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# The Role of Margaret Thatcher in the Falkland War

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**DEDICATION**

**IN THE NAME OF GOD, MOST MERCIFUL, MOST COMPASSIONATE.**

**THIS WORK IS DEDICATED TO:**

**-MY DEAR MOTHER AND FATHER WITHOUT WHOM I WOULD NOT BE WHAT I AM.**

**- ALL MY FAMILY.**

**- ALL MY FRIENDS.**

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## **Abstract**

The Falkland Islands is considered as a British territory crown that had landed there from 1833 until 1982. Argentine government tried to occupy the Falkland Islands in the past, but it failed in every attempt. However, when the British government arrived to celebrate 150 years of settling in the Falkland Islands, Argentina took the opportunity to invade the Falkland Islands, and it succeeded in achieving its goal first by occupying South Georgia where only few British people who facilitated the mission of the Argentineans land without any resistance, then moved to the Falkland Islands. Great Britain reacted to this unexpected invasion by demanding the support of the United Nations organization and from other countries which were members in the Commonwealth, and the European Community. Britain succeeded in getting the sympathy from the entire world but this didn't work in the side of Argentine government which refused the decision of the United Nations that was represented in the withdrawal from the Falkland Islands. So, Britain decided to dispatch the task force because it believed everything was taken by force couldn't be retaken without force, and it was true in its view because it recaptured the Falkland Islands only when it used the task force. As a result, the Argentine military dictatorship fell down, whereas Britain had got a raise in its standing position and raised the support for the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at home which led to reelect her again for a third mandate.

## RESUME

LES ILES MALOUINES SONT CONSIDEREES COMME UN TERRITOIRE BRITANNIQUE. DANS LE PASSE, LE GOUVERNEMENT ARGENTIN TENT D'OCCUPER LES ILES MALOUINES, MAIS IL A ECHOUE DANS TOUTES CES TENTATIVES. LORSQUE LE GOUVERNEMENT BRITANNIQUE A CELEBRE SES 150 ANS DE CONTROLE DANS LES ILES MALOUINES, L'ARGENTINE DECIDE D'ENVAHIR CES ILES, ET A REUSSI A ATTEINDRE SON PREMIER OBJECTIF, EN OCCUPANT LA GEORGIE DU SUD. LA REACTION DE LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE A CETTE INVASION INATTENDUE A ETE DE DEMANDER LE SOUTIEN DES NATIONS UNIES ET D'AUTRES PAYS MEMBRES DU COMMONWEALTH ET LA COMMUNAUTE EUROPEENNE. LA GRAND BRETAGNE A REUSSI A OBTENIR LA SYMPATHIE DU MONDE ENTIER. MAIS A TRAVERS UNE RESOLUTION DES NATION UNIES QUI DEMANDE A L'ARGENTIN DE SE RETIRER DES MALOUINES, LE GOUVERNEMENT ARGENTIN A REFUSE CETTE RESOLUTION DES NATION UNIES. AINSI, LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE A DECIDE DE MOBILISER SES FORCES MILITAIRES, PARCE QUE CE QUI A ETE PRIS PAR LA FORCE NE SERA RECUPERE PAS PAR LA FORCE. COMME RESULTATS, LA DICTATURE MILITAIRE ARGENTINE EST TOMBEE, ALORS QU'EN LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE MINISTRE MARGARET THATCHER, A REUSSI A SE FAIRE, QUI A CONDUIT A SA ELIRE UNE TROISIEME FOIS.

## ملخص:

تعتبر جزر الفوكلاند احد المقاطعات البريطانية التي استوطنتها مليون 1833 حتى 1982. في الماضي حولت الحكومة الأرجنتينية استيطان تلك

الجزر ومع هذا فان جميع محاولاتها باءت بالفشل. لكنها استطاعت استيطانها أثناء احتفال السلطات البريطانية بمرور 150 من احتلال تلك الجزر وذلك من خلال احتلال جورجيا الجنوبية. بحيث كان هناك عدد قليل من البريطانيين الذين لم يقووا على مقاومة الأرجنتينيين وسهلوا من مهمتها في احتلال الجزيرة ومن هناك الجزر الفوكلاند.

كان رد فعل بريطانيا العظمى من خلال طلبها المساعدة من هيئة الأمم المتحدة وبلدان الكمنوالث و المجتمع الأوروبي، ولقد نجحت في الحصول على المساندة من العالم اجمع. ولكن هذا لم ينفذ لان الحكومة الأرجنتينية رفضت قرار الأمم المتحدة المتضمن انسحابها من جزر الفوكلاند. فقررت بريطانيا العظمى إرسال قواتها البرية والبحرية والجوية لأنها تؤمن بمبدأ ما اخذ بالقوة لا يسترجع إلا بالقوة. ولقد تبينت صحة هذه المقولة عندما استرجعت بريطانيا هذه الجزر باستعمال القوة الضاربة لها.

وكنتيجة لهذه الحرب فلقد سقط الحكم الديكتاتوري في الأرجنتين، بينما استطاعت بريطانيا أن ترفع من مكانتها وأيضاً نجحت في زيادة عدد المؤيدين للسياسة الداخلية لرئيسة الوزراء مارغريت تاتشر التي أعيد انتخابها لعهدة ثالثة.

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## **Introduction**

The British government had established its first settlement in the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic 1833. The sovereignty of the Falkland has made a strong conflict between Britain and Argentina; the latter declared that the Island depended on Islas Malvinas. Despite the distance that is about 8070 miles, the islanders preferred to be under British control.

The Argentinean started to make small noises in 1970 to invade the Falklands, and Britain responded by sending a small military fleet that stopped this small attempt. Because in 1982, the problem of the Falkland appeared again in the discussion of the political regime of Argentina, the military government took this opportunity to cover the domestic problems and to direct the public attention to the Falklands.

At the same time, the British government, under the Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, fell down her position between British public, and a good policy to retain her position is a political diversion overseas. During this period no – Argentinean public or military government thought that the British government would fight; neither for the islanders nor to cover her political crisis. So this research tries to show the role of Margaret Thatcher in standing up her position at home, and in the world.

On 19 March 1982 the war was declared when a group of Argentineans, consisting of scrap metal dealers occupied South Georgia which is dependent to the Falkland and their national flag was raised. This small action was considered as a major incident because it threatened the lives of British people who settled there. The British government dispatched the royal marines who were on ice patrol to safe the British presence in South Georgia. It is

true that Argentine troops invaded first South Georgia and then moved to the Falkland Islands, but with the policy and plan which used Margaret Thatcher. This war ended rapidly and gained a political success that helped to recapture the Falkland.

I choose this topic, because in our studies we just emphasized on Thatcher's domestic policy and dealt with foreign policy in general. When I read some articles about Margaret Thatcher's foreign policy, I found that she was very successful although she had a few experience abroad. So, I wanted to learn more about Thatcher's foreign policy especially in the Falkland war. We know that Margaret Thatcher faced many problems at home, when she turned her interest abroad especially in the Falkland war to cover her mistakes at home, she succeeded in retaining the Falkland Islands for a short period, so what's the secret in her policy?

To study this topic we will ask some questions that will help us to understand Margaret Thatcher's foreign policy, we want to know whether the recapture of the Falkland Island helped her in the domestic issues or not. Would the world accept the Argentine invasion? If not, what would be the basic sanctions? Although Margaret Thatcher had a lack of experience in resolving the foreign issues, she was very successful to show her power especially in the Falkland war, how did she manage to win the war?

