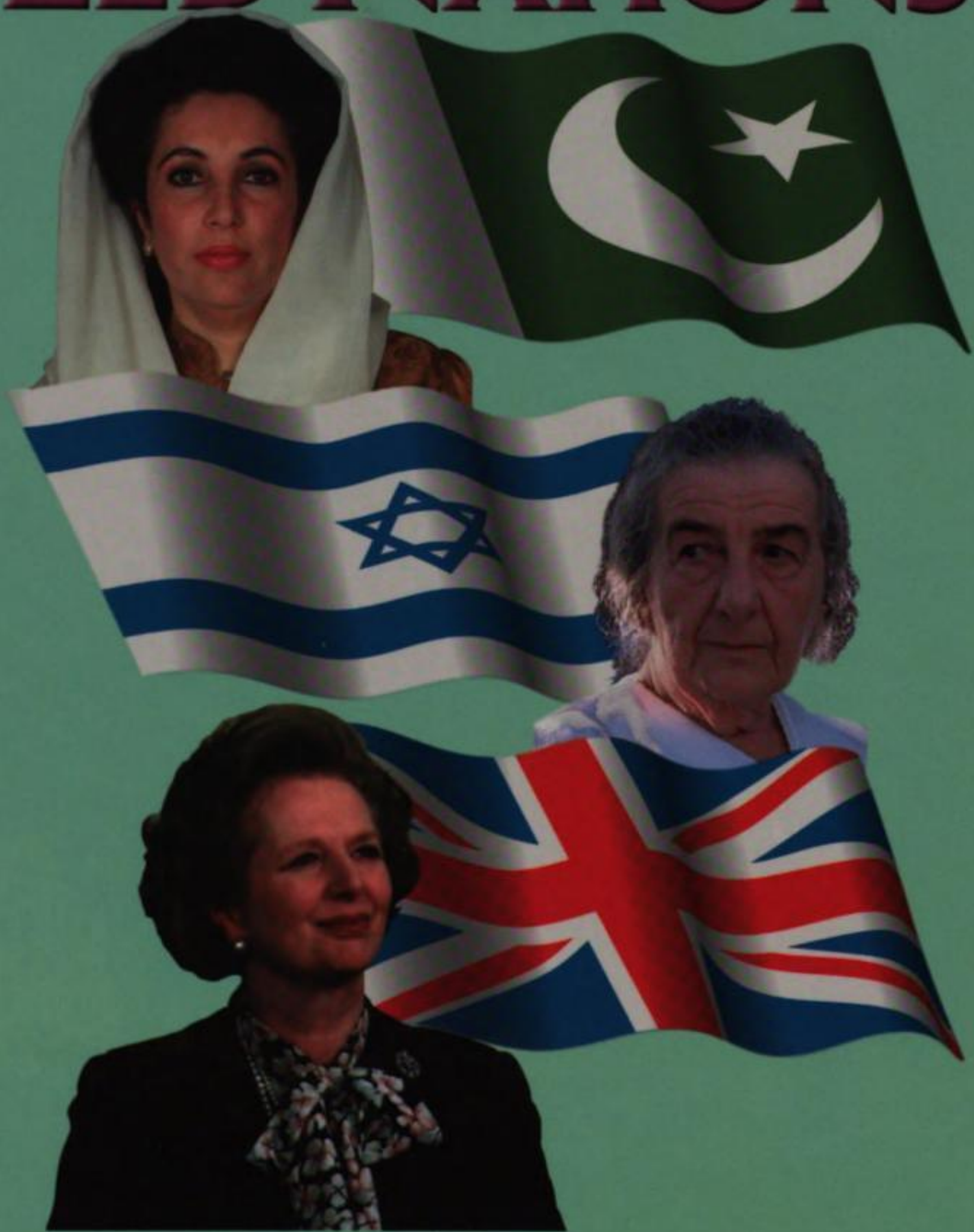


PROFILES

WOMEN WHO LED NATIONS



Joan Axelrod-Contrada

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Introduction

*W*hile queens and empresses ruled even in ancient times, only in the last half of the twentieth century have women been democratically elected to lead nations. Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka made history in 1960 when she became the first woman elected to lead a nation.

