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POLITICAL DIARY

## Margaret Thatcher, RIP

By Jason Riley

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News of Margaret Thatcher's death Monday at age 87 brought a snarky tweet from Donna Brazile, the current vice chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee who managed Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign and doesn't understand what all the fuss is about.

"Okay, what did the #ironlady do to advance Great Britain and the world?" wrote Ms. Brazile. "Did she leave lasting footprints for women in politics?"



AFP/Getty Images  
Margaret Thatcher

According to the liberal New York Times, Mrs. Thatcher, who served as Britain's prime minister from 1979 to 1990, "pulled her country back from 35 years of left-wing government, led it to victory in the Falklands war and helped guide the United States and the Soviet Union through the cold war's difficult last years."

According to conservative economist Arthur Laffer, "it took the election of Margaret Thatcher to break the chokehold of the labor unions on the political system that was gradually converting the proud British empire into a third world state." He adds: "Thatcher liberated the United Kingdom from the militant unions, privatized assets, got salary demands under control, and cut tax rates. These policies helped restore Britain to first world power status."

In a tribute published last year in Britain's Daily Mail, historian Amanda Foreman wrote this about Mrs. Thatcher's legacy:

"Last Christmas, Lady Thatcher was taken to the ballet by her great friend, Romilly McAlpine. During the intermission a queue of little girls appeared at their box, all wanting an autograph. Lady Thatcher said to one of them: 'What do you want to be, dear, when you're grown up?'

"The girl replied, 'I want to be like you. I want to be Prime Minister.' That is surely one of her greatest achievements."

In other words, Mrs. Thatcher's accomplishments are as staggering as Ms. Brazile's ignorance.