To answer these questions, the work would be divided into three chapters. The first one will be descriptive. In this part we are going to give the background of the Falkland war to be easier for the reader to understand; we try to explain the main reasons that helped Argentina troops to invade the Falkland, then we move to show how the war started, first by the assault of Argentineans on South Georgia that ended with the successful invasion, then

how it moved to the invasion of the Falkland Islands. The main question is whether Thatcher's Speeches and the united front in the House of Commons would push the people to support the war?

The second chapter deals with analysis of Margaret Thatcher's policy toward Argentina's invasion. We divide this chapter into two sections; the first section, we will deal with the British diplomatic response that appeared particularly in the United Nations role in this issue, and countries that shared to solve this crisis. Then, we will move to the British military response; we will show how Britain managed to retake the Falklands.

The third chapter deals with the recapture of the Falkland Islands, and the results of the Falkland war on both countries (Britain and Argentina). So, we divide the chapter into four sections. We start opening the chapter by showing how Britain managed to retake the Falkland. Then, we move to explain why Britain won the war. Also, we are going to see whether Thatcher was able to rise at home and abroad or not. Finally, we try concluding with the impact of the Falkland war on Argentine regime; did dictatorship resist in its position or not?

References that are used in this research include many books. The memoir of Margaret Thatcher [the Downing Street Years](#) that includes a detailed description of her political life. We took also her speeches from her website which includes official documents of her years in Downing Street, we used also articles from internet such as: "Operation Paraquet" from Wikipedia, and the British Empire Forces: Campaign the Falklands war 1982.

# **Chapter One: The Background of the Falkland Islands and Argentine**

## **Invasion.**

### **Introduction**

As we know that the Falkland Islands is considered as an important military base from 1833 until now. This chapter is divided into two sections; we want to start the first part of the initial chapter by giving to the reader a background of the Falkland Island, how it appeared, and what were the countries that first landed there, and then we move to the causes which helped Argentina to demand again its claim over the Falkland and took the opportunity when Britain was struggling at home. The second part will put an overview of the Falkland war and how Argentina landed at South Georgia and the Falkland Island.

### **1. A Background of the Falkland Islands.**

#### **1.1 A Short History of the First Settlements on the Falkland Islands.**

The British sailors were considered as the first people who settled on the Falkland Island in 1690, and called the channel that relies between two principle Island “Falkland Sound” During the eighteenth century, Britain, Spain, and France had established their settlements. In 1770, a dispute appeared between Spain and Britain governments that led to a war, but a diplomatic solution ended this conflict.

The South East of the Falkland lays 800 miles South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands is far away 460 miles. They relied on the U.K which managed them. There are no inhabitants in these islands due to the difficulty of living there; they have a severe climate.

Great Britain is considered as the first state which had put its claim over the Falkland in 1908 and its administration continued until now. (Thatcher.174.175).

The Falkland Island is an overseas territory of the United Kingdom, consisting from a group of islands in the South Atlantic which is further 480 away from the coast of Argentina. (wright.Edmund.214.)

The distance between the Falkland Islands and East Argentina is 250 miles, but it is far away from Great Britain that lies to 8000 miles .In 1592, John Davis was the first Englishman who saw the Falkland Island for the first time and in 1690John Strong was considered as the first person who landed on the Falkland Island. In addition in 1764 ,there was also French landing on the East, and the first establishment of the British settlement on the west Falkland was on 1765 .But later, in 1770 , the French had sold their settlement to the Spanish, the latter also threw out the British in the west Falkland , but in 1771 it was given back to the British .In 1774 , due to problems that faced Britain at home , it abandoned its settlement (Reagan.151) .

The Spanish abandoned their settlement on the Falkland island in 1811 due to the revolution against its rule in Argentina, which finished by declaring the Argentineans their independence in 1816, and their sovereignty over the island in 1820.Until 1829,the Argentineans established their settlement in the Falkland island. But the U.S refused the Argentineans settlement by destroying their military defense in 1831, also in 1833 the handful of remaining Argentina colonists were ejected by the British who resettled the Islands.

Great Britain kept its claim over the Falkland Islands from 1833to 1982 without competition .The British managed the Island as an important colony that found agreement in

governing from the residents who were approximately eighteen hundred to two thousand on the Falkland. The majority of the residents were British.

The dispute between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland took the discussion in the United Nations special committee on colonialisation in 1964. In 1965, the U.N<sup>1</sup> general assembly agreed on the resolution that put both Britain and Argentina for discussion to find a peaceful solution for their struggle without ignoring the interests of the residents. Both countries kept the U.N sponsored but their discussion, was unstable, sometimes they met to talk and find the solution and sometimes they stopped the discussion and preferred the military response (Reagan.151).

In December 1980, Margaret Thatcher -the British prime minister- proposed a program of lease- back that granted Argentina sovereignty over the Falkland, and gave the administration of the Falkland to the British, but this proposal failed because of the islanders' opposition. In addition, it also proposed that the struggle of sovereignty would be stopped for 25 years, but Argentina refused this proposal.

The last of the U.N sponsored talks was held by Britain and Argentina on February 26/27 in 1982. The failure of these negotiations pushed the Argentine foreign minister, Nicanor Costa Mendez, to declare that if the negotiation would not give the solution, he would change the way to resolve the sovereignty question. (Reagan.151.152).

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations is an international organization which stated aims as facilitating cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress, human right and the achieving of world peace.

## 1.2 Events that Influenced Argentina to Invade the Falkland Islands

When the celebration of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the establishment of the British in the Falklands took place, Argentina took the opportunity to invade the islands and hoped to destroy the British rule there. In addition to that, there were other reasons at home that led to the 1982 invasion. Argentina suffered a lot in its domestic issues; that appeared especially in the economic field, when Argentina faced a bankrupt, and an increase in inflation that reached 130 percent, with the disappearance of 30 000 citizens under military rule and the widespread of people's anger about the future of these people. On the 3<sup>th</sup> March, there was a rebellion against military rule led by the Peronist Labor Union. The U.S demanded help from Argentina to fight the spread of communism in Latin American, while the Argentine president, General Galtieri hoped that President Reagan would also help him in stopping the British resistance in the Falkland. In addition, the Argentinean foreign minister, Allegedly Anglophier Costa Mendez said that the British administration was very tired and it's time for the Argentine government to hold in the Falkland, and claimed to the junta that they would take the island without fight (Sked,Chris.395).

After 1945, the desire of Argentine claim over the Falkland appeared again by the dictator General Peron, but the British government by its leader Churchill warned and stopped their claim in 1952. By contrast in 1965 the Argentina government sent its desire to the U.N to transfer sovereignty in its side and the U.N demanded both countries to negotiate. It continued until 1982 when the Argentina government decided to invade the Falkland and stop negotiation. Britain put tiny marines that regarded and defended the island, if there was any assault to the island, they would be ready to resist especially against Argentina. Britain sent a naval task force to keep the security of the island. The invasion of 1983 reflected

Argentines misunderstanding, the position of the British foreign office seemed that they wanted to transfer the sovereignty to Argentina but this decision was faced with great opposition from the islanders. (Sked .Chris.395.396).

## **2- The Argentina's Invasion of South Georgia**

### **2.1 What is the Falklands War?**

The struggle between Britain and Argentina started on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1982. Britain called this conflict the Falklands War, whereas Argentina named as Las Guerra De La Malvinas. The war began with unexpected assault of the Argentinean troops in the Falkland and South Georgia. But at the end, the Argentinean troops returned to its mainland on 13 June 1982. The war brought changes on both countries; the rising support of Margaret Thatcher, and declining of the dictatorship in Argentina, also the use of weapons end the war for the first time. (Kaufman, Macpherson.348).