In many countries, laws prevented women from holding office or voting. Not until the nineteenth century did the idea of women's rights grow into an organized movement, now known as *feminism*, for the political, economic, and social equality of women with men.

In 1893, New Zealand became the first country to grant the right to vote to both men and women. In the twentieth century, women around the globe began to gain the right to vote. Among the earliest countries to give



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slain opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr., she presided over the “people power” revolution that toppled the regime of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos in February 1986, restoring democracy to the Philippines.

In 1988, Benazir Bhutto, the daughter of executed Pakistani head of state Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, rose to power as the first Muslim woman in the world to become prime minister. In a country in which women traditionally stay at home and wear heavy veils in public, the Western-educated Bhutto waged a winning campaign to carry on her father’s legacy.

Nicaraguan Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, the widow of slain newspaper publisher Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, ended the civil war in her country after she was elected president in 1990. In a culture long known for its *machismo*, or the idea that men must be extremely aggressive, virile, and brave, Violeta preached the politics of reconciliation.

As the heirs of political family dynasties, Gandhi, Aquino, Bhutto, and Chamorro enjoyed the advantage of having built-in power bases and fundraising. Nevertheless, in the past 40 years, candidates from humbler circumstances have also become leaders. Golda Meir of Israel, Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, and Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway came to power not as political heirs but as proven leaders in their own right.

Golda Meir used her abilities as an organizer and an orator to help build the new nation of Israel, which was



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A stirring orator and tireless organizer, Golda Meir (1898-1978) used her talents and energy to help create a new country for the Jewish people—and then became its leader in 1969.



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Golda saved the money she earned from wrapping packages in a department store and teaching English to recent immigrants. One morning, instead of going to school, she left a note for her parents and picked up a suitcase she had hidden at a friend's house. Fourteen-year-old Golda then bought a train ticket to Denver.

The Korngolds' apartment was a gathering place for young intellectuals from Russia who spoke about combining the economic equality of Socialism with the Jewish nationalism of Zionism. Since the late 1800s, Zionists had been working to build a homeland for Jews in what was then called Palestine but would later become Israel. One evening, a quiet, bespectacled sign painter named Morris Meyerson joined Sheyna's discussion group. Morris was less interested in politics than in art, music, and literature. Before long, he and Golda fell in love.

About eighteen months later, Golda's father wrote, urging her to come home because Bluma missed her greatly. Golda returned to Milwaukee in 1914 with the understanding that she be allowed to complete high school and train to become a teacher. Morris remained in Denver but promised to write to Golda every day.

World War I, meanwhile, was sweeping across Europe, and the Mabovitch household in Milwaukee was alive with war news and political discussions. Increasingly, Golda's life revolved around Zionism. She gave speeches about Jewish causes on street corners and in front of synagogues. Although Moshe, too, was a Zionist, he

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The couple moved briefly to Tel Aviv, then to a small apartment in Jerusalem. In 1924, Golda gave birth to a son, Menachem, and to a daughter, Sarah, in 1926. Morris worked as a bookkeeper, and Golda took in laundry from Menachem's nursery school to pay for his tuition. But Golda disliked being confined to the private world of the home. Feeling sidelined from the struggle to create a new society, she knew she was not cut out to be a traditional wife and mother.

Finally, in 1928, Golda Meyerson applied for a position as secretary of the women's labor council of the Histadrut. Over the years, the Histadrut had transformed itself from a labor union into the unofficial government of the Jews in Palestine. Her new position required her to move to Tel Aviv. Golda and Morris separated, but they remained friends until Morris's death in 1951.

Golda Meyerson, who later changed her name to Meir, traveled extensively for the Histadrut. Usually, she left Menachem and Sarah with Sheyna or her parents, who had emigrated in 1926. She rose from the women's council to the inner circle of the Histadrut and became head of its political department in 1936.

Meir's talents for speaking and administration, as well as her ability to work long, hard hours, earned her the respect of the men in the organization. Yet she often felt guilty about being away from her children. "I think . . . that women who want and need a life outside as well as inside the home have a much, much harder time than



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The government the Israelis set up consisted of a legislature, called the Knesset, composed of 120 members elected every four years by all citizens. The Knesset elects a president, who then selects a prime minister to lead the country from among Knesset members, usually the head of the political party with the most representatives. The prime minister chooses a cabinet of advisers.

