty as a means of authority between countries and how this sovereignty encompasses two types: internal and external sovereignty.

⁴He is the governor of the Spanish colony on the Malvinas.

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Following on, the author gave a definition about internal sovereignty. According to Gustafson, Internal sovereignty is defined as “the concept of supremacy or superiority in a state by virtue of which some person or body or group in that political society is supreme and can, in the last resort, impose his or its will on all other body and persons therein.” (1)

Here the writer portrays the term sovereignty as a way of power and dominance. He argued that countries as Britain and Argentina continued to struggle and claimed authority just to possess the Falkland Islands and annex it in which, every country wanted to impose its power on those islands.

However, many historians have an opponent opinion where they wrote: “Sovereignty may be a majestic principle, but it seems cold, distant, and impersonal. Tony Benn⁵ proclaimed that not sovereignty, but the welfare of the people, was what Britain wanted.” (qtd in Gustafson 52) this quote spot light to the British intent towards the Falkland Islands in general and the Islanders in particular, in fact the British government landed on these islands to protect the right of the islanders, not to take control of the Falkland and impose power.

2.3. The Significance of the Falkland Islands for Britain and Argentina

A member of parliament said "our retention of the administration and sovereignty of the Falkland Islands does not relate to the possibility of there being gas or oil in the region. We are not there for a commercial purpose. . . . We are there because the islanders...(qtd in Gustafson 52) Typically, every saying about the Falkland Islands supports the idea that ascertains from the reality of looking for those islands, or let us say why they are important to Britain at first scale? The quotation above may reflect the shadow of commercial or economic purposes behind looking for the Falkland Islands. A member of parliament argued that these islands represent the rights of the islanders so as to, the British government settled there for one purpose which is to defend or rather to protect the rights of the islanders. However, in the process of defending the Islanders rights the British government has another hidden purpose which is searching for oil.

⁵A British politician, Member of the Labour Party(1943) and a pilot in the Royal Air Force during World War II. For more insightful information about Tony Benn see <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Tony-Benn>

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The potential of oil existence over the Falkland Islands started with Britain and Argentina where the British government became anxious and discussed this issue in a meeting on 24 October 1969. In this process, Richard Grossman⁶ wrote that 'no one knew if there was any oil there or not'.(Gustafson 83) This later tell us that both Britain and Argentina were not sure about the possibility of oil existence over the Falkland, but they wanted to prove whether there is an oil in the islands or not by searching as a first attempt.

2.1.2. Claims by Britain (1765)

Thinking about the Falkland question is a main issue for countries like Britain and Argentina. The British government claimed that the Falkland Islands belonged to Britain for many reasons. One of these reasons is that their claims based on the first discovery of the Falkland Islands. The West side of the Falkland was explored by Captain John Beyron⁷ followed by Captain John MacBride founding the colony of Port Egmont. In December 1769 there was a conflict between the Captain of Santa Catalina, Don Fernando De Rebalcava and Hunt about the possession of the Falkland Islands. Hunt said to Don Fernando that the Falkland Islands belonged to Britain because; the British claimed that they discovered these islands. As a result, Don Fernando returned and left the islands (Gustafson 12).

However, history demonstrated that the British government continued to visit, or rather to send many expeditions to the Falkland Islands. Britain continued its visits in order to challenge the French government. Also, it wanted to establish a settlement in the Falkland Islands based on its first claim of discovery. The British thought that this challenge of settlement against France would allow them to recapture or maintain the title of these islands. Though discovery remained an absolute question, the reality is that historians confirmed that France had discovered the Falkland Islands two years before Britain (Gustafson 10).

At first glance, it seems that the British government has one reason behind its claim to the Falkland Islands but, the reality reflects other reasons that made Britain refreshing its claim and again embrace this issue. These reasons are: the unsettled state of the new republic, the United State law that prevented fishing over the Falkland Islands whether it was Britain or Argentina

⁶He was Lord President of the Council, Leader of the House of Commons and cabinet member.

⁷He is an Explorer and pioneer who discovered the parts around West Falkland Islands in 1765 and claimed that the Falkland is for Britain.

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and the Argentinean control over the Falkland Islands. This later was considered as the main reason that pushed Britain to think again about the Falkland question because; it considered the Argentine government as an enemy (Gustafson 25).

2.2.2. Claims by Argentina (1820)

As the Argentine government released its claim in the 1820s. In this process, the most significance challenge for Argentina is to gain sovereignty over the Falkland Islands particularly, in the political field. In this context, when we talk about the Argentine claim one cannot pinpoint exactly who is the first owner of the Falkland Islands especially, every country claims its sovereignty over these islands.

At this point, it is important to note that writers as well as historians argued that the first claim of the Falkland Islands belonged to Argentina since the Argentinean settled there. Gustafson wrote:

Perhaps the islands could have passed under the sovereignty of another country after 1811 if any other country had occupied them or even made claim to them. If England had claimed or settled the islands from 1811-1820, its claim would be stronger. No nation did occupy or claim the islands after the 1811 evacuation, until the Argentine government sent Colonel Daniel Jewitt⁸ to the islands in November 1820. (qtd in Gustafson 21)

As the quotation above noted that the Argentine government is the first nation that settled in the Falkland Islands. That is to say, the government sent the Colonel Daniel Jewitt to the Malvinas colony. He was the first one who claimed possession to the Falkland Islands for Argentina. Later on, the government accepted his request; assigned Don Pablo Aregusti⁹ to rule the Falkland Islands and set some laws and acts as the rule to regulate fishing over the islands (Gustafson 22).

⁸He was an American Naval Commander who was accused of piracy by both USA and Portugal.

⁹He was appointed governor of the islands in 1823 (Gustafson 22).

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At the same time, historians have expressed concern that there have been several opinions and interpretations for the Argentine claim in fact, there was a dispute between Britain and Argentina about the title and who has the right to own the Falkland Islands. That is why the Argentine government insisted on its claims. Professor Emilio J. Cardenas agreed with the Argentine claim. He argued that 'if a state has a clear titled to a piece of territory possessed by another state, then its use of force to recover its legal possession is not a violation of U.N'¹⁰. (Gustafson 30)However, it is unlikely that Argentineans were not able to achieve their rights for the Falkland Islands, even if they used the force to retake their rights. Indeed, Argentina has no claim in which they can demand title in legal way.

2.3.2. Early Settlement (1811-1832)

When you think of the Falkland Islands, it is better to think it as having four competitors: Britain, Argentina, Spain and France. One common thing between those countries is the Falkland Islands. After a long dispute we do not know among these countries who are the first settler of these islands.

In an article a writer argued that in the 1700s the Falkland Islands were unpopulated or let us say isolated in the real meaning. In the Eastern side of these islands France is the first country who established a colony called "Port St. Louis" so, they gave this colony the name "Îles Malouines"¹¹. There were many attempts from the British government when Captain John Byron explored the Western part of the Falkland Islands in 1765 and claimed that the Falkland Islands belongs to Britain. The next year another Captain called John MacBride found a British settlement at Port Egmont but, the British did not know about French Claims. In 1766 there was a great dispute between Spain and France when the Spanish military ordered France to leave the Falkland Islands. Therefore, the French government reacted to this suggestion and left the lands to Spain. This later ruled the Falkland Islands and named it Puerto Soledad. Many historians noted that the Falkland Islands belong to Argentina because, Spain and Argentina speak the same

¹⁰ United Nations is an international Organization. Its purposes are to facilitate cooperation in international law, economic development, social progress...etc). The main purpose of united nation is to protect human right and to achieve peace in all the world.

¹¹It is a name given by France on the Eastern side of the Falkland Islands. It is the French name for Las Islas Malvinas.

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language as a result, the Argentine government has a superior claim to the Islands. However, In 1770 Don Juan Ignacio de Madariaga invaded the British settlement at Port Egmont and he succeeded to rule Port Egmont. After that, Spain accepted to leave Port Egmont. This later gave Britain the opportunity to take control over Port Egmont as a result, continued its claim over this territory (accredited-times)¹².

3. The Falkland Islands, a Touristic Resort

In considering the Falkland Islands issues, it is extremely important to go away from this problem by shedding light to another thing which is the advantages or the characteristics that led every country to own these territories. Today, the Falkland Islands became one of the best destinations that attract everyone looking for travel and discover the nature.

To delineate from the real norms, countries like Britain, France and Spain expressed their desires to own the Falkland Islands in fact, leaders as well as historians described the traits of these lands. Anson's chaplain, Reverend Richard Walter, wrote of the Falklands that "it is scarcely to be conceived, of what prodigious import a convenient station might prove, situated so far to the southward, and so near Cape Horn." They could, "in time of war... make us masters of those seas. (qtd in Gustafson 7) Here Walter noted that the Falkland Islands represent power, dominance and benefit for every country in the west especially, when every country face a war it could be beneficial for them.

Some examples are drawn from the French government when Dom Pernety, the priest accompanying the French expedition, wrote "one of the most delightful accounts of a pioneering group arriving in a new land. (qtd in Gustafson 8) Here Pernety portrays the positive traits of the Falkland Islands and how these lands turned into attractive place and a suitable destination for every pioneer wants to discover a new place.

Other countries may express their desire to dominate the Falkland Islands. As Lord Egmont, the first lord of the admiralty wrote that these islands consider as a benefit or a profitable for Britain. At the same time, it is damage or a disaster for other countries like Spain. Moreover, these islands control the transformation of trade in the sea (Gustafson 9).