### **2.2 South Georgia Invasion**

#### **2.2.1 Great Britain Sent Troops to Defend her Presence in South Georgia**

On the evening of 31<sup>st</sup> March, there were 22 royal marines landing from ships to defend South Georgia were 800 miles far away from the Falklands. The command of these royal marines Lieutenant K Mills who put his small forces on the BAS<sup>1</sup> base at King Edward Point. He went to South Georgia for many reasons; to strengthen the presence of British

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<sup>1</sup> British Antarctic Survey.



military force in South Georgia, and to protect the BAS personnel at Grytviken, also to keep control over the Argentina scrap metal merchant at Leith Whaling station (Freedman.11).

### **2.2.2. Argentinean Troops Invaded in South Georgia.**

In the middle of March there was a group of scrap metal merchant landed at Leith to challenge the British sovereignty there. Mills was warned that Argentina would assault them. He was told to start shooting to any Argentinean landing on South Georgia, if they were armed without warning them. There was no interruption to the arrival of Argentina troops to the Leith harbor that caused all the trouble in the first place. The British would have exactly information about argentine personnel.

In the first April, a group of four man observation team went to Jason Ridge to look what the Argentineans were doing there? The government of the Falkland Island announced through the radio that the invasion of South Georgia was imminent .In the following day, this news reached to Mill's and he was expected to the arrival of some Argentineans. He decided to attack by 50 marines over Leith where occupied by the argentine party and the Bahia Paraiso, the latter carried a few number of troops at one time. On 2 April, there was a prevention used at King Edward Point especially at the beach and Jetty by using wire and improvised explosive to defend BAS base .The first step that was taken by Mill's was to hit the argentine troops as possible ,second remove his power to Grytviken up into the mountain where he started his attacks. (Freedman.11.12)

The *Endurance* ship had received a signal from the MoD<sup>1</sup> that may be there was an attack on Grytviken by 40 Argentine marines, they ordered to take care over the Grytviken directly. The government had cancelled the previous rules of engagement, and according to Freedman who said; "you are to open fire without warning on any Argentine party landing on South Georgia provided you are certain they are armed» (Freedman.12). Despite the severe weather the *Endurance* sent the information to Mill's.

The British captain N.J Barker said: "if Bahia Paraiso is only escorted by one small frigate, then using South Georgia terrain which I know well as cover I could carry out series of As 12 (air surface missile) attacks on both ships "( Freedman.12). He ordered *Endurance* to support their forces on South Georgia, and *Endurance's* orders were to hold it maximum concealment to act as afloat covert intelligence platform the ship was to return round the South of the island be within helicopter range of Grytviken.

The Bahia Paraiso entered Cumberland Bay East on 3th April. tried to see the position of *Endurance*, the climate of South Georgia played an important role because it led the Bahia Paraiso which failed to contact Grytviken base this day until the day after. This information reached London from *Endurance* who told that 'it is assumed that this message will ask Grytviken to surrender the base as South Georgia is in Argentina hands'. Due to the incapability of Hunt, president of the Falkland Island, to give orders Barker asked Britain what are instructions that would give to base commander? Margaret Thatcher ordered that the base of commander should not resist. Whereas, both of John Nott and Henry Leach refused this order and demanded to keep to the ROE (Rules of Engagement) agreed by the cabinet

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Defense

(fire in self defense). This view agreed with Lord Carrington (foreign secretary) who spoke with Margaret Thatcher on 3th April and convinced her to send minimum force and she sent her orders to endurance before the Argentinean moved, the next read:

“If statement from Bahia Paraiso 03100z asks for base to be surrendered, base commander should not comply. He should make clear that any attempted landing will be resisted. If Argentines then invade RM detachment is to resist invasion using force in accordance with ROE laid down, but they should not resist beyond point where lives might be lost to no avail” (Freedman.13)

### **2-3. The Falkland Island Invasion-Operation “Rosario”.**

The planning to invade the Falkland Island began when Britain showed its opposition to the Argentine occupation of South Georgia. On 2<sup>nd</sup> March the Argentine response was violence, which they sent two frigates that were on their South way. And they put more ships on the sea to exercise the Uruguayan Navy, but the real reason beyond that reaction was to invade Stanley. Although the severe climate that prevented them to arrive, by Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, the British intelligence declared that the invasion was imminent. The governor of the Falkland Island, Hunt received the warning and the next evening, he broadcast that the Argentinean’s invasion was expected on 2nd April. (Smith.17)

The operation Rosario took place on Friday 2 April, the British Royal Marines tried to resist against Argentinean increasing troops, but the governor of island Rex Hunt ordered them to surrender. This bad news reached Britain which was shocked by the full invasion of Argentine. (Ryan.126).

## **Conclusion**

Britain, France, and Spain had settled on the Falkland Island from 1690 until 1833. We can say that Britain succeeded in taking over its sovereignty that stated along until 1982 when Argentine found causes or events that helped to put its claim and it took the opportunity of British suffering at home and changed the Argentinean attention to invade the Falkland Island.

Although the invasion of Argentina took place, British government was not silent. The British response to this invasion took two sides: diplomatic and military response which will be dealt with in chapter two.

## **The Chapter Two: The British Diplomatic and Military Response**

### **Introduction**

After Argentina took its place in the Falkland Island successfully, Britain didn't want to lose its important territory; by taking the liberty of the islanders as its mission in this period. So, we want to divide this second chapter into two sections. The first section will deal with the British diplomatic response to the unexpected Argentine invasion: Britain tried to get the support through its attempts to convince the United Nations by its right in conducting the Falklands Islands.

In The second section we want to show how Great Britain started preparing to send the task force as a military final choice to retake the Falklands rapidly.

### **1. British Diplomatic Response**

With the Argentine invasion, the head of the diplomatic service was dismissed; and The British cabinet ministers witnessed a resignation of both Lord Carrington and Sir Humphrey Atkins and later followed the resignation of Richard Luce. Francis Pym was a new foreign secretary, because he was much respected in the conservative party and the commons, Francis Pym tried to give the exact information to the parliament.

The most important diplomatic debates would be discussed in and around the U.N, where Britain's ambassador Sir Anthony Parson had a deep experience in resolving issues diplomatically as he was ambassador to Iran in difficult times when the Islamic revolution happened. (Freedman 39.40).

The response of Margaret Thatcher of the resignation of Lord Carrington appeared in this quotation that we took from her speech that passed in TV:

“I spent a lot of time on Saturday and on Sunday trying to persuade [Lord Carrington] him not to put in his resignation. He felt that he'd been head of the department responsible for the policy, the policy had failed and therefore it was a matter of honour that he should go. If a person says to me ‘it's a matter of honour and I feel I should go’, that's the one ground on which I am not at liberty to refuse because it would make it difficult for him. It was with great regret, he's been a marvelous Foreign Secretary, I've been with him on so many occasions, he's a sturdy and bonny fighter for Britain, a very gallant officer and we shall miss him”. (Thatcher, 1982).

### **1.1 Supports for Britain.**

When the Argentine invasion took place in the South Georgia, Britain reacted to this incident through talks in London and Buenos Aires, and this event developed its threat to Britain, this lead to get a strong support from other countries, it also got support from the U.N, the EEC and NATO, and the commonwealth, by contrast Argentina faced an obstacle to get support from the Organization of American States (OAS). We can say that the first steps that were taken from Britain were on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March by Sir Nicholas Henderson who briefed Haig in Washington ,and Mrs. Margaret Thatcher called the president Reagan to do something. For example warning argentine government, but the president Galtieri didn't listen to him and continued in his action, so President Reagan failed in his role. Over the next month, America was in trouble, because it was difficult to choose between Britain that was considered as a main European ally, and Argentine which was Latin America friend (Smith 20).