Meir served as ambassador to Russia during 1948 and 1949 under David Ben-Gurion, who had become Israel's first prime minister. Then she returned to Israel to take a seat in the Knesset and served as minister of labor from 1949 to 1956. As Jews flocked to their new homeland from all over the world, Meir oversaw the development of 30,000 new housing units as well as job training for new citizens. She later said that the seven years she worked as minister of labor were "without doubt, the most satisfying and happiest in my life."

In 1956, Golda Meir was appointed foreign minister. Ben-Gurion asked all his cabinet members to use Hebrew names. This was when she chose to be called Meir, meaning "to illuminate." In her new position, Meir helped negotiate an end to Israel's 1956 conflict with Egypt over the Suez Canal and also initiated a policy of technical assistance to developing nations in Africa and Asia.

Meir resigned her position in the cabinet in 1965. She enjoyed her retirement, reading, cooking Jewish specialties such as chicken soup and gefilte fish, and taking care of her five grandchildren.



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Two Jerusalem landmarks: The Dome of the Rock and the Wailing Wall



ISRAEL

Capital: Jerusalem
Area: 8, 015 square miles
Population: 5,535,000
Languages: Hebrew, Arabic, Yiddish, English
Religion: 82% Jewish, 13% Muslim, 2% Christian

Voting Age: All citizens age 18 and over
Currency: Shekel
Gross Domestic Product Per Person: \$15,500
Literacy rate: 92%
Life Expectancy: 78 female, 74 male



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Feroze Gandhi, and she rose to power on her father's coattails. Once in office, however, she proved a formidable leader in her own right.

Indira Gandhi was a woman of many contradictions: sometimes warm and self-effacing, sometimes chilly and aloof—a lonely woman adored by the masses. Although schooled in the Mahatma's philosophy of nonviolence, she sometimes resorted to force. For nearly two decades, she unified a poor, chaotic, and religiously divided nation that included 746 million people by 1984—the most populous democracy in the world.

Roughly 83 percent of Indians follow Hinduism, a religion probably best known for grouping people into social classes called *castes*. A Hindu is born into a caste that determines his or her social status and often occupation as well. Other religions in India include Islam, Christianity, and Sikhism, which blends the teachings of Hinduism and Islam. Although Buddhism began in India about 500 years before Christ and spread throughout Asia, today only about 1 percent of Indians are Buddhists.

At the time of Indira Gandhi's birth in 1917, the British ruled India. Britain's involvement in the country dated back to the seventeenth century when a prominent British firm, the East India Company, established several fortified trading posts in India. In 1858, the British government took over India from the East India Company.

Under British rule, native Indians had fewer rights and privileges than their rulers. Considering this unfair,



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Despite Mohandas Gandhi's pleas for unity, the region was partitioned into two separate countries. The northeast and northwest sections, populated predominantly by Muslims, became West and East Pakistan—a single nation that was separated by more than 1,000 miles. (East Pakistan would later split and become the independent country of Bangladesh.) The much larger India, mostly Hindu, sprawled between the two sections of Pakistan. The Indian National Congress became the Congress Party, India's foremost political machine.

On August 15, 1947, India became an independent country with a parliamentary system of government. Parliament meets at the capital, New Delhi, in northern India. It consists of two houses, Lok Sabha—the House of the People, elected directly by the voters—and Rajya Sabha—the Council of States, elected by the 25 state legislatures. The leader of the political party with the most seats in Parliament becomes prime minister and chooses a cabinet. A president serves as the country's head of state, but the prime minister actually leads the government.

Jawaharlal Nehru became India's first prime minister. Seeing that her father needed help, Indira Gandhi moved back into his house in New Delhi with her two sons to serve as his official host as well as unofficial adviser. Feroze, the managing director of a newspaper, stayed in Lucknow. Their marriage suffered as a result.

"When I went into public life and became successful, he [Feroze] liked it and he didn't like it," Indira



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Thinking that Nehru's obedient daughter would be easy to control, party bosses chose her as their leader. Behind her back, they called her a "dumb doll." On January 19, 1966, at the age of 48, Indira Gandhi became India's first female prime minister. Few people predicted that she would develop into a shrewd politician.