¹²for more information see www.accredited-times.com/2017/08/25/falkland-islands-belong-argentina/

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Away from the political concerns, thanks to its geographical location and natural scenes, the Falkland Islands became the suitable destination today for everyone wants to discover the beauty of these lands. First of all, for the lover of the sea and marine life, these lands contain multiple marine mammals as Peale's dolphins, killer whales...etc). Moreover, these islands represent various kinds of the penguins as rock hopper, king, and Magellanic. As you can surmise, every place from Malvinas narrates the history of the Falkland Islands and the right place to discover all this things is visiting the museum, where it is covering all the history of the Falkland Islands from the first discovery to the beginning of war in which, this museum is deserved to visit. (oceanwide expeditions)¹³

¹³for more insightful information see <https://oceanwide-expeditions.com/blog/20-resounding-reasons-to-visit-the-falkland-islands>

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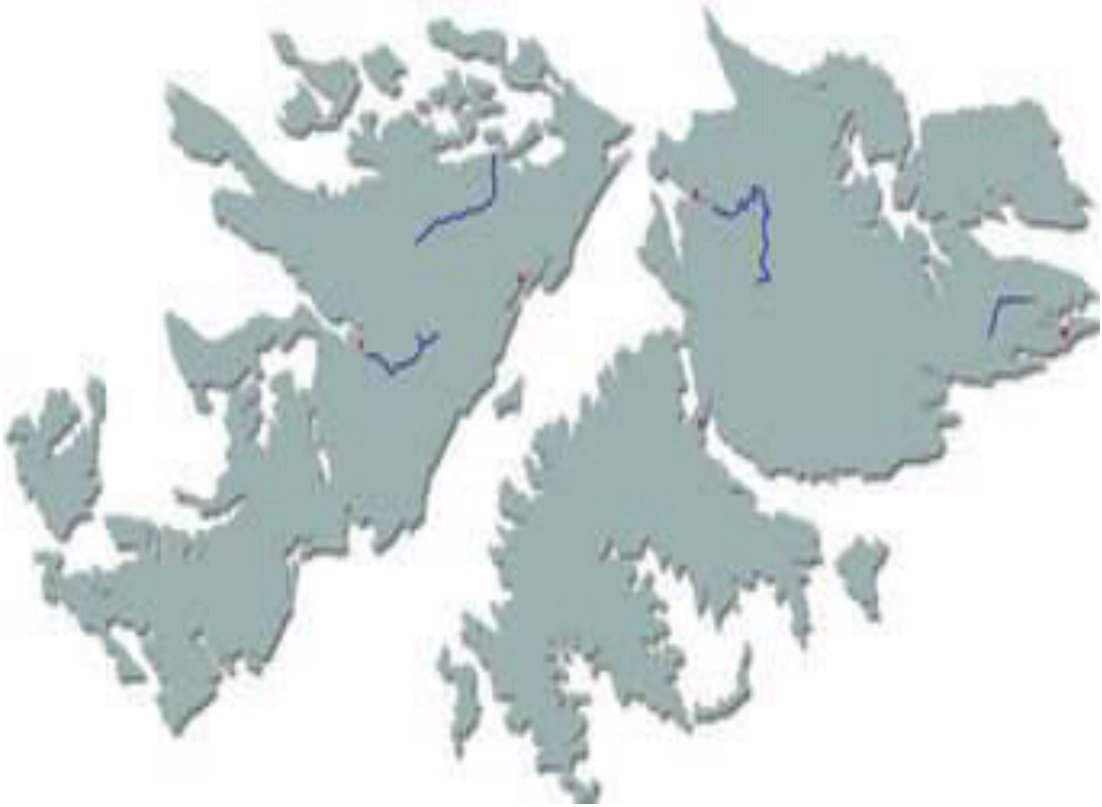
Tackling all the issues that are related to the Falkland Islands made everyone question the situation of the British and the Argentine government. These powers entered in a conflict under the name of first discovery or what we call it sighting for the Falkland Islands. In the process of sighting, every country claimed its power and sovereignty on the islands. This later marked the beginning of the struggle between different powers in the west.

At the beginning of settlement over the Falkland Islands. Both Britain and Argentina wanted to take control of these territories in fact, this later made it difficult for those countries when it witnessed the beginning of new challenge and competition of who first owned the Falkland Islands.

By the time, the British government passed through different laws and acts just to possess the Falkland Islands and made it their own lands. The same thing with Argentina in fact, the dispute became over between these countries. It turned into external question when other countries attempted a negotiation to solve such a crisis.

In the next chapter light will be cast on the events that preceded the Falkland conflict and how Britain and Argentina prepared for the coming war.

Chapter One: Historical Background of the Falkland Islands



Map 1: The Falkland Islands Geographical Location

Chapter Two

Chapter Two: The Efforts of Britain and Argentina for capturing the Islands and Declaration of War

It would have appeared that such little lands or territories gain a prominence in the western world. The British and Argentine government sought imperial power for the Falkland Islands. In one sense, the cycle of domination continued for a long time and both countries faced what we call the declaration of Falkland war.

After all, the Falkland war seemed to be such a political quarrel, such an international question that united western countries like Britain and Argentina under one simple objective. This objective is simply to take control over the Islas Malvinas.

This Second Chapter is an attempt to examine the internal and external situation prior the Falkland war; more particularly, when the British and Argentine government prepared for this war. In this case, this chapter discusses the nature of the Falkland Islands for western powers; in fact, this issue is more crucial and central for such countries. The last section of this chapter covers the period that began with the Falkland war, the possible reasons behind capturing the Falkland Islands and how the British government attempted to adopt the suitable negotiation to prepare for the Falkland war.

1. Comparable Internal Situation

The situation between Britain and Argentine was different at that time. While it was easy for the western countries to keep up with hard situations, it was not similar for the British and Argentine government to reach such a satisfaction either in social, economic or political field, in fact the situation of Britain was not good in the period of Margaret Thatcher. The same matter for Argentina where the government encountered a great deal of obstacles particularly in the political field.

1.1. Argentine Decline before the war

1.1.1. Political Decline

There is no accurate or convincing answer why western powers such the Argentine government suffered from set of problems prior the war. It is possible to highlight the key issues behind political problems, in which the collapse of the Argentine government is clear in many areas. One of them is the political field. Historians and politicians always have their views about the Argentine Political issues and in searching to the adequate answers for their questions.

Chapter Two: The Efforts of Britain and Argentina for capturing the Islands and Declaration of War

Francis Pym¹⁴ in an attempt to answer various questions about the situation of the Argentine government before and during the war he asked:

Why did Argentina's ruler suddenly decide...to resort to arbitrary and brutal aggression? I suggest that part of the answer lies in the very brutality and unpopularity of the Argentine regime itself. Inflation is raging in Argentina, at the rate of 140 percent a year. The regime is notorious for its systematic contempt of all human rights. Only a few days before the invasion of the Falkland Islands there had been riots in Buenos Aires. Harassed by political unrest at home, and beset by mounting economic difficulties, the regime turned desperately to a cynical attempt to arouse jingoism¹⁵ among its people.(qtd in Gustafson 144)

At this point, there would be no evidence of political decline in Argentina; in fact this quote keeps a sense of cynical questions with several possibilities. Pym noted then that the Argentine regime is somehow not famous. He criticized the political rules which led by General Leopoldo Galtieri and how he took control of the Argentine government. Of course, there was no immediate solution for Argentina to solve its political problems. Pym argued that there is a gap in Argentine regulated system. It was created by the Argentinean leaders when they failed to find such a negotiation to solve their political problems. According to Pym, Leaders as Galtieri were unable to guide themselves, what if they were responsible for the whole government. He described the failure of the Argentine regime and how it was an abusive system for human rights.

At first glance, it would be difficult to summarize the situation of the Argentine government. However, Pym himself would criticize the Argentine regime as he argued that the Argentine's policy had been transformed to a cynical situation, because some leaders failed to take the right decisions. At the heart of this debate, there was another analysis about the Argentine political situation. One Soviet reporter came with a critical analysis when he indicated that the world discussed the Argentine political decisions in a continuous manner. Of course, there was a high degree of dissatisfaction in the country, in which, a great deals of people related the leader's arrangements with the economic and political obstacles that faced the Argentine government (Gustafson 144).

¹⁴The new British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs

¹⁵It is an excessive patriotism or aggressive nationalism especially with regards to foreign policy.

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These analyses help shed light on the relationship between political leaders and their domestic policy i.e. if the leaders do not take the right decisions, there will be no successful policy. As a result, it was the leaders' inability to take political arrangements. The reality of this is shown before the beginning of the Falkland war when General Galtieri delivered a speech to 150,000 people and proclaimed: "If they¹⁶...want to come, let them come; we will fight them" (Gustafson 146). Galtieri said these little words for the British people and announced his decision as a president to fight the British government and take the Falkland Islands. According to historians Galtieri changed his decision and said later that he did not intend to fight the British people.

It was difficult for leaders as Galtieri to reach stability in their decisions especially when the matters rely on political discourses. By the time, the issue of the Argentineans leaders became cynical due to their irregular decisions whether it was a political decision from an Argentinean leader or the random thinking of General Galtieri. A wider criticism had been said when he thought of himself as the "New Caudillo"¹⁷ of the Argentina (146). It is interesting to note that Galtieri pretended himself as a leader of Argentina and compared himself to other leaders in order to show his political position in the sense of exaggeration. That is why he did not interest about other important issues in politics, or what is really essential to the Argentine government.