Sir Anthony succeeded in passing a resolution in the Security Council that put responsibility on Argentina to surrender. Britain had responded positively, because it is a permanent member of the Security Council, the organization had its power and influence in the world. There was a support from the fellow members of the U.S and from commonwealth countries for Britain. Sometimes there was a strong confrontation from the third world opinion who bear its anti colonist sentiment, so the Falkland dispute could be presented as a matter of colonist. Only Spain and Ireland appeared with their own territorial disputes with Britain. At the same time Britain would expect an important help from the U.S ambassador- Jeanne Kirkpatrick- to the U.N who was very closely with Reagan administration, Eduardo Roca (an Argentine ambassador ) went to New York at the end of March searching for Latin America help and wanted to demand the help of the Soviet Union by putting its opposition in the U.S. as the principle of the U.N demand anti colonist. Argentina took this point in its side and tried to get sympathy from Kirkpatrick.

As Javier Perez de Cuellar who was from Peru became the new Secretary General of the U.N, it was expected that he would work against Britain. Perez de Cuellar was fully aware, however, of the need for impartiality and cautious when it came to launching initiatives that had scant chance of success. When events of the dispute were complicated on 31<sup>st</sup> March, he was about to leave for a tour of Europe. He ordered both Roca and Parsons to find an immediate solution of their dispute. (Freedman.41.).

## **1.2 The United Nations Activities**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the U.N Security Council passed Resolution 502 that called for immediate surrender of Argentine forces from the Falkland Islands, and order both sides to find a peaceful solution. Six days later, Britain had a great support from the EEC that put some economic sanctions against Argentina; behind it there were also other countries which support Britain. By the end of month, the United States of America was disturbed, because it found itself between two allies countries but at the end, it preferred to support the United Kingdom. (Chant. 14).

## **1.3. The Efforts for a Negotiated Settlement**

Britain took all its effort to find a peaceful solution through negotiation, and the government tried to inform the parliament with detailed difficulties that faced. The United States secretary, Alexander Haig, was the only and the first who took efforts for an interim agreement to end the dispute, his view was discussed between Britain and Argentina. The government decided to take the Haig's ideas as the last decision, in spite of the obstacles that it faced but Argentina refused this decision. The following step was presented by the proposals which was introduced by the president Blaunde of Peru, and was modified by the United States. On 7<sup>th</sup> May, the parliament was informed by the foreign and the commonwealth secretary, as it was expected that the British were willing to accept the last version of these proposal for an interim agreement, but Argentina refused. (Sir Anthony Parsons 2).

The negotiation was proceeding by the Senor Perez de Cuellar, the secretary general of the United Nations, with Anthony Parsons who was the delegate at the United Nations, and with



Senor Ros who the deputy of foreign minister of Argentina. As in earlier ones, Britain repeated its effort while Argentina was flexible to make an interim agreement possible. But it seemed that it wanted just to waste time in the hope of holding on to the fruits of aggressions. With all of that this would imply in the international rule of law. On Sunday 16 May, an important meeting was attended by both of British ministers by sir Anthony Parson, and the British ambassador in Washington Sir Nicholas Henderson. On the next day Anthony Parson returned to New York showing to the United Nation secretary general two documents:

“- a draft interim agreement between Britain and Argentina which set out the British position in full; a letter to the secretary general making clear the British position that the Falkland island dependencies were not covered by the draft of interim agreement” (Sir Anthony Parson.6).

Sir Anthony explained to the secretary general that the draft is considered as the furthest that Britain could go in the negotiation. He demanded from the secretary general to give the draft to Argentina, and the secretary general applied his request. On the evening of the 19 May, the government received the argentine response that was represented in a strong opposition of the British proposal (Sir Anthony Parson 7).

#### **1.4 Did the Media Help Margaret Thatcher to Raise her Support at Home?**

Margaret Thatcher had a good relationship with the media. Due to the reporting by the media the news favorably to the government's position, the people of England would support Thatcher and the government.

It was demonstrated that the media was the strongest helped for Britain and Thatcher. The government position was helped to maximize by the press. For instance on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the

*Sun* was published in the front coverage page the opinion of Margaret Thatcher about what was happening. Then, an article about bombing Argentina in more a visible position, and followed by an article that used by the labour pacifist Wedgwood Benn<sup>1</sup> who requested to return the task force, then there was an opposition to Benn position (Monaghan.19).

As it appeared that there was a great support from the people of England to the media coverage, we will reinforce this opinion by a letter arrived to the editor of the *Times* 8 April 1982 that concluded:” "Sir may I warmly applaud you on your leader this morning: ‘Patriotism Tempered with Good Sense.’ That is the voice I like to hear. The Thunderer speaking for England.” (Haney 7).

The people didn’t receive guidance only from the media, but also from Roman Catholic Hume who sending their voice to the world saying that God agreed to the role and action of Britain at war (Haney, 7).

Other means that were used by the people to show their support to the Falkland war, a huge of people gathered at the port where the fleet would leave and they were very cheerful. Also the people took the opportunity of polls to show their support for the way the conservative were handling the war. So, we would say that the war of the Falkland was supported by the common people.

Despite that there was a support from some means of the media, but there were others who were against Margaret Thatcher and the government policy. This view could be found in the *GUARDIAN* which accused the government of pursuing gun-boat diplomacy in the cause

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<sup>1</sup> The radical left wing of the Labour Party.

of the politics of national pride. There was an attack by Anthony Wedgewood Benn and his supporters to the media coverage that used to the war. The response was by Dame Judith Hart, Parliamentary representative from Lanark, who said that many papers were printed as "political pornography" and that war were never expected. It was appeared that the opposition came from the left, The Labour party was split between center-left-wingers and radical left-wingers. Also the Irish were strongly opposed the war; the Irish Defense Minister accused the British government as the aggressor. (Haney.6).

The polls are a considered as a good mean to see the rate of people who support the British government. There was a great support for the government position that is showed by polls. The rate of approval was reached to seventy to eighty throughout the entire conflict. The people preferred to use the force, because they believed that the only force could gain them the victory, as it appeared in the polls trough the slogan that "the public and no doubts of victory". (Haney. 8).

At end, we can say that the media played an important role in helping Margaret Thatcher to get large supporters. As we know that people are more influenced by the press or T.V, So Thatcher took the opportunity by making many meeting with journalists who put her news step by step.

## **2. The British Military Response (the Task Force)**

### **2.1 The Preparation and the Dispatch of the Task Force.**

The British government stopped the diplomatic relations with the Argentina on the 3th April. And as we said above, that it imposed economic sanctions. These sanctions included:

freezing of argentine assets In British banks (valued about \$1.5 billion); embargoing of arms sales to Argentina; suspension of export credit insurance; and the banning of argentine imports.(D' amor.14.).

The Argentine Junta was surprised, when it heard that the British were prepared for the sending of the task force to retain the islands. Although, there were many who didn't believe that Great Britain really would dispatch the task force. The junta took the prudence to reinforce the island.

The British task force was narrated as ' well balanced force', but we could also say the same thing for the Argentine garrison which landed in the Falkland island. The Junta after their defeat they were to claim that they had been beaten by a high –technology nation: examination of their weapons and equipment showed almost the opposite. (Fowler.11.12.).

### **2.1.1 The Preparation of the Task Force**

It was viewed the downing street that there was an unprovoked aggression by the argentine navy in 2 April 1982.The junta leaders unaware was caught by the British response. In reality they were not prepared for that and were clearly unable to deal with that response. As one of the American said about this invasion: “Argentine seizure of the island had pulled of the levers subconscious British tribal memory» (Gibran. 73). Due to the shocking of Britain to the argentine invasion, Britain was not caught completely off-guard by the junta's decisive Downing street was careful to the development that would take place in the south Atlantic, through the gathering of military intelligence activities. Middlebook said that:

“the British government had been altered on Saturday 27 March, to the probability of an argentine invasion; News had reached

London of the extraordinary activity at Argentinian ports, of movements of troops by air inside Argentina, and of detachment of ships toward South Georgia from the supposed naval manoeuvres off Uruguay” (Gibran.73.74).