At first, Gandhi seemed unclear about what to do. But when the economy sank into a recession, and agricultural shortages threatened millions of Indians with starvation, she imported grain from America.

As a woman in politics, the prime minister felt that she had to work twice as hard as a man in the same position. And, as Nehru's daughter, she worked even harder to be seen as a leader in her own right. Still, Gandhi also won the adoration of many simply by virtue of being Nehru's daughter.

The prime minister projected a charisma in public that seemed out of keeping with her shyness. In a nation as vast and diverse as India, the top leader had enormous symbolic importance. Gandhi traveled the country widely to see the people. She clearly empathized with the masses, particularly the poor and the powerless. When she visited a group of women victimized by higher caste men, she sat on the ground and listened to their stories. Women had equal rights under the law, but centuries of religious tradition kept them subordinate to men.

After winning the 1967 elections, Indira Gandhi nationalized the commercial banks and launched a Green



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Sanjay initiated a population-control program that promoted sterilization. Rumors of forced sterilizations provoked often violent public protests against the program. To clean up the cities, he moved people living in the worst slums and destroyed their homes without providing other places for them to go.

Gandhi scheduled new elections for March 1977, hoping a victory would vindicate her actions. As her campaign theme, she proclaimed, "Only a strong central government can build a stronger India." The Janata Party, a coalition of several opposition parties, countered with a banner that read, "End Dictatorship. Dethrone the Queen."

On March 20, 1977, the people of India voted Gandhi out of office. Her old nemesis, conservative Morarji Desai, emerged from prison to become prime minister. Indira Gandhi was arrested on a charge of corruption and released; then she was arrested and released again.

Throughout the turmoil, she continued to enjoy widespread popular support, showing that, for all her faults, she was still a widely revered public figure. Thousands of Indians protested Gandhi's arrests. The political coalition against her crumbled as members fought among themselves and failed to address any of India's pressing problems. Gandhi formed her own break-away party, the Congress (I) Party, and campaigned vigorously for reelection.



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Margaret Thatcher (b.1925) was Britain's first woman prime minister as well as that country's longest-serving prime minister in the twentieth century.



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Margaret remembered her mother, Beatrice, as being “weighed down by the home, always being in the home.” But Beatrice passed on to her daughter “the ability to organize and combine so many different duties of an active life.”

At the age of 10, Margaret won a poetry reading contest at her school. The headmistress congratulated her on her luck. “I wasn’t lucky,” Margaret replied with characteristic self-confidence. “I deserved it.”

Margaret went on to prestigious Oxford University, where she majored in chemistry and became president of the school’s Conservative Association. After graduating in 1947, Margaret worked as a research chemist for a plastics company in Essex. Politics, though, was her passion.

In Britain, Parliament is the main law-making body, consisting of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Members of the Lords are not elected by the people. The majority of members inherit the right to sit in Parliament along with a family title, such as earl or duchess.

The real legislative power resides in the House of Commons, to which members of Parliament, or MPs, are elected. There are two major political parties in Britain, Labour and Conservative, also called Tory. The MPs in each party elect one of their members to be party leader. Whichever party receives the most votes in an election is in power, and the leader of that party becomes prime minister, the political head of state.



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*Prime Minister
Edward Heath with
Elizabeth II, who
was proclaimed
queen of the United
Kingdom in 1952*

economy. The measures, though, had little positive effect on the fuel crisis and runaway inflation gripping the nation.

In February 1974, the Labour Party swept the Conservatives out of power with support from powerful labor unions, also called trade unions. Edward Heath was still head of the Conservative Party, and organized his “shadow cabinet,” a group of advisers who would be moved into real cabinet positions if the party returned to power. Although he named Thatcher shadow minister of



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when many businesses went bankrupt due to lack of government support. In 1981, high unemployment aggravated racial tensions. Riots broke out in more than 30 British cities and towns and in 20 London neighborhoods.

Some critics accused Margaret Thatcher of being cold and uncaring. Never one to be slowed by criticism, she tossed off objections to her leadership style as typical male chauvinism. "When a woman is strong, she is strident," Thatcher declared. "If a man is strong, gosh, he's a good guy."