In short, historians' analyses offer wide range of views on the Argentine government and its political issues more broadly. It raised the image of political leaders, making it a debatable point in both public and private fields in which, criticism of the Argentine's leaders also takes its starting point a concern for demonstrating the negative points in Argentine's leaders in which, they were too obsessive by their position and always worked to strength their political position as Galtieri did. He compared himself to General Patton¹⁸ of World War II fame (Gustafson 146). That is why; he received cynical expressions from historians and people. From this, some statistics addressed that General Galtieri was an amiable soldier however; he was politically naive, and reputedly extremely fond of the bottle. (qtd in Anderson 13)

¹⁶ The British people

¹⁷ Leader or military dictator

¹⁸ He was considered as one of the most successful combat generals in U.S. history. It was during WWII that Patton hit the high point of his military career. For more information about General George Patton see <https://www.biography.com/military-figure/george-patton>

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Such a negative response obviously did not serve the political position of the Argentineans leaders. However, it has been mentioned in the previous analyses that all these criticisms against those leaders lessening their image in the west.

1.1.2. Economic Decline

It is generally argued that the Argentine government before the revolution of the Falkland Islands had no popular support. On the other hand, when we talk about the economic situation we understand that the Argentine government was unable to keep stability especially in the economic side.

It is appeared that the Falklands conflict prevented the return to economic stability for the Argentine government; in fact there was a high range of military dominance in the country. One of the issues faced by the Argentine government was how to get their country into economic stability. The economic decline extended the Argentine government to include some issues related to the military system, in which the Argentine juntas contributed in way and another for destroying the economic stability. Historians have their own view about this matter, in fact they claimed:

By killing some 10,000 people, using inhumane and illegal techniques of punishment and detention, and persecuting many people who had no relation to the terrorists, the juntas ¹⁹of the late 1970s did immeasurable harm to their own nation. It was doubtful how well they protected the national sovereignty, as they had promised to do. They increased Argentina's foreign debt faster than any previous regime. (Foreign debt, not the level of import of goods, has long been an important yardstick by which Argentines have measured their dependence. (qtd in Gustafson 145)

More importantly, it might have been expected that the juntas in the late 1970s have a relation to the Argentine foreign debts, because the government imported the means for the military power and this later involved the funds to bring the military means like arms forces. That is why, the government's funds decreased, and there is no benefit in the economic side. It is

¹⁹Plural of junta: is the ruling council of a military dictatorship. Here the writer is talking about the Argentine military.

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clear that the process of exportation decreased and the importation of goods and means of war for the Argentine juntas cost losses for the Argentine government.

Broadly speaking, the period also saw the growing involvement of rebellion against the military juntas in 1976s, in fact there is a high range of human rights violations by the military power. This later received a high level of infuriation. As a result, the other countries criticized the Argentine military system (Tucker et al 176).

More generally, the early months of 1982 saw a definite collapse in the economic side, because the government was at the outset preparation for the Falkland war, in fact there was a high interest about the military means and arms. That is why the government made big efforts in the process of importation and paid everything to win the Falkland war. The result was that the military regime was discredited at all and the government's political image and reputation was tarnished in the west (Tucker et al 176).

2. Britain Regression before the War (1976-1981)

One of the major problem faced by the British government was that the question of decline in its various sides, in fact there was a high decline before the war and the British government suffered, or let us say faced many obstacles. This decline had been started during the period of Margaret Thatcher, i.e. in the time that preceded the Falkland war. The decline touched different domain started from the political decline to the economic one, in which it has a negative impact on the Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher and affects her relationship with other members of the conservative party. The government faced a lot of problems concerning the foreign debts and unemployment or joblessness among people. The reason that pushed Mrs. Thatcher to search for a solution to save her government in general, and the conservative party in particular.

2.1. Political Crisis

The notion of crisis is most closely associated with British's regime and its political system. Ultimately, the period that preceded the Falkland war, in fact there was certainly a wide criticism from the public towards the British regime. Not only was Mrs. Thatcher and her administration was criticized by the British people, but another part who received a high range of resent. This part is the Conservative party as the most powerful party.

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Most significantly, the decline that touched Britain and its regime has a pertinent relationship with economic field, in which they are more complementary. It is interesting to note that the British political decline had started from the year of 1945 and continued to the mid-1970s. At that time, historians described this crisis as the inexorable²⁰ one. The collapse in Britain grew to touch its political leaders in negative way (Anderson 90). Of course, with a lot of efforts that set by the British government. She is still unable to prevent this decline.

After two years of harsh economic conditions there were no other solutions for Mrs. Thatcher, in which looking more closely at this political decline made the Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher think once more about the government situation and the conservative party, in fact the party became more fragile. There was a quarrel between the members of this party. They criticized Margaret Thatcher policy in the party and wanted to ruin her political position (Freedman 40).

More pertinently, As Mrs. Thatcher thought about the suitable solution to save her government, there was another event which is the invasion of the Falkland Islands from the Argentine government, but the invasion in itself had been set in illegal manner. The reason that made the British government thought well about this issue. At that time, there was a dispute between the members of the conservative party. So, there was an occasion for the government and Mrs. Thatcher to regain its political position. Of course, after long instructions they found one solution which was applying the task forces. After a long debate between the MPs whether the government should apply the task force to recapture the Falkland Islands. Finally, they decided to apply this method. Such a political instruction did not come randomly. Of course, there were rumours of great oil wealth around the territories of the Falkland Islands (Freedman 41). The reason that made Britain applied the task Force to regain the Falkland Islands. One possibility set here is that by applying the task force the government has one benefit which is the possession of the Falklands. Another possibility is that by winning the Falkland war Mrs. Thatcher regain or let us say made her political image more better. The analysis set out here is one of the issues that faced Britain and touched its political leaders and affected them in negative way.

²⁰Impossible to stop or prevent; inevitable, Here we are talking about the British decline in its various levels: economic, political, and so on.

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2.2. Economic Recession

The Britain economic recession as an issue opens with the discussion of one point at which the decline had been started from the reasons to the results; more particularly, when a part of economic collapse come against one of the most powerful political party. In this case, this part looks at a number of analyses that related to the degree of decline.

It is also clear that the economic decline in Britain had been started since the early year of 1930s. By the time, some of the workers in the industries had lost their jobs as a result; there was a collapse in the field of work, industry and the increase of joblessness or unemployment. In fact, the rate of industry decreased a lot for the first time in Britain. This crisis continued to destroy Britain economy as a result, the government insisted on the level of importation i.e. import goods in general and arms for war in particular. That is why, the government suffered a lot from foreign debts. The economic recession²¹ continued to the summer of 1981 and became worst to touch more than 40 British cities with the same economic problems (Anderson 90).

At the beginning of economic decline, there were areas of Britain where no central peaceful moments. The desire of the conservative party was to defend for British people, ensure their human rights and reconstruct what had been destroyed by terrorism. This later was perhaps a fundamental desire for the party and its leader Mrs. Thatcher. However, it seems that the desire of the conservative party will not complete at all, in fact this party suffered from economic recession at that time. This event occurred before the beginning of the Falkland war (Freedman 38).

Concerning the conservative party, there was also the question of who dominate the party; in fact there was a quarrel between Mrs. Thatcher and the other members. They totally rejected Thatcher as a woman and her policy. Cecil Parkinson²² announced his intentions to leave the party (Freedman 38). He told the other members about his despondency²³. From the speech of Parkinson one can understand that the members of the conservative party fell into depression. The result was the break of this party into opponents and allies to Thatcher policy.

²¹It is a period of reduced economic activity.

²²He is Conservative party Chairman, and soon member of the war cabinet.

²³The loss of hope or confidence

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3. Causes of the War

One reason for the increasing interest in the Falkland question was to develop the economic and political situation for both Britain and Argentina. In Argentina there was a high misinterpretation for the position and political power of Britain i.e. the Argentine military lessening the position of the British armed forces (Anderson 88). That is why; there was a definitive declaration of war.

It may have proved that the Argentine military was not the only reason for war. The British armed forces would also engage in the crisis and it played a part to declare the war. Of course if there was no invasion, there was no response as a result; there was no task force which led to the declaration of war. It is interesting to see that the armed forces contributed for the power of each country and considered as its identity and history (Boyce 61). That is why, countries like Britain and Argentina depended on the armed forces as their only means for war.

3.1. Internal Contest as a Main Reason for War

One can wonder why we insert the word contest as a title not another word like challenge because, the word "contest" describes the dispute between Britain and Argentina in an exaggerating way. What happened between them is more than political challenge. It was a war when every part imposed his power to enhance his political position in the government.

Dispute over the Falkland Islands where Mrs. Thatcher and General Galtieri are the only dominative leaders proved that those Islands are their own one. These quarrels were not helped at the level of politic however; it was considered as a black mark or let us say a source for new struggle. It created a sense of political challenge between Britain and Argentina. Every country claimed the possession of the Falkland Islands.

In the process of contest between Argentina and Britain, every power set methods, technique, and plans to own the Falkland Islands. Historians talked a lot about this issue and set their own view, they argued that:

The great diplomatic prize was winning the support of the United States. Argentina had placed her hopes in the close personal relationship that had developed between Galtieri and some of the American military, which included Al

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Haig, and in the support of Jeane Kirkpatrick, the US ambassador to the United Nations, and a friend of Argentine Foreign Minister Costa Mendez. In fact, there was not the slightest prospect of the United States supporting Argentina against Great Britain. (qtd in Anderson 24)

This would seem to suggest that the analysis of historians implied that Argentina is the first country that made structuring plans and took the decision to dominate the Falklands. This all seems to suggest that the Argentine government wanted the support of the United States at first. It enhanced the personal relationship between its military leader General Galtieri and other American military, because those leaders have a pertinent relationship with the United Nation. Thanks to the support of United Nation and United States, the Argentine government had benefit and could later evoke many problems as well as regain the Falklands.