In the late of March, it started to prepare the Falkland naval force. There was a group of destroyers/frigates changed their direction, and sailed to the south Atlantic. It was reported to the Argentine naval presence in the Falkland waters that there was first some preparation of the deployment of limited number of the naval task force to the south Atlantic and secondly, the diplomatic offensive that would take place. It included the demanding of the secretary of the U.S from the United Nation to discuss the Falklands crisis.

The Prime Minister declared to put some economic sanction against Argentina, and starting to prepare the naval task force in the Monday morning. The Minister of Defense gave the name operation “Corporate” to the task force that would move to the Falkland Island, also cover the naval ground and air battles around the Falkland and including the subsequent return to the United Kingdom. The decision to mount the operation was not taken until the parliament was convened on the Saturday morning. One day before the invasion took place in the Falkland Island, the decision was taken. As Middlebrook confirmed that:

“Mrs. Thatcher accepted Sir Henry Leach’s advice and the following day (1 April) the firm decision was taken to make the necessary preparations for the dispatch of a force to regain the Falkland”.(Gibran.75).

On the fifth of April, Three days after the Argentine invasion HMS *HERMS*, the flagship and HMS *INVICIBLE*, their decks lined with Sea Harriers and Sea King helicopter weighed anchor and headed down the Solent on the morning tide. Their sailing seemed to be for them as proud. The two carriers connected with the other Royal Navy vessel and when

you saw this , you would say that it is a formidable naval force .There were two aircraft carriers ,seven destroyers, five frigate, and four tankers or supply ships sailing toward the south Atlantic at the end of the day. This contingent that helped to form the naval task force was later joined with a number of warships that were taking part in the NATO's spring training naval exercises near Gibraltar (Gibran. 75).

### **2.2.2 Sending the Task Force**

On 1st April 1982, the British cabinet agreed to send advanced guard of the task force in the hope that it would lead to the surrender of Argentinians from the Falkland Islands, According to the foreign secretary, Peter Carrington, the cabinet was adamant that the government might have been seriously weakened if the decision hadn't been taken to send the task force, even if it was hoped that the conflict could be avoided. Margaret Thatcher was advised by the MoD, Sir Frank Cooper to create a small war cabinet<sup>1</sup> to assist in the planning and execution of the campaign. The cabinet was secured by Margaret Thatcher and later there was an approval of parliament to send the task force (Dodds. 166).

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<sup>1</sup> A War Cabinet is a committee formed by a government in a time of war. It is usually a subset of the full executive cabinet of ministers. It is also quite common for a War Cabinet to have senior military officers and it consists from Prime Minister - Margaret Thatcher Deputy Prime Minister & Home Secretary - Willie Whitelaw Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs - Francis Pym Secretary of State for Defence - John Nott Chief of the Defence Staff - Admiral Lewin Attorney General - Michael Havers opposition politicians as members.

### 2.3. The Attack on South Georgia.

It seemed that a small Flotilla<sup>1</sup> travelled quickly in severe climate to reach the island of South Georgia on the 21st April. They agreed to meet with *HMS endurance*. The role of submarine *HMS conqueror* was very important, because she reported the movements of Argentine naval and air that located near to the area. Also, she reported that it was safe for the flotilla to approach the island and commerce operations.

Although, the difficulties of the climate, a helicopter flew an SAS Squadron on the Fortuna glacier, their landing was successful, but the weather conditions didn't let up in the slightest. Even the SAS had to concede defeat to the 100 of winds and subzero temperature. In the following day, they requested to be picked up. A helicopter was sent, but the weather changed its direction, and it was expected to come in the land all of their passenger would die, but it was strange incident for both the pilot and his group to remain alive, may be they have chance in their life. A second helicopter was dispatched to give help to the crew and the Squadron, but it too suffered from the bad weather and finally fell down earth. An hour later, a third and the final helicopter was sent, with the skills of pilot of this helicopter, he succeeded to land safely and took all personnel from the previous helicopter and the original SAS team. A disaster had been averted by the narrowest of margins. (Luscombe)

The next day, they took different attempts to reach island .The SAS tried to reach the island by five inflatable boats. As it was expected, the severe weather was the major obstacle

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<sup>1</sup>Flotilla is a formation of small warships that may be part of a larger fleet. A flotilla is usually composed of a homogeneous group of the same class of warship, such as frigates, destroyers, torpedo boats, submarines, gunboats, or minesweepers. Larger warships are grouped in squadrons.

for their moving. It affected the engines and two of the boats suffered from complete failure. One boat moved for hours, the others seemed that it lost completely. By a miracle, they had conducted to paddle ashore at the very Southern tip of the island. The next stop was Antarctica. Later; they were picked up by helicopter. Even the three bouts that got ashore didn't move much more, ice shards cut their inflatable ribbons and they found the terrain in front of them impossible, they had to be taken by helicopter (Luscombe).

It was seen a new threat to the flotilla in the next two days. Three helicopters were sent quickly to stop the threat of argentine submarine, because British troops saw it on radar by Wessex helicopter. They came across the submarine as it was leaving Cumberland Bay; it had been delivering reinforcements to the island garrison. The helicopters dropped depts Charges, launched missiles, unleashed torpedoes and fired machine guns. First, the submarine took struggling and defending, but later it conducted to stay afloat. It limped back into port where the crew quickly abandoned her.

It seemed that there were 140 Argentine forces on the island, but as it was expected with this difficult time; there were suffering morally from this war. Britain wanted to take the opportunity by launching an attack. The closest force to the island at this time was HMS Antrim which consists only from 75 SAS, and marines, but it was felt that these might yet be able to carry an attack. This attack was supported though; the helicopters would be used as spotters to call in devastating bombardment from the ship's guns.

The other helicopters then ferried the troops to the outskirts of the settlements' defences. They started to open fire, when they noticed that the defenders were fed up of this war, particularly when they saw their raising white flag appeared from the windows of their



building. Although, the mechanical and weather problems, not a single British soldier or sailor had died in the retaking of this remote island. (Luscombe)

## **Conclusion**

At the end we can conclude that Britain responded first diplomatically to take the opportunity and time for preparing the task force. As we said above that Great Britain first thing to win the time was demanding from the foreign secretary of U.N to order the Argentine troops to return its decision in invading the Falkland Island, but this didn't win. So she tried through the United Nations to get help knowing that one of its principles is to liberate the weaker country from colonist and reject completely the idea of colonists. At end we find that Great Britain could get its sympathy from the U.N, but the Argentine government refused to be under the United Nations solutions which lead to the surrender of the Argentine troops that is not in its self interest.

So, we can say that, when Britain found that the diplomatic response didn't win, it turned to other attempts which were considered as more successful than the first. This attempt is represented in the dispatching task force, because we believe that things that are taken by force couldn't be retake without force.

Finally, we reach to a result that both of the diplomatic and the military response should work together; Great Britain couldn't solve the Falkland dispute only by diplomatic or military response, they should both work together.

# **Chapter Three: The Recapture of the Falkland Islands and Changes in Britain and Argentine Regimes.**

## **Introduction**

We can say that in the Falkland dispute, the entire world was interested to find the final decision and give all the conditions of living to the islanders. As we said above that the Falkland issue took diplomatic and military response to find a final solution. In this chapter, we will deal with the results of the Falkland dispute on both sides Great Britain and Argentina. So, this chapter will be divided into four parts; the first will be the recapture of South Georgia and the Falkland Island, then we will move to know why Britain could win the war.