At the same time, Thatcher irritated feminists by failing to name a single woman to her cabinet and refusing to speak out on women's rights. "You just say there are certain human rights that are available to both men and women," she said. "But I don't think men and women can necessarily be the same."

Yet even Thatcher's critics were in awe of her strong will and daunting stamina. Able to get by on five hours of sleep a night, she stayed up until early morning poring over her papers. She was a bold, innovative leader who wanted nothing less than to change "the soul" of the British people. A woman of principle, she once said, "I am not a consensus politician. I'm a conviction politician. The reason I am in politics is because I believe in certain things and try to put them into practice."

In 1982, the prime minister responded with characteristic firmness to Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands, a tiny group of islands near the tip of South



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Thatcher won reelection on June 11, 1987, but her popularity was waning. Advocates for the poor denounced her plans to privatize the National Health Services and blamed her policies for an increase in homelessness. Leaders within her own Conservative party—often called Tories—disagreed with Thatcher's opposition to a common European Monetary System.

Most unpopular of all was Thatcher's new household tax, or poll tax, on all British citizens, which replaced the old system that affected only property owners. The new



Thousands of demonstrators marched past the Parliament building during this 1990 protest against the controversial poll tax.



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In February 1986, thousands of people took to the streets wearing yellow, the color of Aquino's party, in a bloodless revolution of "people power" that restored democracy to the Philippines.

Aquino's political entry was less sudden than it seemed. She had grown up in a prominent political family: Her father, Jose "Pepe" Cojuangco, was a congressman and her grandfather served as a senator. Like many Filipinos, the Cojuangcos were of mixed ancestry—Chinese, Malaysian, and Spanish—reflecting different eras in the country's history.

In 1521, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan, funded by the king of Spain, landed in the Philippines, a chain of more than 7,000 islands located in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Southeast Asia. Twenty-one years later, Spanish explorer Lopez de Villalobos named the islands for the young prince who later became King Philip II of Spain. During the next three centuries, the Spanish converted most of the natives to Roman Catholicism.

In 1898, the United States won the Philippines as part of the settlement of the Spanish-American War. During World War II, from 1942 through 1944, the Japanese occupied the entire country. Finally, on July 4, 1946, the United States granted the Philippines its independence. The new nation adopted a constitution and a system of government similar to that of the United States.

Yet, for all its Americanization, the Philippines of Aquino's youth still clung to an old feudal order. A few



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Because of his strong stand against Communism, the United States initially supported the presidency of Ferdinand Marcos (1917-1989).

Marcos and his wife, Imelda, on the other hand, lived lavishly, treating the nation's treasury like a personal checking account. They squandered billions of dollars on such extravagancies as the more than 1,000 pairs of shoes Imelda owned. Meanwhile, thousands of political opponents—including Ninoy Aquino—were jailed.

During Ninoy's imprisonment, Cory served as Ninoy's link to the outside world. She delivered messages and called press conferences. When he disappeared,



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country in which millions of people were poor and hungry. As for Ferdinand Marcos's accusations of inexperience, she retorted, "Sure, I don't know anything about stealing or cheating, and definitely I don't know anything about killing my opponents."

On February 7, 1986, millions of Filipinos flocked to the polls. In an election marred by widespread cheating, pro-Marcos forces ripped up ballots and intimidated voters at gunpoint. More than 30 people were killed in campaign-related violence.

Both candidates claimed victory, pointing to two different sets of election returns. Calls poured in from around the world denouncing the election fraud. Declaring herself the winner at a huge rally in Manila on February 16, Aquino launched a nonviolent campaign of strikes and boycotts to topple the Marcos government. The Catholic Church threw its support firmly behind her. Cory Aquino declared that she would accept nothing less than Marcos's removal from office.

Then two of Marcos's top military officers, Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and General Fidel Ramos, defected to join forces with Aquino. Hundreds, then thousands, then tens of thousands of ordinary citizens took to the streets for four days of nonviolent revolution. The protesters gave flowers to Marcos's soldiers surrounding the compound where Enrile and Ramos had taken refuge, and they knelt before the tanks, praying the rosary. Unwilling to shoot these peaceful protesters,



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“I am a daughter of the East, educated in the West,” former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto (b. 1953) described herself. “I see myself as a bridge between two worlds, two pasts.”