More crucially, at the time the British and Argentine government were trying to get the support of the United States. It was proving that the support of US was very important for both powers. In this case, historians set their opinions about this topic. They claimed that at this dismal period, the main interests for countries like Britain and Argentina was to get the support of the United States. As they determined their objectives in one struggle for the Falklands, over this dispute the British government wanted to destroy the Argentine relationships with the United States as well as its diplomats'. The same thing for Argentina as it had enhanced its military relationship with United States. In an attempt to gain the confidence of the United Nations, Argentina considered it as a fundamental supporter in this conflict (Anderson 72).

At this fundamental level, for Britain the cost of the Falkland conflict were to continue not to affect a compromise but to place Argentina in the wrong, to isolate her, and to keep her isolated. (qtd in Anderson 23) The dispute between Britain and Argentina drew deeply a new trend when the Argentine government attempted to take an absolute response for what Britain had done. The response was in inadequate way, because there was no balance between British and Argentine government, in which there was a heavyweight diplomatic power which ruled the western world over centuries. This power namely called Britain. And another ministry that run to achieve a successful relationships with its neighbors in order to gain the support. This power namely called Argentina. For some, the response of the Argentine government was weak in its core and had led to unequal competition between the two parts (Anderson 23-24).

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At first glance, it is appeared that the Falkland conflict is a mere issue, but later it turned into a clash between the different parts especially, when the period saw the invasion of the Falkland Islands by the Argentine government in April 1982. This later represented an obstacle for British plans and methods to recapture the Falklands (Finlan 56).

On the other hand, the response of the British government to the invasion of the Falkland was to use the method of coercion i.e. the British Naval used force to compel the Argentine military to withdraw from the Falklands territories (Finlan 87). By applying this plan the British government would deprive the Argentines from exercise the free will. However, some Argentinean leaders like General Galtieri showed their rejection to this withdrawal and announced that he could not survive if he accepted such a decision (Boyce 84). This political discourse seemed as a mere metaphor; however it is hinted that the General Galtieri was capable of doing anything to own the Falklands.

It was assumed that the contest between Britain and Argentina would take a new trend, especially when the matter is really pertinent to armed forces. There was clearly a challenge in the British area when it attempted to developed the skills of its military from a small force, to a citizen and professional army capable of participating in the coming war (Boyce 61).

4. Britain and Argentine's Motives to capture the Islands

There would appear to be no evidence of Argentine and British motives to capture the Falkland Islands; however their plans and the high attempts of gaining the United Nations support revealed the intention of these countries to capture the Falklands. Principally, there was a fact of getting a high position in the western world. The year 1982, which saw the invasion of the Falklands and the British response by preparing the task force, saw a huge change in the objectives in Britain and Argentina.

The desire for a definite battle made every power think about the great dispute over the Falklands. Thinking about the Falkland battle was in itself an adventure when the Argentine government made big efforts to improve its political relationship with the United States, especially in the military level. Leaders as General Galtieri applied this tactic; in fact the military juntas combined the members of the Argentine juntas: Admiral Jorge Anaya²⁴ and General

²⁴He is the naval member of the Junta, the Commander in-Chief of the navy.

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Basilio LamiDozo²⁵ under one objective which was simply to destroy the British military and regain the Falkland Islands. In this prospect, Anderson declared that:

Anaya was an Anglophobe²⁶...It was rumoured that he had only agreed to support Galtieri's coup on condition that the general allowed the navy to push ahead with schemes for removing Britain not just from the Falklands, but from her other territories in the South Atlantic. (qtd in Anderson 13)

Here Anderson portrayed the characteristics of General Anaya as he showed his Anglophobia towards other people. Furthermore, the quote above demonstrated that General Anaya accepted to help General Galtieri in the coming war. Because, he hated the British people in general and in one condition which was the general Galtieri should order the Navy to put more plans in order to expel Britain away from the Falkland Islands.

5. The Argentine Incursion of South Georgia (1982)

In many respects, there was a sense that the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands was not about the invasion in itself; however it was clearly an invasion that represented an illegal way (Anderson7). This means that the Argentine government violated the laws by invading territories. Concerning the invasion, let us highlight the view of historians and other countries in the west toward the Argentine military. By doing forbidden things this military received resented criticisms.

In the early stages of the Argentine invasion, General Leopoldo Galtieri received this idea with much satisfaction because he wanted a solution to political, social and economic problems (English and Watts 3). More clearly, what we noticed here is that General Galtieri adopted the invasion of the Falklands to serve the domestic policy of the government. It is like when the Argentine government reached the shore and became safe. On the other hand, the initial attempt to invade the Falkland was on April 2, 1982, when Britain celebrated of the 150th anniversary²⁷ of the occupation of the islands, the Argentine juntas had this occasion and made their occupation towards the Falklands, in which the landing of the Falklands was considered as an illegal method

²⁵He is the member of the juntas, a senior air force officer.

²⁶It is a profound dislike of Britain and all things British.

²⁷It is also called sesquicentennial: occurring every 150 years.

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to impose their sovereignty over these territories. In this case, General Galtieri had announced the invasion of the Falklands before the celebration of Britain (English and Watts 4).

Remarkably, as every power did before any war, the Argentine government invaded the Falklands; it had made assumptions, plans and tactics as well as possibilities:

The Argentine invasion of these islands on April 2, 1982, was initiated based on three assumptions: that occupation of the Malvinas and other islands would heal the rifts in the Argentine body politic that threatened to destroy it...and the united states became an ally and would not oppose such action by a government that was helping combat the communists in Central America... and that Great Britain would not fight to hold on to the residual of the British Empire represented by these distant isles...(qtd in Huser 44)

At this time, the Argentine government set its invasion of these territories in several assumptions just to serve its benefit. It seems that the first assumption demonstrated that if Argentina invades the Islands, the policy of the government will change forever to the better. The Second was that it attempted to gain the support of the United States as a result; the United States would not reject such an action. The last assumption was that Britain will not fight against its people who were considered as residents in the Falklands. This means that the taste of winning the Falklands was close to Argentina.

Shortly thereafter, history indicated that the invasion of the dispute over the Falklands started for a long time i.e. in 1833. However, it was not really a real invasion until the period of the Falkland war i.e. 1982 that the Argentine government made a decisive decision. There was certainly a struggle between Britain and Argentina; in fact Britain wanted to recapture the Falklands. In 1982 there were negotiations between the two countries and the United Nations interfered to solve this crisis. General Galtieri realized that Britain would not react with force and considered this invasion as a playing card to save the Argentine government and protect its economy from various crises (Tucker etal 176).

The media also played a vital role in spreading the news of the Argentine invasion. At that time, the BBC reported this news from Buenos Aires. At the same time, the British government heard that Argentine took their dreams (Freedman 38). Of course, the British public received this

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news with much infuriation especially; they did not accept the idea of invasion in itself. Britain at that time suffered from various declines in its regime and it is really a high time for the government to regain its position in the western world.

6. The Falkland War Starting Point "Rosario Operation" (1982)

It is difficult to assess the general opinions of the Islanders before the Falkland war. They claimed that their home is: 'Green, clean, and serene. (Mackay and Cooksey 14) Most Islanders' life was generally disrupted by the war, often in surprising manner. However, after the beginning of Falkland war there were too decisive arguments about whether those islands remained clean or even green after the Falkland war.

In an interesting twist, the period that preceded the beginning of the Falkland conflict witnessed varied attempts to find a peaceful solution and avoid the inevitable war. The different attempts were set by the United Nations, Fernando Belaúnde Terry²⁸ and the U.S. government. These communities worked as mediator between Britain and Argentine government to find a peaceful solution and prevent the Falkland war (Tucker etal 176). However, there was an important point in this dispute which was the opinion of Falklanders towards the war and how they received such a decision. The opinions differ from time to time, and people as Pym would argue that they should ask the Falklanders about the war (Boyce 85).

From this, one can draw a number of tentative results about the nature of the relationship between the Falkland war and the opinions of the Falklanders, in fact their way of life follow a drastic change because, they thought about the war and its negative impacts on the Islands. The only interest for the Falklanders was to live such a peaceful moment away from the conflict. As Anderson argued in 1914...several Islanders had lost their lives in the battle of the Falkland Islands. (11-12)

In April, 1, 1982 more diplomatic activities were set, however the juntas decided to call this date as the beginning of the operation "Rosario" (Bijl and Hannon 3). Surrounded by the

²⁸A Peruvian president. Peru has proposed a 72-hour truce between Argentina and Britain. The Argentine government accept this truth while, the British government rejected this proposal (UPI). For more details about war negotiations see <https://www.upi.com/Archives/1982/05/02/Perus-President-Fernando-Belaunde-Terry-said-Sunday-that-Britain/4525389160000/>

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trend of the Falkland dispute, historian writers thought that the operation ROSARIO²⁹ was a successful method to win the war (Finlan 52).

At first glance, it seems that operation ROSARIO had been come randomly, however it was a reaction taken by Britain as a response for the Argentine invasion of the Falklands. Because, Britain declared that Argentine action was totally an aggression against the law (Freedman 101).

On the other hand, there were assessments of the Argentine Army by the British journalists, in which the British government set this tactic to know the number of the Argentine military and how the government prepared for the Falkland war. Jimmy Burns³⁰ controlled the Falkland Islands during this period of war to provide the British military with more information about this situation (Boyce 64). This was the British first plan of the British military towards the Falklands.

As historians were arguing that the essential tool for British and Argentine government was air force. Also the army in general was considered as a supportive power and absolute identity for Britain and Argentina (Boyce 61). Here one can understand that the military was a vital source to strength the position of any country.