In the third part, we will show how the Falkland war affected the British policy, then will move to the fourth part we will show the changes that happened in the Argentine regime.

## **1. Could Britain Re-take the Falkland Islands?**

### **1.1. The Operation Paraquet**

When the British military forces wanted to retake South Georgia from the Argentine military control, it decided to prepare a well operation that called Operation Paraquet.<sup>1</sup> (Wikipedia)

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<sup>1</sup> “It is an unofficial name adopted by troops in the South Atlantic who feared the operation would prove as lethal to them as the weedkiller Paraquet. This view prompted the exclamation ‘*kill Paraquet before it kill us*’.”

Admiral Woodward described the creation of operation Paraquet as a group made of a fuel tanker, and HMS Antrim and Plymouth as it added difficulties to his task which brought his ships together for work-up as a coherent group. South Georgia is a crescent-shaped Island, 105 miles long and 18 miles across at its widest point, it also far 800 miles away from the South East of the Falklands.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> April, the British force was set out, and the nuclear submarine was dispatched to prevent the Argentine aircraft carrier or any other surface vessel to give any support to the Argentinean garrison. It decided to use the plan that obliged the garrison to contain and finally put to surrender. But both of SAS and SBS started to appear as the leading operational troops. The SAS claimed its landing on Fortuna Glacier where ten miles far away to the west of Leith. We can say that the weather played an important role to change the direction of the British troops; for example, the small SAS were suffering so much from the bad climate within 12 hours demanded to withdraw from its position immediately. So the British responded to that by sending two Wessex helicopters to remove them, but they were broken down. They tried to send a third helicopter which finally succeeded in its mission; due to the ability and skills of the pilot. The SBS group became also remained on the Island. We can say that the tragedy could be expected to happen when an Argentine submarine met *endurance* which had been invited into the British naval force, but it didn't remain because the Argentine captain believed that he could not torpedo a defenseless ship. The Argentine garrison now was aware to the presence of the British; who were now reinforced by the frigate *Brilliant*. ( Boyce. 87.88).

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### **1.1.1. The Recapture of South Georgia.**

Great Britain decided to send a small task force to retake South Georgia, which before the Argentinean invasion was defended by small Royal Marines garrison. This small force composed from: HMS Antrim and HMS Plymouth.

On 21<sup>st</sup> April 1982, operations started at South Georgia and in 26<sup>th</sup> April the Argentine troops withdrew. It was clear that Britain had won this small victory in South Georgia, but this victory was very important. So, it's time for the Royal Navy's task force to turn its attention to the Falkland Island.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, the British sent a small commando force to recapture South Georgia Island. So, the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher calls on Britain to "Rejoice". (The BBC).

On 25th April, the British troops succeed to recapture South Georgia, destroying the argentine garrison that was lead by LT Alfredo Astiz (command of navy). On the 2nd May the Belgrano was sunk by the British submarine outside the exclusion Zone; there was also a heavy loss of life. Two days later, an Excost missile hit, then destroyed HMS Sheffield. It seems a complicated military operation that lead to the loss of aircraft of both sides. On the 19th of May, there was a British rejection to the latest of the Argentinean proposals for a negotiated settlement. (Gunson. 271.).

Admiral John led the British task force to open the campaign by assault of South Georgia where the Argentinean troops landed there. It was clear that the British recaptured the

island without losses and destroyed an Argentine submarine. This winning was considered as a minor success, but led to a political victory. (Jaques. 962).

### **1. The Operation Corporate.**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> May, sharpening aggression engaged a single Vulcan bomber hitting Stanly air; sea Harriers hit Stanly and Goose Green airfields; Stanly opened fire on by a small naval force. Two frigates and several Sea King helicopters rested on the alert for Argentine submarines. Several Argentine aircraft were destroyed. Stanly airfield was sufficiently broken to reject its use to Argentines as a forward operating base, or an emergency landing ground for their high performance jets. But, the Argentine consideration of this engagement was that they had come off best; especially the assault of the naval on Stanly was considered as part of imminent British landing which had been bothered. Argentina accepted as true that two Harriers had been shot down; they had hit and destroyed British ships, the *Glamorgan* and the *Arrow*. The moral of the Argentinean pilots was high. Argentina was promoted to take the initiative; especially to organize its naval task force to find and fall down if the islands or the mainland were hit.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> April, Admiral Woodward was granted the New Rules of Engagement which permitted him to open fire in any fight ship or aircraft in the Exclusion Zone identified as Argentines once the task force had entered it. (boyce.99.100) .Woodward said that:

“Up to the north-west was the Argentine carrier, *the Veinticinco de Mayo*, with her two escort destroyers; on her deck would be fighter bombers, and possibly some *Exocet* armed Super-Etendards. Down to the south-west was the

heavily armed cruiser, *General Belgrano*, with her two escorting destroyers, each carrying Exocets” (126)

These were formidable ships that were described by Woodward as a pincer movement. His aim was to keep the submarine *conqueror* near to *Belgrano* to the south to shadow the carrier and her escorts to the north.

On 12<sup>th</sup> May, Admiral Fieldhouse had got an operational order which represented on” to repossess the Falkland Islands as quickly as possible’. (Clapp.108.133).The execution of this order was gone before the British attack on the Argentine forces. On the 15th May the SAS attacked Pebble Island devastated 11 Argentine aircraft; Vulcans and Harriers carried over 51 tons of ordinance on the Islands, though with less effective crash by the Vulcans. (Foster. 161).

We can say that the moral of the soldiers played an important role in conducting the war. On the 21<sup>st</sup> May, there was no opposition against British landing at San Carlos Water; its landing was easy because there was Special Boat Service on the beaches to give help to the troops and guide them onto land. (Freedman. 340-1). This landing was considered as the most testing periods in the British campaign in the South Atlantic, because when the task force was landed at San Carlos Water by the Argentine air force soon hit; by the end of the first day both of Argonaut and Antrim were harmed; Brilliant and Broadsword were hit.

We saw that the battle consists from a series of actions. On the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> May, it was announced through the BBC world service broadcast that: British troops were advanced to Darwin, a settlement of few houses about a mile from Goose Green.

The fight started with a disaster for the Argentine troop, which consisted of the young soldiers with little military training. The Argentine Commander ordered that his forces hold their positions on Coronation, but this was lost by 6.00 am. On 28<sup>th</sup> May, a company began to withdraw from their exposed position. (Boyce 129.130)

## **2. Why Britain Won the Falklands War?**

There were equal measures of professionalism and luck which helped to win the war. It was clear that Argentina had a decided circumference in men, material, planes, position, and supply lines. The British force eroded away the Argentine advantage when the war was developed.

It seemed that the British took advantage of the press rather than Argentina, giving the exact events to the people. Britain was intelligent in this case, because the press would transfer the bad dealing of the Argentine troops toward the Islanders; this led to more support to the British claim. At the same time, the Argentine press were discredited almost from the first day of the battle, most westerners saw the Britain's official government press as the only news basis that was even incompletely veracious. We can say that Britain won the psychological war, gave a huge advance to its military position. As the war developed, yet Argentine started to believe in British claim. Of course, this was exactly what Britain aimed.

Argentina lost its most important ship *Belgrano*; this resulted to end its naval war in the Falkland, this led to keep the Argentine ships near to the mainland. Although, Argentina had a strong air power at the beginning, it was incapable to establish its air control over the Falklands. Instead, in the first two weeks of the shooting war, the twenty British Sea Harriers beat the Argentine Air Force out of the sky. At the end, the losses of Argentine plane

reached approximately to one-half to two-thirds of its serviceable fight planes; the most important damage happened to the Argentine was its loss of the large percentage trained pilots, it was difficult to replace them (Reginald.).