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After fighting in World War II, Mohammed Zia ul-Haq (1924-1988) rose through the army ranks to become general and army chief-of-staff in 1976.

her mother, who were also imprisoned at the time, visited her father in prison for one last time. “You don’t know how much I love you, how much I’ve always loved you,” he told her. “You are my jewel.”

The following day, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was hanged and his body secretly taken to the family’s estate in Larkana and buried in a family plot. Benazir Bhutto spent the next seven years in and out of prison and house arrest. Her two brothers, meanwhile, formed Al-Zulfikar, a terrorist organization based in Afghanistan. In early 1981,



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government. Shortly after the attempted coup, Pakistan's president Farooq Leghari, a longtime Bhutto supporter, dismissed her as prime minister on November 5, 1996, on charges of corruption. Bhutto angrily blamed Leghari for having "driven the knife into the heart" of Pakistani democracy.

In new elections held on February 3, 1997, Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League won 136 seats in the 207-seat National Assembly. Voter turnout was barely 30 percent, reflecting the public's distrust of politicians.

Soon after Bhutto left office, investigators in Pakistan uncovered evidence of high-level corruption in her administration. A front-page story in the January 9, 1998, *New York Times* stated that Pakistani investigators traced more than \$100 million to foreign bank accounts controlled by Bhutto's family. They discovered that many foreign companies had made deposits to these accounts, allegedly in exchange for business favors. Although Bhutto's name did not appear on any documents uncovered, evidence suggested that her husband had received payoffs and was involved in illegal deals.

Currently chair of the PPP, Bhutto described the investigation as persecution. In a speech given in April 1998, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, she stated, "For the past 18 months my party, my family, and myself have been persecuted. My husband languishes in prison—a hostage to my political career." Her children live in an undisclosed country to protect their safety.



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Augusto Cesar Sandino (1895-1934), shown here in 1929, led guerrilla resistance to U.S. occupation forces. He was honored as a hero and a martyr by many Nicaraguans after his death.

new Nicaraguan army, the National Guard, and Anastasio Somoza Garcia became its head. In 1934, the United States left Nicaragua, and Somoza ordered his forces to assassinate Sandino. Three years later, Somoza became dictator of Nicaragua. Many Nicaraguans in the following decades, including Violeta and Pedro Chamorro, would consider Sandino to be a national hero.



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Chamorro's coffin to the cemetery. His brother, Jaime, said the murder "ignited the national insurrection against Somoza" which was fought by the guerrilla army known as the Sandinista National Liberation Front (named for the martyred Sandino). After 18 months of civil war, Anastasio Somoza Debayle fled the country for Paraguay. Two days later, on July 19, 1979, the Sandinistas marched triumphantly into Managua.

Violeta Chamorro initially supported the Sandinista cause and contributed \$50,000. But, after agreeing to serve on a five-member governing council called a *junta*, she became disenchanted with the new government's intolerance of differing points of view.

Although chosen for the council because of her husband's work and her own moderate stance, Chamorro found herself overpowered and outmaneuvered by the more radical members of the group. After nine months, Chamorro resigned, officially citing health reasons, but privately accusing the Sandinistas of losing interest in promoting democracy.

In 1984, Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega Saavedra was elected president. Ortega nationalized private property and industry in order to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. He appointed a number of women to prominent positions, including Chamorro's daughter, Claudia, who became ambassador to Costa Rica. Ortega, however, also forbade any political dissent. He was a virtual dictator.



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A broken leg did not prevent candidate Violeta Chamorro from reaching voters throughout Nicaragua. She usually rode in the back of a pickup truck, shaded by a canopy. This stop was in Villa Carlos Fonseca, 25 miles southwest of Managua.

of prominent heads of state and referred questions about economic reform and foreign policy to her advisers.