More pertinently, it is clear to suggest that the beginning of the Falkland war marked the launch of the operation ROSARIO in the Falklands, however it is more interesting to note that the British people considered the Falkland campaign as an extremely event. The British people knew that they had to win but they did not know the manner (Anderson 88).

To this end, the application of ROSARIO operation has a clear purpose for the British government, destroy the Argentine military, gain the Falklanders confidence and gain the United Nations support. Most importantly, all these objectives set under one basic principle which was recapture the Falkland Islands.

²⁹An inland port in E Argentina, on the Paraná River: the second largest city in the country. For more details about ROSARIO see <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/rosario>

³⁰A British journalist.

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6.1. British Response for the War

In the Britain case, the great hostility towards the Argentine government had increased during the period of the Falkland war. Yet there were some thoughts from Britain about searching for other solutions except war i.e. solve the Falkland crisis in a peaceful way (Boyce 79). But, it seems that there was no available solution except thinking about the response during this period.

There were also some parties which thought or rather preferred a peaceful settlement in the Falklands like the United States of America, the European Union, and the United Nations. However, the Argentine military itself did not leave other solutions except war. When the matter concerned the Falkland conflict, General Alexander Haig³¹ worked as a mediator between the British and Argentine sides. He made various proposals at first to settle negotiations, to shuttle³² diplomacy and in other ways to convince the two parties about the peaceful manner (Boyce 81).

It is helpful to consider the fundamental plans of the British government at the heart of this conflict. Britain's response implied that negotiations could not start until the Argentine government withdrew its military from the Falkland Islands (Boyce 82). The main priority for Britain at that time was to use the task force if peaceful manners did not succeed. She agreed with Haig's main proposal that implied diplomacy to such a crisis (Anderson 22).

Incentive, instructions, and well-preparation are crucial elements during the period of war. In doing so, the British Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher would not find any solution and at last consulted two previous Prime Ministers: Harold Macmillan³³ and Lord Callaghan³⁴ who advised her to keep political and military activity related to war. She wanted their advice because they have more political experience as previous leaders. In simple terms, Mrs. Thatcher decided to establish a new committee specialized in the matters of war. The new committee named the 'War Cabinet' and its chair was the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, also there were the members of

³¹He is the United States' representative.

³²To go back and forth between two places. Here we are talking about convincing Britain and Argentina to use peaceful manners to solve the Falkland crisis.

³³ He is the Earl of Stockton.

³⁴ He was a British politician, Prime Minister of UK and leader of the Labour Party.

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this cabinet Francis Pym³⁵, John Nott³⁶, William Whitelaw³⁷, Geoffrey Howe³⁸ and Cecil Parkinson³⁹ also there was the team of professional advisers led by Sir Terence Lewin⁴⁰. The role of this team was to give instructions, advices, as well as made plans for the preparation of war. Mrs. Thatcher composed the War Cabinet as a group, in order to ratify any political decision or military action. The Cabinet members provided Thatcher with more suitable instructions about war (Anderson 23).

The most profound change in the war cabinet was that the members met on the morning of 2 April. The objective became clear for them and they decided to provide a diplomatic and military response (Freedman 38). In the British government a new political thinking had been raised with a huge change in the decision of the War Cabinet.

In sum, the reaction of the Argentine government was negative. It could not believe that such a country like Britain would use a method like the task force (Anderson 88). Argentina had not been expecting such a response... (qtd in Freedman 65) The 1982 was a year of debate for the western world, but with more neutral opinions except for the Argentineans who were more cynical and they lessened from the value of the British military.

6.2. An Inevitable Task Force

The personal struggles caused by the Falkland war had been solved by the Lady Thatcher when she found a new solution to regain the Falkland Islands from the Argentine Power. It is clear then that the task force was a useful method for spread the notion of power when the matter related to war, in fact what was taken by power should be regain by using power.

Overall, the spring of 1982 witnessed a fundamental event which was the preparation of the task force by the British government. Indeed, the task force was used as a final solution to regain the Falklands (Anderson 7). Furthermore, for the first time the Prime Minister Mrs.

³⁵ HE was a British politician and a member of the Conservative Party.

³⁶ He is Defence Secretary.

³⁷ He is Home Secretary.

³⁸ He is the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

³⁹ He is the Chairman of the Conservative Party.

⁴⁰ He is the Chief of the Defence Staff.

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Thatcher and General Galtieri have the same agreement, in fact they had preferred the application of military not diplomacy to solve the crisis. However, the general opinions were that this agreement and the application of military power were in itself dangerous in a world full of nuclear weapons (Gustafson 152).

Broadly speaking, in the process of preparation the task force there were controversial views and opinions about the British military. The public insured that the British armed forces were brave but unskilled i.e. there was no degree of ability in the British military (Anderson 91). These were the general views of the British people towards the armed forces. On the contrary side, we can not depend on the public opinion to generalize that there was a lack of competent armed forces in Britain. Some historian's writers would note that the British Army was much better in training and have professional pride. Moreover, there was more developed weaponry (Anderson 88).

Certainly, some people agreed to the application of the Royal Navy in this war because, it served Britain in various forms from the era of monarchy to the modern constitution. It was considered as an old military institution (Finlan 2).Of course, it contained more competent armed force that would help Britain in the period of war.

The British Army at particular had contained a number of men who have the desire to pursue the war under the instructions and guidance of Margaret Thatcher. However, General Haig as a mediator told Mrs. Thatcher that Galtieri would not survive if he withdraws his military from the Falklands. Thatcher replied that she would do the same thing if she stopped the task forces before the withdrawal of Argentine military (Boyce 83-84). The dispute had been increased between Thatcher and Galtieri, whenever the war developed, in which the British media played a vital role for spreading the news of the task force.

To sum, the preparation of the task force involved great efforts by the British government and the team of the 'War Cabinet'. Of course, after long negotiations and diplomacy efforts with suitable instructions, advices and plans from the War Cabinet there was the event of launching the task forces.

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It is important to emphasize, at the outset, that before the beginning of the Falkland war, there were tremendous event in the British and Argentine side. The British government suffered from various crisis and declines in political, social and economic levels. The same problem with the Argentina where the government faced different crisis in its policy and it was condemned by its cynical leaders.

At this fundamental level, the history of the Falkland war can itself be seen as an international memory; in fact episode of the early 1982 witnessed diplomacy efforts and peaceful means to solve the crisis. After long dispute, there was no other solution except using power to regain the Falklands so, the British government found the method of using the task force and prepared the British Army for the coming war.

In the next chapter light will be cast on the representation of women in politics by the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Chapter Three

Chapter Three: Thatcher Domestic Policy and Women Representation

Before turning to the core issue of this paper which is 'The Result of the Falkland war', it is important to bear in mind that a period like the Falkland war contributed in shaping, or enriching the history of some leaders like Mrs. Thatcher and destroyed other leaders like General Galtieri and his military. By the end of this war, the history of the Falkland war has become an important subject in the west, in which both British and Argentine government recognized its value especially, when every country want to be a part of the Falklands.

Once the war came to an end the British and Argentine government achieved to a final decision about their objectives especially, when the British government won this battle and finally recaptured the Falkland Islands. At the same time, there was very little change in the political side; in fact the picture of Mrs. Thatcher had changed to the better.

Despite the United Nations' best effort to find peaceful negotiations in the matter of the Falkland Islands, this issue deviated and took another trend. Concerning the Falkland Question, Thatcher did not find another solution except the adoption of task forces as a final negotiation to recapture the Islands. The Argentine government insisted on the invasion of the Falklands while, the British government took the last and the inevitable decision which is the sending of the task forces to recapture these territories.

For some people, Thatcherism was a period not of development but of reconstruction. Of course, by leading such a political Conservative Party, Thatcher bears at first the notion of feminism as the first lady who broke the dogma and carried her trip by finding another solution to win this revolution. At that time, Britain witnessed the empowerment of women in politics especially under the dominance of Margaret Thatcher, when she defended for women and ensured their rights as a Member of Parliament.

The present chapter will make an analysis of the period prior the Falkland war and offers an examination of the British and Argentine situation after the Falkland war and in the first sight, tackles the impact of this war on Margaret Thatcher policy particularly, in the positive sense. Moreover, this chapter will focus more extensively upon the representation of women in the political side; in fact it introduced Mrs. Thatcher as a feminine figure and explained how the concept of feminization entered politics from its huge door.

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1.1. Launching the Task Forces (1982)

The Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands produced different views and opinions. Countries like The Soviet Union and its allies, France, West Germany, Canada and New Zealand supported this invasion and they were totally agreed with this step. However, other countries like Ireland, Japan and Italy responded in a negative way. They considered the Argentine invasion as an aggressive method (Blundell 116).

The Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher attempted to deal with the Argentine invasion in various ways. First of all, there was a discussion between the members of Parliament where Mrs. Thatcher reached to a final solution, which was sending the task forces and freed the Islands from the Argentine occupation in fast time. Although, Mrs. Thatcher faced obstacles and judgments about her gender as a Prime Minister, she made all her efforts to regain the Falkland Islands. Some Parliament Members rejected the idea of women leading the Conservative Party, as a Member of Parliament and as a Prime Minister. They were also judged Thatcher performance in the government. Some of them did not accept her leadership and they said how such a woman could lead the government and the Party in the right way (Thatcher 467).