Brigadier General Menendez was the person in the wrong place, because powerless in making the simplest military judgment; argument for his military incompetence appeared in his strategy, his placement of troops, his reaction to the British actions. Although, the president Galtieri identified the Menendez's shortage on his only visit to the islands, he rejected to substitute him; on the grounds his removal would reduce and discourage the Argentine populace and soldiery.

The landing of the British troops at San Carlos Bay didn't face any confrontation and landed easily. Although, Menendez reinforced the Argentine forces at Goose Green, it had no support in the time that it needed. Once Goose Green fell down, he seemed to practice a persistent policy of retreat, moving back from well-established position at the least notice of pressure from the advancing British. At the end he found himself surrounded at Puerto Argentino/Port Stanley, encircled by land and cut off by sea, without any support from air. As result, his armed forces broke and ran before the final British attack. (Reginald).

### **3- Britain after the Falkland War**

On 14th June 1982, British forces took seven days to recapture Port Stanley. When the British troops and the Argentine troops recaptured the Falkland, this led to a new era and helped the British government to get its confidence again after decades of post colonial decline. Margaret Thatcher played an important role change the position of Britain from the sick man of Europe into a resurgent global power. (Reginald).



We could say that Margaret Thatcher followed an extraordinary policy to solve the Falkland dispute; she ordered to send the taskforce to retake the Falkland Island. After three days the Argentinean invasion to British soil; the armada of over 110 ships and 28.000 men started to sail for the South Atlantic. London went to war against the regime in Buenos Aires.

With the help of the U.S and Chile, the British army, navy and air force defeated a longer argentine force. Britain's victory led to the loss of 225 British servicemen. Britain preferred to scarify with a long number of people, to liberate the British territory.(Gardiner. 1)

In June 1983, Thatcher played an important role in raising her popularity, due to the victory in the Falklands which was considered as the most elements in calling a general election. But perhaps an even greater factor was panic among the opposition.

It seemed that the third party had more chance (Social Democratic Party) but the Falkland war reversed the decline in Thatcher's popularity. The winning of the conservative party was formidable in the general election it reached to 144 seats which had in the past 43 seats. Even while their proportion of the popular vote fell from 43.9 to 42.4 percent. The Alliance suffered a large dissatisfaction; got 25.4 percent of the votes, but only 23 seats to the labor's 27.6 percent and 209 seats.

Her triumph had made herself confident, Thatcher pushed on with her right- wing policies, she substituted a number of Wets in her cabinet with Drys and she kept money tight to combat inflation. She forced the National Coal Board to throw out ineffective pits in order to turn a profit, even at the expense of greater joblessness. Her policy led to the strike by the Coal miners that dominated her second term (Heyck.299).

As the National Coal Board was scaling down the industry, the miners union, the National Union Miner was turning to militant leadership in 1984; Arthur Scargill<sup>1</sup> called to the strike in the spring 1984 with the National Union Miner executive to end depression. Unfortunately for Scargill, it appeared that not all the mining region would support the strike, due to the closures affected the older mining regions of Scotland, South Wales, and the North of England, but not the more efficient mines in the English Midlands. So, the National Union Miner executive was not interested in getting the NUM<sup>2</sup> general polls, and Nottinghamshire miners rejected to link the other miners in following the executive's call to put down their tools. The NUM launched 'flying pickets' to put down the Nottinghamshire mines, but the government decided to protect the right of these miners to work. During summer 1984, there were serious combats between strikers and police broke out and fell. We can say that this was as a long expected fight between the union militants and the Thatcherites (Heyck.300).

Thatcher rejected to intervene to settle the strike to call for a new general election. Her government had gathered sufficient stocks conservative party. Thatcher was unpopular in her personal term, in November 1990 the public opinion polls demonstrated that the conservatives under her leadership were running far behind the labour party. A number of the conservative leaders believed that if Thatcher wasn't substituted, the party would suffer a defeat in the next general election. This would be expected to be held in the summer 1992. In November 1990, the conservative MP's succeeded in turning her out of office.

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<sup>1</sup>Arthur Scargill was a strong socialist who was devoted to keeping miners at work and mining communities intact.

<sup>2</sup>National Union Miner.

Three elements combined to spread the fast-growing seeds of discontent with Thatcher. One was her customary high-handedness with her own cabinet. Although, she was expelled the 'Wets' from office, she ruled the cabinet with an iron hand. In the cabinet discussion, she always insisted to give the last word, on interfering with decisions in the various executive departments, and on pushing her cabinet colleague to silence. In Autumn 199., she had created a long list of bitterly resentful ex-ministers, among whom was Michael Heseltine an aggressive and ambitious man who had resigned as defense secretary after a conflict with Thatcher in 1986, insisting that Thatcher had to go, such conservative leaders started pushing around with each other in hopes of replacing her at the crown. (Heyck.302).

The second concern was the 'poll tax' which she had insisted on passing in 1989, which had provoked strong public complain; including a unrest in London in the summer of 1990. The poll tax was a blow at progressive taxation, the local taxes in Britain were based on property values, which meant that well to do families paid more than poorer ones. Thatcher favored a flat tax which means each member of the family; men, women, and children over eighteen years of age would be taxed at the same rate. Thatcher hoped that dependence on this new method of taxation would cut the spending of local authorities; many of them were under control of labour. After the poll taxes went into effect, it appeared in many families in their owning property that there was a reduction in their local taxes, but the majority of families found that their taxes went up. in addition, they thought that they had no need for any change; we can say that Thatcher's ideology was the only who creates the 'poll tax' in addition to Heseltine, there were other number from the conservatives who demanded that the 'poll tax' must be stopped, but Thatcher decided to keep it. (Heyck.302).

At the end, the conservative parliamentary leadership grew increasingly unhappy with Thatcher's stance on European unity. She seemed out of step with the progress of the EC (European Community) toward unification and therefore probably to permit Britain to slip to the periphery of European affairs. This appeared particularly when Germany brought back together in 1989. If Britain didn't become a keen participant in the E.C the major decisions would be made over which the British would have no influence. Thatcher did favor the achievement of a barrier-free market in 1992, but she opposed steps toward monetary union and expressed her opposition in harsh terms. The EC was considering whether in the next decade to establish a single European currency and a central European bank. Thatcher's opinion was that she refused to throw away the pound sterling, that the old symbol of British power and influence, for a single European currency over which the British would have little control, and she detested the idea of the central European bank making decision that would profoundly affect the British economy. Some critics argued that the government had no choice to go along the development of the European unity, since Britain didn't keep her place as the great power. (Heyck. 303).

#### **4. Changes in Argentine Regime**

##### **4.1 The End of the Military Government.**

The Argentine military regime was defeated in the Falkland war; there were popular wishes that had been raised to fever pitch, and when the news was spread the Argentine people were shocked. The General Galtieri and the other member of the government were obliged to resign. The armed forces had totally lost what prestige they had gained from victory in the counter-insurgency war and in a context of mismanaged economic policies. So,

it appeared that they lost their power to manage and defend the country. They could ill afford to give up power too quickly, although given the dangers of popular revenge for the excesses of the dirty war. (Klepak.6).

The new government of General Reynald Bignone held on for another year negotiating surrender from government with as much face saved as possible. Despite the massive return of the prisoner of war by the British, The government could not officially reduce the conflict for fear of a major reaction by the public opinion. So, we can say that the war didn't come to a complete end complicating the post-conflict scene for both countries particularly in terms of stopping the boycotts and embargoes placed on Argentina by Commonwealth and European countries.

