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This is Phil Arnot for Community Comment on KINS Radio.

There was a wonderful article in the Wall Street Journal about Lady Margaret Thatcher, her history and her relationship with the various countries of the world including the United States of America and the Presidents of this great country that she worked with.

The history of her ~~political~~ involvement in the politics of Great Britain was extremely interesting. In 1949, Lady Thatcher was a 23 year old unmarried woman and her name was Margaret Roberts. She was elected to ~~the~~ Parliament as a Conservative candidate for the first time that year. She was an economic Conservative as well as a political Conservative and in the general election 1979 she won ^{again} and became Prime Minister. She preached that ^{the} household and most particularly, the woman who runs its weekly budget, knows that you cannot ultimately spend more than you earn and you must provide for a rainy day. In 1979 inflation was ramped and excessive government borrowing and spending had become the norm.

Margaret Thatcher was the first country led by a woman and remained in that position until recently when German Chancellor Angela Merkel was chosen by that European country.

While Lady Thatcher had a short political relationship with President Carter, her most closely affiliation with the United States was during the years that President Reagan was in office from 1980 to 1988.

As early as 1975, she questioned the then fashionable idea of detente. Soviet communism, she argued, should not be accommodated but it should be overcome. Not many people in the western world agreed with her except for President Ronald Reagan who was then just an ex governor from California with a dream of running for President.

After a number of speeches the Soviet Red Army newspaper call Red Star christened her "the iron lady". In doing so it intended to make a satirical comparison with Otto Van Bismarck, the nineteenth century iron Chancellor of Germany and to paint her as ridged and harsh. She loved it because iron means strong and she proved that she had graduated before she had even become Prime Minister into world politics. After more than eleven years in power, Lady Thatcher left office against her own wishes without an electoral defeat ~~and~~ because in November 1990, she was the victim of a coup by members of her own party.

In 1988 Lady Thatcher gave her famous Bruges speech ~~which~~ was excoriated by all European leaders. Her speech warned of Europe becoming a narrow minded inward looking club ossified by endless regulations.

This article by Charles Moore states in summary that she preached a gospel of self discipline, free enterprise and national autonomy. *I am looking forward to seeing Meryl Streep in the new movie "The Iron Lady"*

I leave you with a point to ponder. Don't you think that as Europe implodes and the west, including this great Country, suffers economic woes that it is time to reexamine Lady Thatcher's legacy and her gospel of self discipline, free enterprise and national autonomy..

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