In one respect, Mrs. Thatcher set about the possibilities of sending the task forces and the strategies of organize it. She asked the Admiral Sir Henry Leach⁴¹ what the Royal Navy could do. He replied that he has the ability to collaborate a number of destroyers, frigates, landing craft and support vessels in one set. It will lead by the aircraft carriers called HMS⁴² Hermes and HMS Invincible. Leach talked also about the possibility of sending these forces in forty-eight hours. He said to Thatcher that in this way the British government could retake the Islands (Aitken 797).

In most respects, President Reagan talked with General Galtieri after the Argentine invasion. They discussed the British response to this invasion where Reagan told Galtieri: "If the only option is a military invasion, I assure you, Mr. President, that the British will respond militarily...Thatcher is a decisive woman and she will have no choice but to fight back". (McClure 31) Here Reagan claimed that the Argentine government must realize the power of Britain under the leadership of Mrs. Thatcher and the Argentine Juntas must feel fear about this situation. He

⁴¹ He is the Admiral of the fleet and the Royal Navy officer.

⁴² HMS is used before the names of ships in the British Royal Navy. HMS is an abbreviation for 'Her Majesty's Ship' or 'His Majesty's Ship'. For more information see <https://dictionnaire.reverso.net/anglais-cobuild/HMS>.

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considered her as a decisive woman who would respond by using force. Of course, the Argentine invasion of the Falklands provoked Mrs. Thatcher. She considered it as an aggressive method or an illegal manner to take the Falklands so; she took the decision of using power as a final solution.

The time of sending the task forces came after the general agreement between the members of cabinet. They were certainly achieved to this decision and there was never any doubt about it (Freedman 38-39). Later on, in the spring of 1982 the direction of the task force was via the Falkland Islands. Of course, the main objective was to recapture these Islands. The task force operated only 800 miles from the Antarctic continent, approximately 8,000 miles from its home 'Britain' (Anderson 7).

Lastly, Mrs. Thatcher appointed Admiral Sir John Field house as the commander in chief fleet. He controlled the task force from his base in West London. Also, she chose the operational commander of the surface ships Rear Admiral Sandy Woodward. The British submarines were controlled from the home base 'Northwood' by using new and developed technologies like satellite. Britain used these technologies to facilitate the control of the task force and in other way to increase the opportunity of regaining the Falkland Islands (Thatcher 480).

In her Memoire "The Downing Street Years" Mrs. Margaret Thatcher expressed her fears and anxiety about the possibility of landing the British task force in the Falklands. The terrible weather conditions and other problems might prevent the task force from supplying and maintaining far away from home (481).

Finally, the task forces arrived to the Falkland Islands on Monday, April 5 with the recovery of media in which, millions people watched this departure in television; others heard this news on radio. News papers were also available for those who prefer reading and provide people with this news. People considered this news as a surprise and in the end, they realized that the political leader like Thatcher have a decisive decision to send the task forces in fast way (Blundell 116).

At the same time, two carriers sailed from Portsmouth on Monday 5 April followed by other carriers which were joined by a force of eleven destroyers and frigates, various naval auxiliaries, Merchantmen of all kinds also there were three thousand troops were allotted for this operation and three Commando Brigades of the Royal Marines. Thatcher cared about the force in the campaign and in every time the government sent the essential help and reinforcement. On Friday 9

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April the British government sent over 100 ships with 25,000 men in order to give help for the force also, the government did not aware of how such an operation would required an enormous logistical, support and would change to a large task force that astonished the world (Thatcher 478-480).

To ensure the winning of this battle, the Argentine government increased the number of its strike aircraft by about four to one more than the British fighters. There was also the problem of weather where the winter was approached. All these factors made Mrs. Thatcher anxious; in fact the desire of regaining the Falkland Islands made her more passionate about the objective of destroying the Argentine juntas (Anderson 88). Concerning the task forces, the British army made the first step towards the Argentine military however, this first attempt failed because of bad weather conditions 'high wind and heavy snow'. After that, the British military succeeded to land on the Islands. At that time, the bad weather prevented them twice and the situation there became more worst so; they sent a message to HMS *Antrim* to ask for helicopter to take them from the Falklands (Thatcher 520).

That eventually occurred in the first attempt, in the second one the British military succeeded to make their first attack and harmed nearly 14,000 casualties on the Argentine side. In the British side, on Friday 16 April both Aircraft carriers named HMS *Hermes* and HMS *Invincible* reached the Falkland Islands. More than 2,000 of the Argentine army were killed or suffering from wounds. However, this was not really a victory for the British military because, more than 1,000 British were killed i.e. nearly 4 percent of the task forces were suffered from injurious or being destroyed (Anderson 88).

The episode of war continued in the air and at the sea. Prime Minister Thatcher's consulters or advisors were talking about this war, in fact they told her that the Argentinean's aircraft carriers 25 de Mayo and Belgrano were really a serious threat for the British military and submarine. This issue made Mrs. Thatcher really confused about the issue of war. It made her think profoundly about the opportunities of winning this battle (Blundell 117). In political life, the consulters of Mrs. Thatcher drew various strategies and plans to attack the Argentine military. They said almost all their proposals and suggestions for Thatcher and at least they were waiting for her final decision. Thatcher saw this devising phenomenon as an attempt to create something new so she finally take her decision with the expression 'Sink it'. 'Sink it' said Mrs. Thatcher. By saying this

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expression in special Thatcher traced a new trend for the Falkland war and ordered the British military for the sinking of General Belgrano. Additionally, the task forces were described by most of British people as winning the most destruct conflict. Although it took a long time as a battle, the task forces became certainly the most successful operation during the history of the Falkland war (Anderson 43).

1.2. The Fall of General Belgrano (1982)

By the time she announced her decision, Mrs. Thatcher solution to this crisis led the British military to execute this order. The second May witnessed the sinking of the cruiser General Belgrano by a British submarine conqueror named HMS. However, the Argentine response for this attack was the sinking of the British destroyer HMS Sheffield. The Argentineans killed almost twenty of the British submarines. Throughout this period, the British lost a destroyer, two frigates and a transport ship (Cannadine 48-49).

In great part, Britain powerful military and extended helps as well as the great supports led to the damage or the sinking of the cruiser General Belgrano after long hours of quarrel. The Argentine forces lost over 321 lives as a result, the Argentine aircraft carrier returned to its home at full speed (Blundell 117). Among the responses to this battle, the Argentine military responded to this challenge by damaging three British ships, HMS Ardent (lost), HMS Argonaut, and HMS Brilliant. On May 21 when the British troops landed at Port Sant Carlos, the Argentine army destroyed two British helicopters. Despite all these bad circumstances, the British army succeeded to land. It was over 5,000 men who landed in the Falklands. Development of quarrel and hostility between Britain and Argentina continued during this period. On 23 May an Argentine aircraft carrier called HMS Antelope was sunk and the British forces succeeded to destroy 17 Argentinean aircraft. This was a heavy number and a considerable loss for the Argentine forces. On May 28 Colonel H Jones led a Parachute at Goose Green⁴³. The result was killing over 17 British and 55 Argentineans men. It was heavy losses for the Argentine forces where 1,050 men surrendered and returned to home base. The Argentineans were unable to accept this kind of losing their enemies

⁴³ Goose Green is a settlement in Lafonia on East Falkland. It was the first and the longest battle of the Falklands War. For more information about Goose Green battle see <https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/articles/the-battle-of-goose-green/>

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made. They were soon seen throwing their arms and returning back to Port Stanley (Blundell 118-119).

Later on, the 14 June witnessed the surrender of Commander Mario Menendez and his force. As a result of this long conflict in the Falkland Islands, the media talked about the news of sinking the General Belgrano and considered it as shock for western world (Anderson 41).

In her Memoire 'The Downing Street Years' Mrs. Thatcher talked about her efforts to get the support of other countries during the war. On 6 April she sent a message to the US, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. She wanted these countries to support Britain by preventing or stop selling arms sales to Argentina and giving no encouragement or helps to the Argentine banks. Mrs. Thatcher got strong support from Germany. This was what Helmut Schmidt told Margaret. The response of the European countries was positive and they accepted to help Britain against Argentina except Italy who refused because, this country had a close relationship with Argentina (Thatcher 483).

2. Winning the Falkland War

By the spring of 1982, there was one very clear sign that the British government is the only winner of this war and the only country who recaptured the Falkland Islands. In the aftermath of the Falkland war, not every power stands on the purpose of regaining the Islands. As Anderson claimed:

The stunning victory in the Falklands gave many in Britain a renewed sense of pride in their country and a feeling that the decline might not be terminal ...that perhaps the bottom had been reached and that Britain would now begin to fight her way back to her former standing. (90)

It is clear from the quote mentioned above that the Falkland victory served the British government at first scale. It quickly became apparent that the British people felt pride about this victory in which, the concept of nationalism became obvious in their daily conversation. Most British people were sure that with this victory the government could reach to high position at least, the British economy flourished after the previous declines. As a result, people were dreaming about better life and future. By the time Britain recaptured the Falkland Islands, there

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was in general a period of reconstruction in the Falklands. The government provided the best services for foreign tourists who really wanted to watch the wild life. For those who were admired to fishing and marine life, the government facilitated everything for them. Other people might interest in history of war so, the government allotted a special place for them like the museum. Turning to the economic side, Britain made all its efforts to expand the exploration of oil in the Islands. In the media the government expanded television and radio services by adding new programs about life in the Falklands in order to attract more tourists (Anderson 92).

The image of Britain had changed completely and the shadow of prosperity was near to the government economy. During this period, the Conservative Party begun to recover its position in public eye because people felt that their situation will be transformed and the rate of unemployment will be decreased. Thatcher described this historical moment by saying that she 'could feel the impact of the victory wherever she went' and that she was so proud of her achievements especially, when she won the second election (Thatcher 673).

