

Margaret Thatcher and the Middle East

Azriel Bermant



Margaret Thatcher and the Middle East examines Thatcher's policy on the Middle East, with a spotlight on her approach towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It questions claims that she sought to counter the Foreign Office Middle East policy, and maintains that the prime minister was actually in close agreement with the Whitehall bureaucracy on the Arab-Israeli conflict. In particular, the volume argues that Thatcher's concerns over Soviet ambitions in the Middle East encouraged her to oppose the policies of Israel's Likud governments, and to work actively for an urgent resolution of the conflict. Furthermore, while Thatcher was strongly pro-American, this was not translated into automatic support for Israel. Indeed, the Thatcher government was very much at odds with the Reagan administration over the Middle East, as a result of Washington's neglect of the forces of moderation in the region.

Cover illustration: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher shakes hands with officials during a visit to Saudi Arabia, circa 1985.
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Azriel Bermant is a historian, and currently a lecturer in international relations at Tel Aviv University. He was a research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in Tel Aviv until December 2015. Dr. Bermant was awarded his PhD from University College London. His work has been published in numerous publications, including the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Guardian* and *Haaretz*. He is the author of *The Russian and Iranian Missile Threats: Implications for NATO Missile Defense* (published by The Institute for National Security Studies, INSS).

For my father Chaim Bermant 1929–1998

and

my sister Evie Bermant 1966–2001

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