At the same time the economic situation in the country got worse. Inflation rose harshly and the international debt situation raised the issue more complexly, because of the costs of the war itself. The armed forces were in the meantime in a state of total crisis with shared blame about who lost the war the rule among service with a long history of competition of the most dramatic kind. The main political parties in the country at the same time called for election soon while hoping the military could move forward on the economic front before handing over power, thus saving the resident politicians from unpopular measures and blame for the overall state of the economy. (Klepak.7).

By contrast the situation in the United Kingdom was different. After many years marked decline, the country had reassert itself in dramatic style, proving the strength of its political leadership, the continued nerve of its people, and the effectiveness of its armed forces. The Thatcher government relaxed in the glory of military triumph and diplomatic

success. The economy continued to move forward. And popular support for the 'Iron Lady' reached new heights. (Klepak7).

#### **4.2 The Transition to Democracy.**

The Falkland war had negative results in Argentine regime; it appeared in destroying the military dictatorship. It was unable to stop the economic crises, the government of the armed forces fell down. We can say that the breakdown of the authoritarian regime was the result of opposition and failure. (Tedesco.50).

The Malvinas characterized the final blow to the dictatorial regime and marked the transfer of the presidency to the democratic. There were attempts from the Galtieri presidency to reimpose a freezing of political activities and to support the government to establish the economy again. In the midst of these efforts General Galtieri started the Malvinas conflict.

It damaged the armed forces' alliances with the upper bourgeoisie. We found that the foreign policy of the military dictatorship became disjointed. The war played an important role because it provoked the economic and political isolation of Argentina; this was not welcomed by the upper bourgeoisie. It also appeared that the military dictatorship was much more changeable than any democratic government. The same government which was helping the United States struggle against communism in Central America sought the support for its Malvinas conflict from the non-aligned movement.

We reach the end saying that the combination of four elements provoked the falling down of the authoritarian regime; first, the failure of efforts to slow down or stop economic crisis; second, the disagreement within the armed forces; third, these two elements provoked the

weakening of the alliance with the upper bourgeoisie; fourth, and finally the defeat in Malvinas. By the time the transition to democracy had started, the armed forces were in danger of internal destruction. The transition to democracy was quite distinctive, it was made by the destruction of authoritarian regime and the conflict which existed in the armed forces. (Tedesco. 51).

## **Conclusion**

As we said previously that Margaret Thatcher used an extraordinary policy to recapture the Falklands Islands, the British government insisted in retaking South Georgia although it knew that the weather would obstacle it in moving toward South Georgia, it continued until it arrived and landed easily there with few resist. This encouraged her to move rapidly to the Falkland Island and kick out the enemy and it really succeeded in her mission.

In the Falkland war Britain won the war due to its desire; first, to liberate the islanders and give their right in living, second to regain again its standing position at home and would be respected abroad. Margaret Thatcher was suffering at home particularly in the economic side before the Falkland war, but when she entered to solve the dispute, her position was raised, and the opinion of the world toward Britain was changed. As we reached the end, we saw that the Falkland war had an effective influence on British policy; this appeared by raising the public support to Thatcher policy, whereas in Argentina it had a negative effect, this was shown which caused the decline of the military regime.

## **General Conclusion**

The dispute over the Falkland Islands referred to in Spain as the Islas Malvinas, is one of the oldest in all the Americas and has determined the diplomacy of not only the United Kingdom and the Argentine Republic but at one or more times of France and Spain.

The dispute over the islands goes back to their first sighting by Europeans in the 16<sup>th</sup> and the early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Even then, Englishmen, Dutchmen, and Spaniards claimed to see them first. And while claims to sighting do not get one very far international law dealing with possessions, these conflicting reports of who saw the islands became a very important issue between the countries that landed there. Since then the changeable occupation of the islands by the French, British, Spanish and Argentines have for long given more or less strength to the claims of the two key protagonists of modern times and London and Buenos Aires remained on the issue right to this day.

Argentine inherited Spanish claims to the Islands, while for many years the issue was largely resting; Argentina had after a fashion occupied the islands in the 1820s and early thirties and had thus reinforced their claim to them. Expelled by the actions of both the United States and then Great Britain, the Argentine had never completely giving up on making the good their claims.

The Falkland dispute was seen as a measure of the mistreatment Argentines had been receiving from the outside world, particularly Great Britain, and then followed by the United States.



When Argentina was suffering from domestic issues, it appeared that it tried to take the attention of the Argentines to their desire to put their claim on the Falkland Islands, and the Argentine government succeeded in its planning; it was clear that the Argentinean people applied their plan in invading the Falkland and with their willing, and power they reached to their aim.

As we saw in this research, the British government didn't keep quiet when it saw the Argentine invasion to move further, it prepared itself very well to react to this unexpected assault. Firstly, the British government under the leadership of the conservative Margaret Thatcher tried diplomatically to get the sympathy of the world; it gave its reasons that they wanted to liberate the islanders from the Argentine enemy. Who dealt with the residents violently and they wanted to evacuate the Falkland from their residents and put their people who promised them with a good living condition when in the mainland confronted many problems especially with jobs. But Britain put its demand in the United Nations to find a peaceful solution, because as we know that one of the principles of the United Nations is to help and give the self-determination to the colonized countries, that's why Britain got at the end the decision in its side knowing that at the first it faced a large opposition from the members of the United Nations taking the reason that Britain was considered as a colonized country, but with the following days they saw the contrast: they found that islanders preferred to be under the British regime rather than the Argentine ones .

It is true that Margaret Thatcher succeeded to get the support from other countries to her side; their support appeared particularly by imposing some economic sanctions and boycotting any Argentine exports. But this didn't mean that the Argentine government would accept what the United Nations ordered it to do; because on the one hand, the solution that

they arrived at the end would only work for Britain who would retake her islands and on the other hand Argentina would lose its claim and occupation on the Falkland Islands which from the past wanted and desired to occupy these islands.

British government didn't concentrate only on the diplomatic side; when it tried to gain the support of the other countries to her side, at the same time it prepared its task force to dispatch the Falkland islands; before preparing the task force Margaret Thatcher tried to convince the parliament to dispatch the fleet; at first she faced an opposition from some members especially from the labour party but at the end she won to get the authorization to start to prepare the task force, and then send it to liberate the islanders.

The British government decided to send a small task force first to South Georgia, and the Argentineans didn't expect that the British government would react to this invasion especially that South Georgia is considered as a cold island that characterized in this period by a difficult weather that no one would risk by himself to liberate this island, but the British government didn't think in the severe weather it only thought how it would kick out the enemy. We can say that, the policy that was used by Margaret Thatcher was very successful, because she was a strong woman; she would impose her opinion in parliament, but she suffered at first to convince the members to accept the sending of the task force.

At the 14<sup>th</sup> June Great Britain liberates the Falkland Island and succeeds to destroy the Argentine establishment there. The entire world accepted this result and encouraged to develop what the Argentineans destroyed in the Falkland Island.

The Falkland war had many results in both sides, we can explain that the Falkland war had positive effects on Britain in general; British won the war and it also made some changes

which were considered very important. It gained the victory which led it to stand its position in the world and retained its self confidence. Also, before this war Britain had suffered from raising the opposition against the policy that was used by the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and demanded to replace her, but when she turned her interest to the abroad issues to calm the situation at home and direct their attentions to their territory which they considered it's as important British colony, she got a strong support from the people; so, we can say that Margaret Thatcher arrested the precipitous decline in her public approval rating and ensured her reelection the following year.

By contrast, the Argentina government faced difficult problem at home; its dictatorship regime was destroyed as result of the Falkland war and also this system did not use justice that's why the Argentineans took the opportunity to put down this system; the defeat sealed the fate of General Galtirle leopoldo and his colleagues on the ruling military Junta. Then, they elected another party which they hoped would help them and prevent the use of racism or any type of violence this type of system is democracy.

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