Beginning with the British victory, some psephologists⁴⁴ and historians named this era the 'Falklands factor'. Thatcher talked about the outcomes of the Falkland victory particularly in the economic side. She argued that this victory helped the Conservative Party at first to regain its position in Britain. Thatcher was so optimism about the British economic future where she was certain about the prosperity that will be a part of Britain in the coming years (Thatcher 677).

2.1. The Decline of the Argentine Military Power

In the Argentineans countryside as a whole the impacts of the Falkland war continued to touch its political leaders especially General Leopoldo Galtieri⁴⁵. In Argentina a new political trend faced the government especially, with the defeat of the Falkland war and the loss of the Islands. The 14 June of 1982 witnessed the surrender of Argentine forces in the Falklands. As a result, this era marked the collapse of the Argentine military government at all (Tucker 176).

Concerning the matter of armed forces⁴⁶, some Argentine people criticized the Argentine military and described the defeat of the Falkland war as the lack of cohesion especially; the

⁴⁴ Plural of Psephologist. it is from Psephology: The predictive or statistical study of elections.

⁴⁵ He is the former president of Argentina.

⁴⁶ Are institutions in their own right or in other words represent some of the most important forms of organization within a state. (qtd in, Finlan 1)

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Argentine military did not work together in one hand and one group. Moreover, other described them as beginners in the question of war. They claimed that with these factors, the Argentine government really deserves such a defeat (Boyce 66).

This was also the era that saw the wide criticism and more resented from the Argentine citizens towards their military. Most historians claimed that the Argentine military reserved an odd position in Argentine politic and society. It was clearly that the Argentine military was responsible of spreading the notion of terrorism as well as doing illegal and violence acts against citizens because it was the only instrument that controlled the government. On the other hand, some historians and writers argued that the Argentine military assimilate a rabble i.e. they were like the lower class people in their disorganized plans and strategies in the period of war (Boyce 63-64). In addition, it was the chance of Britain that the Argentine army made a great deal of errors in which, the Argentineans did not understand the nature of the British army and did not study very well the structure of their enemies. The Argentine military focused on the subject of attack and forgot the various strategies and plans which lead them to victory (Anderson 88).

The failure of Argentine Juntas in the Falkland war was expressed at two levels. First, the Argentine Juntas did not understand the dynamic of British army and how the war worked. Of course, there were not constant decisions from the political leaders like Galtieri. This later affected the Argentine military in a negative way. Second, lessened the power of the British army and they did not understand that operation Rosario meant to Margaret an inevitable choice between victory or political death (Anderson 88). Concerning the Argentine military, Galtieri was removed as president on 17 June as the only president who used diplomacy at a meeting in Buenos Aires to recapture the Falkland Islands. After that, General Galtieri and nine colleagues were accused of crimes and led to jail (Anderson 88).

3. Thatcher's Popularity in Public Eyes

It is interesting to note that Mrs. Thatcher Roberts was more admired to the political life from her infancy. Of course, she was affected by her father's behaviors. When Mrs. Thatcher became a young lady she wanted to be a member of the Parliament. Later on, she was certainly became one of the members of parliament, in fact when she entered the house of Parliament there were wider criticisms from men because of, her gender as the only woman. There was as a real

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concern that Margaret Thatcher would be represented as an obvious mark among the strong political leaders.

Mrs. Thatcher passed through different stages during her life in university. Her early ages saw a turn from an ordinary to a political life. As she reached her eightieth birthday, she gained more attract and public attention (Oxford journals 342)⁴⁷. One can note that Margaret Thatcher gained the prominence of the first female Prime Minister in Britain when she reached the age of fifty-three. However, she faced hard time before the war. At that time, the government suffered from various declines. As a result, Thatcher received criticisms and became the most unpopular Prime Minister at the age of fifty-four (Berlinski 37).

After the victory of the Falkland war, Thatcher received much popularity where the government created a new puppet called Margaret Thatcher. This puppet was similar to Thatcher in her blue eyes, in her coiffed hair, in her unforgettable voice and wore a men's suit. The puppet portrays Thatcher as a woman with strong personality and presence in which, it reflects the excess of power in politics. The puppet inspired everyone about gender expectations where Mrs. Thatcher succeeded to break the traditional laws as a woman and carried her trip in politics (Hadley and Ho 180). By the time, Thatcher received much attraction as her picture was published in Life Magazine because of her good looking (Reitan 30).

3.1. Pre –War Lessening Thatcher Position

Before the Iron Lady got the taste of glory, she received high criticisms and rejected opinions about her gender. First of all, she was criticized by men in the Parliament. Second, she was refuted by the other members of the Labour Party when she became the leader of the Conservative Party and last but not least, she was criticized when she became a Prime Minister. At that time, Britain witnessed various declines especially, in politics where the government suffered from increasing number of crimes. There were also violence activities done by the Irish terrorist group in the 1960 and 1970s (Reitan 71).

After the birth of her twins, Thatcher moved away from political life. After that, she had returned to Parliament when children reached the age of six years. Some members of Parliament criticized her decision and said that she should stay at home and take care for her children.

⁴⁷ For more insightful information and details see <http://tcbh.Oxfordjournals.org/>.

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Because, they believed that woman was born for the role of cleaning, cooking and rearing children as a housewife (Reitan 33).

Not only people criticized Mrs. Thatcher, there was another part like David Steel⁴⁸ who accused Thatcher of being 'jingoism'. He described her as the woman who loves her nation and being aggressive towards any foreign policy. Thatcher response for his criticism was negative in which, she argued that the political leaders should interested about other important subjects like the British decline and tried to find solution to political issues. She questioned how such a political man would fall in trivial matters instead of caring about the benefit of government (Thatcher 564).

A common theme in Britain before the Falkland war was lessening Thatcher position in politics. Some people claimed that Thatcher was treated as a Prime Minister and as a leader because she was a woman. Others like her political colleagues (Members of Parliament and members of the Conservative Party, etc...) patronising⁴⁹ her. Moreover, people in Britain and the Conservative Party showed an attitude of condescending⁵⁰ towards Lady Thatcher. They considered themselves as superior than Thatcher simply because she was a woman. Most of them argued that only man could understand political subjects in which, they said that Thatcher was unable to lead the Conservative Party to win the election. They noted that she should be replaced by a man (Shephard 336).

3.2. During the War (1982)

The period of the Falkland war witnessed offensive reactions towards Mrs. Thatcher especially, when she became a Prime Minister. Britain at that time faced decline in its various fields where the government suffered from political crisis. There was a quarrel between Political Parties. In the economic side, the government suffered from the issue of unemployment or joblessness. It remained unable to provide jobs for people. As a result, most people wanted to expel Thatcher from politics and it was a hard time for her.

⁴⁸ The Leader of the Liberal Party

⁴⁹ Patronise: to treat as inferior unduly.

⁵⁰ Assuming a tone of superiority

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During her leadership as a Prime Minister, Thatcher received a wide criticism and rejection from other presidents and leaders. One of them was Sir Richard Parsons who described his first meeting with Thatcher in a cynical manner. He said:

That was a great relief. I started by telling her that my mother, like her, had been at Somerville, though many years before. I said that at the end of her life, she had said how glad she was that a Somerville woman would one day become Prime Minister, though it was a pity, she thought, 'that she only read stinks'. That was an old-fashioned slang word for chemistry. Mrs T. responded with a cold glance. But she must have been amused because I later heard her repeating my story on the other side of the room. (qtd in shepherd 338-339)

As quoted above, Richard Parsons seemed cynical toward Thatcher leadership. He named her Mrs. T because he wanted to show his superiority against her. Parsons started his conversation by telling Mrs. Thatcher a story about his mother. However, the matter was not at all about the story itself. Parsons words was a hint for Thatcher especially, when he said the slang word 'Stink' which means studying chemistry at school and describe it as an old fashion word. All these expressions were a message for Thatcher because, he knew that she studied Chemistry and could never be a leader. During the first weeks of the Falkland war Thatcher felt the infidelity of her political colleagues and the weakness of others (Blundell 114).

3.3. Women's Political Representation and Feminisation:

Feminisation⁵¹ was at the core of women's social and political action in the period of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. At the same time many women have different views about Mrs. Thatcher leading. One aspect of political actions which united the British females was their supports for Thatcher role in government. This is in general case and her position in the conservative party in particular. However, there were some confusions and worries whether Mrs. Thatcher could lead the party successfully, whether she could bring reformations for the British government in all the fields as a Prime Minister or not.

⁵¹ A process in which more and more women become involved in an activity where there are traditionally more men. For more insightful information see <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/fr/dictionnaire/anglais/feminization>

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One of the main contentions in the period of Margaret Thatcher dominance was that the theme of feminism was central in Britain. Thatcher understood the importance of women existence in Parliament especially, when they collaborated and worked together to achieve one social objective which was the right of woman. In a state of self-confidence Thatcher said to a Member of Parliament Shirley Williams: 'We have to show them (the men) that we're better than they are.' Shirley Williams was sure that Thatcher had a different view about men where she considered them playful, childish, and not very serious at all (Moore 336).