The Sandinistas—including Chamorro's own son, Carlos Fernando, editor of the official Sandinista newspaper, *Barricada* (Barricade)—accused the UNO of being a puppet of the old Somoza dictatorship, the United States, and the American-backed Contras. Several leaders



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On February 7, 1996, Pope John Paul II visited Nicaragua. After Chamorro embraced the pope, she apologized to him, explaining that in Nicaragua emotions sometimes got in the way of protocol. Instead of being offended, the pope was clearly pleased by her warmth. He waved his aides aside and tightly held her hand. President Chamorro asked what John Paul thought of the nation of Nicaragua. When he praised the progress toward peace, Chamorro exclaimed, "Thank you, thank you, Holy Father. My dreams have come true."

Chamorro chose not to run for reelection in 1996. Former president Daniel Ortega ran for office once again, this time trying to shed his radical past and asking forgiveness for the mistakes of his Sandinista regime. The people of Nicaragua, however, voted instead for Arnoldo Aleman, the conservative former mayor of Managua.

Violeta Chamorro's autobiography, *Dreams of the Heart*, was published in 1996. In early 1997, she left office, planning to launch an educational foundation to help less privileged citizens become future leaders of the nation. In *Dreams of the Heart*, she wrote, "we must substitute our culture of confrontation with one of tolerance and a love for peace."



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14, 1981, voters elected a right-wing coalition headed by Kare Willoch, an advocate of supply-side economics and an admirer of U.S. president Ronald Reagan.

In 1983, Gro Harlem Brundtland was asked to head the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development. Brundtland and her commission spent the next three years gathering scientific data and holding public hearings in all parts of the world. Concerned that average people be heard on the issues, she opened up the hearings to ordinary citizens as well as scientific experts. Brundtland juggled her leadership of the commission with her responsibilities in Norway. Still head of the Labour Party, she presided over the the passage of a 1983 rule requiring that 40 percent of all Labour candidates for public office be women.

As the 1986 election approached, Gro Harlem Brundtland campaigned hard for the Labour Party. Opponents used her husband's membership in the Conservative Party against her. "Do As Gro Did," declared one campaign poster. "Choose a Conservative." "Do as Arne Olav did," Brundtland countered. "Choose Gro."

The Norwegian people followed her advice. In May 1986, Brundtland embarked on her second term as prime minister. Since women had made such rapid advances in the political arena, she had no trouble finding 8 qualified women to serve in her 18-member cabinet. Thirty-four percent of the members of Norway's 157-seat Storting were now women.



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Arne Olav (left front) and Gro Harlem Brundtland picnicking with their sons, Knut, Ivar, and Jörgen; daughter Kaja; and a friend

of the government. Brundtland began her third term as prime minister—a particularly triumphant one for women's rights.

In 1990, the Storting amended its constitution to allow women to inherit the throne. Norway is a constitutional monarchy like the United Kingdom but, prior to 1990, only men could serve as monarch. By 1991, 59 of the 165 members of the Storting were women.



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*Edith Cresson
of France (top
left), Kim
Campbell of
Canada (top
right), and
Jenny Shipley
of New
Zealand*



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Wilma Mankiller (b. 1944), chief of the Cherokee Nation in the United States. The daughter of a Dutch mother and a Cherokee father, Wilma grew up in a family with 10 brothers and sisters. When their Oklahoma farm failed, the Mankillers resettled in San Francisco as part of a federal program to move American Indians from rural towns to urban areas. There Mankiller married and raised two daughters, but she longed to return to her American Indian roots. After her divorce in 1974, Mankiller returned home to Oklahoma, completed her college degree, and became economic coordinator for the Cherokee Nation. Elected the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1984, Mankiller founded the Cherokee Nation's chamber of commerce and the Institute for Cherokee Literacy. She served as chief for 10 years. In 1998, she was awarded the Congressional Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the U.S.

Kazimiera Prunskiene (b. 1943), became prime minister of Lithuania in 1990, six days after the Lithuanian parliament had voted for independence from the former Soviet Union. She urged free-market economic reforms and negotiated with Russia to recognize her country's new status. Although she failed on both counts and resigned in January 1991, the Russian government recognized Lithuanian independence nine months later.

Mary Robinson (b. 1945), president of the Republic of Ireland. The daughter of Catholic doctors, Robinson became Trinity College's youngest law professor at the age of 25. As a member of the Senate, she worked for and received a mandate to extend the hand of friendship to British-controlled Northern Ireland. When Robinson ran



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