By choosing to write her political life in a book named 'The Downing Street Years', Thatcher nominated herself as the first woman who received the name of "The Iron Lady". She wrote with a deep sense of being proud to herself, in fact all her biographers and feminist commentators demonstrated that this young Lady had one basic principle in her life career. This principle was that there was no limit or restriction to women's ability. She noted that woman could do the miracles and this creature needed help and support (Shephard 330). The name of the Iron Lady symbolized the powerful personality of Thatcher. Of course, by receiving this name the members of Parliament who seemed cynical towards Thatcher and patronized her would learn a harsh lesson. At least, they would know later what metal she is made (Cannadine 39). Additionally, Thatcher had a strong personality she could turn to a number of Parliament 'Men' and said that they all differentiate between the right and the wrong but, the matter is how one can do it (Blundell 198). This simply one can touch it in Thatcher right decision especially, in the period of the Falkland war. Mrs. Thatcher adopted the task forces in which, she used power to regain the Falkland Islands.

During her period in politics, the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher gave opportunity for women to express themselves. She appointed number of educated women in ministerial posts like Lynda Chalker and Angela Rumbold where they occupied the position of Minister of State. She encouraged her junior women ministers and accepted their suggestions. Moreover, she appointed number of women in the Conservative women MPs who depended on Thatcher when there is something related to woman like treasury. For example: child benefit. Thatcher has a close relationship with senior woman in the Conservative Party. On the other hand, Mrs. Thatcher supported women's right to vote from the beginning of her political career. She appealed women voters to be prepared and wear appropriate clothes (Shephard 331).

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Despite of the existence of her twins, Thatcher remained fascinated by politics leadership. Some statistics implied that the place of woman was at home in which, she took care for children. She took the big responsibility for child rearing so, her opportunity to enter politics would be decreased especially the married woman. Because, some married women had more responsibility. Statistics demonstrated that Thatcher's political career would affect the rearing of her children in negative way (Childs and Webb 88).

To such extent, Leaders as Thatcher would focus on various concerns. One concern was thinking about the cold war. Her militant attitude led a Russian Journalist to give her the name 'the Iron Lady' (Reitan 73). From 1975 to 1990, the Conservative party was famously led by Margaret Thatcher (Childs and Webb 42). Thatcher was considered as the first woman who led the major political party in the west. In a general sense, Thatcher won three successive elections in which, the historian Francis Beckett labeled her as the "best Prime Minister". In 2005 Charles Moore⁵² described her as "the greatest living Englishwoman." (Blundell 191).

In this context, by entering political life Thatcher contributed in a way or another to represent the British woman in the west. The term of representation in itself was closely associated with Thatcher policy. She acted for women because; they share the same gendered experience (Childs and Webb 21).

Overtly, some people describe Thatcher as an honest and faithful woman who did what she had really said (Blundell 191-192). It is interesting that Thatcher owned the trait of tenacity during the period of the Falkland war. She was unwilling to give up or let the Islands for the Argentine government. She possessed this characteristic which most politicians had lacked. This characteristic led the Iron Lady to the victory of war (Blundell 119).

4. Enhancing Thatcher's Internal Policy after the War

The collapse of the Argentine government brought a new system to Britain. This new regime named Thatcherism. This era was a time of reassessing political relationships with other countries and personal relationships for Margaret Thatcher. The term 'Thatcherism' characterized the era of Thatcher leadership and her different campaigns over the three elections. The period also saw the growing involvement of "free economy and strong state". Thatcherism

⁵² Senior British Commentator

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received attraction because; Thatcher was the only Lady who broke the rules and challenge political leaders. However, this did not prevent people from criticizing Thatcher era (Jessop 17). Following on, there was a general feeling that the era of Thatcherism was a period of change and reconstruction (Jessop 21). There was also the new project of Thatcher which aimed at reconstructing the British society. Its objective was to restore the mass media, the industries and also religion (Jessop 20). When the Falkland war had finished, Neil Kinnock⁵³ criticized Thatcher method of leading the war. He argued that she should leave her place as a Prime Minister to another leader (Gustafson 153). With the victory of the Falkland war Thatcher position had changed completely. She would now look for a sparkle future for Britain, in which with this victory Thatcher became in an excited state of joy. She had an optimistic tone where she expected the best for the government in all possible ways (Campbell and Freeman 566).

In her *Downing Street Years* book, Thatcher proposed her plans and strategies during Thatcherism era. She demonstrated the theme of Housing, Health and Education as the most important subjects in her politics. According to Margaret this era succeeded, although there were serious troubles. During her policy, Britain situation had changed to better and its countries like Scotland and Edinburg became a prosperous country. Thanks to the Falkland Islands the rate of oil industry was increased to touch every industrial zone in Britain and so, the economy would be developed (1581-1582). Away from Britain, the Argentine people also received advantages from the Falkland victory where it served them in positive way. Because, it contributed for the remove of some political leaders like Galtieri and destroyed one of the most terrorist and dictatorship military systems "The Juntas". As a result, the Argentinean people enjoyed a democratic policy (Anderson 89).

Thatcherism marked the beginning of political actions as well as developments. The two main parties⁵⁴ in Britain depended on new political acts and the mass media witnessed a powerful era in shaping or representing social life (Jessop 28). Certainly, after a decade countries like Scotland witnessed a prosperous in the economic side. With the development of new technologies like electronic and finance. As a result, life expectancy raised by 30 percent from 1981 to 1989 and people were expect to live a long life (Thatcher 1596).

⁵³He is the Labour Party Leader

⁵⁴The Conservative and the Labour Party

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Some people called it an era of reconstruction and this was evident correctly. There was a particular interest about the environment. In 1988 and 1989 Thatcher gave more interest to the standard of Britain's drinking water from various sources. There was a huge program about spreading the notion of hygiene and cleaning water sources (Thatcher 1635-1636). Thatcher set some political and social laws that ensure the rights of women in particular. For example, the law of a divorce woman in which, Thatcher avoided the Law Commission's recommendation in November 1990. She wanted to guarantee women's rights (Thatcher 1615).

In this view, Mrs. Thatcher made all her efforts and made many sacrifices to regain the Falkland Islands and now she reserved her rewards as the most popular woman in the world (Anderson 91).

The Falkland war does not caused the collapse of the Argentine government but, also it is a decisive mark for the demise of its policy as well as the juntas under the reign of General Galtieri. In the British case, the Britons recaptured the Falkland Islands after a long dispute under the reign of Mrs. Thatcher. She proved to the world that the conflict for these territories played an important role for shaping a new British government with a feminist trend.

winning the Falkland war is clearly a key factor for the British government in general and Lady Thatcher in particular, because it is a real mark for the succeed of Thatcherism regime. In short, the practice of this policy came to play a significant role in the development of British relationships with other countries. As a consequence of this, the Lady Thatcher gained an international popularity.

General Conclusion

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The conflict over the Falkland Islands had started for a long time but this was not the main point. The dispute became more complicated between different countries in the west. This thesis uses chronological events to indicate that all sides of the debate the British government, the Argentineans, Spain and Italy contributed in a way or another for the escalation of the Falkland crisis. From the first sight, every country claimed its first discovery and dominance of these territories.

The hegemony of Britain over the other countries in the west led some countries like Argentina to think profoundly about this matter. The Argentine government suffered from decline in its various sides: politics, economy and social. At the same time, Britain economy was approximately damaged and so on, the regime during the period of Margaret Thatcher became more weak or worse. Both Britain and Argentina think deeply about this problem in fact, they really wanted an effective solution for their issues.

The seed of Argentina crisis led the government to another solution which was the invasion of the Falkland Islands after all preceded attempts failed. There was really the illegal or aggressive invasion of the Falklands in which, the Argentine armed forces landed there. The news of the invasion was heard by Britain and there was much infuriation towards the Argentine military. Mrs. Thatcher attempted more peaceful negotiations with U.S. mediator General Alexander Al Haig. However, the Argentine government refused to expel its forces from the islands.

Later on, it became evident that Argentina as well as General Galtieri were cocky and refused to let the Falklands. Of course, with the aid of War Cabinet members Mrs. Thatcher put more plans and strategies. She studied the matter very well and set different assumptions for the coming war. As a responding power for the Argentine invasion the British government released the task forces. It was prepared very well and it was combined the British Royal Navy and numbers of competent army. After that, there was the event of sending the task forces towards the Falklands Islands.

At that point, by declaring the Falkland war every power wanted really to taste the glory of victory. Victory was an important focus throughout the Falkland war. It witnessed the sinking of the Argentine carrier 'General Belgrano' and caused many injuries in the Argentine Army. All

these reasons led the other Argentine Army to surrender and returned to home. Perpetually, The Argentine defeat helped Britain to attack South Georgia and continue its victory.

The gloom of the Falkland war continued to touch every zone in the Argentine side. For Argentina, the defeat of the Falkland war was scandalous for the government and juntas. The sense of mortification was clear in the Argentineans leaders like Galtieri because, he was sure from winning the Falkland war. However, in the end of war General Galtieri reputation was damaged in the west and he was later removed from presidency. On the other hand, the Falkland war contributed in one positive point which was ending the dictatorship regime in Argentina.

Under the shadow of the Falkland victory the British government finally regained its position in the west. This period was an extremely value time for the government economy. Thanks to oil discovery the economy flourished and the government took all foreign debts away. Moreover, through the media and advertisement the government attracted foreign visitors to discover the beautiful scenes of the Falkland Islands. This later also served the economy of the country and made the image of Britain better.

One can conclude, then, that the end of the Falkland war played a vital role in crystallizing the British history. The Falkland victory contributed in developing the British regime in multiple ways. First, the Prime Minister reputation and the government international relationships became better. Throughout her presidency Thatcher represented the British women and portrayed them with her strong personality. She opened a new gate for woman to inter politics by giving more jobs for young ladies in the Parliament. By regaining the Falkland Islands Thatcher proved to the world that what could be taken by power should be regain by using power. Here one assimilated example might be Algeria, which had used the power and blood as the last solution to regain its freedom.

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