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THATCHER'S NARRATIVE



Thatcher's Legacy on the Narrative Surrounding Fans of Football

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PRESENTATION DIRECTION

- Background to Thatcher's Appointed as Prime Minister
- Thatcher's Legislative Agenda
- Thatcher's Approach to Football Hooliganism
- Thatcher's Narrative

Life After Thatcher; Changing the Narrative...



CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO 1974 & 1979

Reason

- *Law is 'under attack'*
- *Society needs 'greater protection'*

Targets

- *Young people*
- *Football hooligans*

Outcome?

- *Crime preventative measures, i.e. legislation*
- *Tougher sentences*

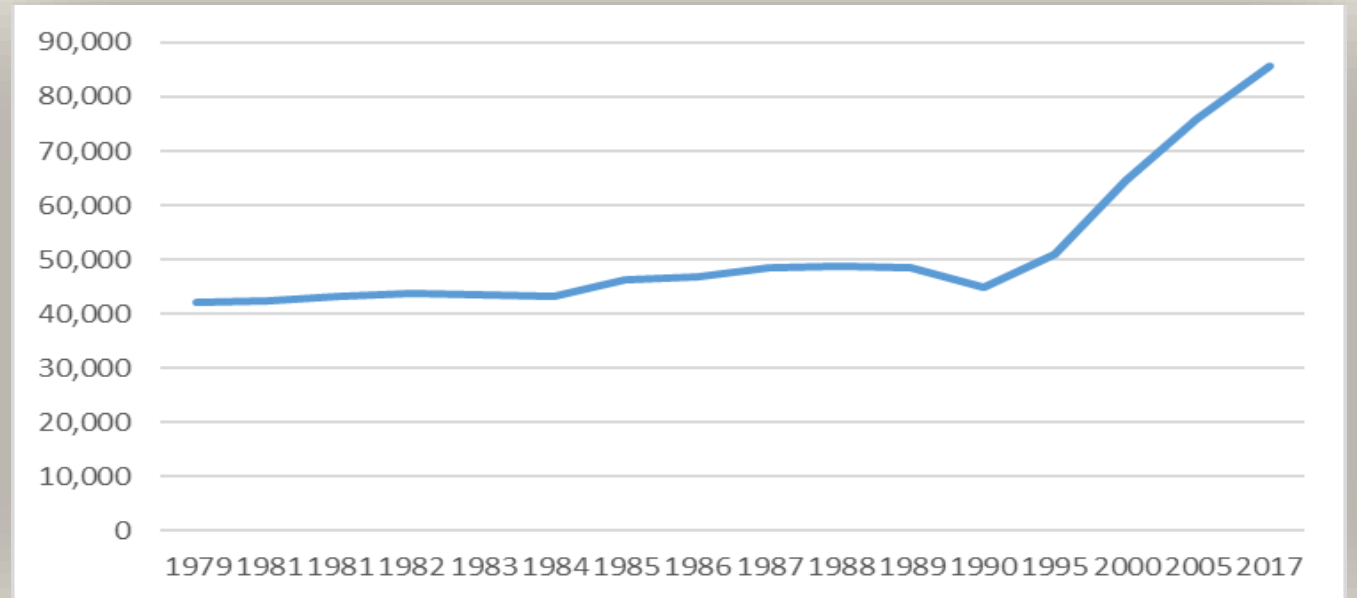


LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

- Lens of Punitiveness
 - 'Legislation represented an "incremental shift"
(*Farrall, Burke & Hay, 2015*).

- 'Articulated her "law and order" policy further'
(*Terrill, 1989*).

Prison Population (Home Office, 2018)



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

- Criminal Attempts Act 1981
 - *Terril (1989)*
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
 - *Farrall, Burke and Hay (2015)*
- Prosecution of Offences Act 1985
 - Lacked 'toughness' that Thatcher espoused.
- Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986
 - No discussion of football legislation?
- Criminal Justice Act 1988



THATCHER'S LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT

- **Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc.) Act 1985**
 - *Curtailed alcohol availability inside the stadium and criminalised entering stadia 'drunk'.*
- **Public Order Act 1986**
 - *Imposed restrictions on large gatherings.*
 - *Introduced measures to impose 'Exclusion Orders' to help prevent violence and/or disorder, domestically.*
- **Football Spectators Act 1989**
 - *'Restriction Orders' to help prevent violence and/or disorder overseas.*



SYMBOLIC LEGISLATION & STIGMATIC EFFECT

Symbolism

- Legislation can create an *illusion* of toughness.
- Received favourably by public and media to address a societal issue.
- Becomes more narrative based.

Stigma

- "Attribute that is deeply discrediting"
(Goffman, 1963)
- "The negative regard that society collectively accords to people that belong to a particular group or category"
(Herek, 2009)



STIGMATIC PROCESS - FROST'S (2011) CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

	Frost (2011 p, 825)	Analysis
Structural Inequalities	Laws and policies constructed in ways that reflect negative meanings attached to stigmatised groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc.) Act 1985 ▪ Public Order Act 1986 ▪ Football Spectators Act 1989
Stereotypes and Prejudice	Stereotypes commonly hold generalisations about people based on their membership in stigmatised groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cemented by media portrayals of football fans ▪ Football-fan-cum-hooligan (Poulton, 2005)
Discrimination	Instances where people or groups are treated differently because of their stigmatised status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football fans are some of the most heavily policed social groups in the UK (James & Pearson, 2015) ▪ Football is only sport in UK where alcohol consumption pitch side is forbidden ▪ Instance of one town trying to ban all football fans (Chorley)



THATCHER'S 'INCREMENTAL SHIFT'

	Legislation
Thatcher/John Major (Conservatives)	<p>Football Offences Act 1991</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• s.2 Throwing of Missiles• s.3 Indecent or Racialist Chanting• s.4 Encroaching on the Playing Field <p>Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• s.166 Ticket Touting
Tony Blair (Labour)	<p>Private Member's Bill 1998</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Football Behaviour Orders <p>Football (Offences and Disorder Act) 1999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• International Banning Orders <p>Football (Disorder) Act 2000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• s.14 – Football Banning Orders on Conviction and on Complaint



SUMMARY – CHALLENGING THE NARRATIVE

- Thatcher may not be remember for her 'punitiveness'.
- Law has other subtle ways of impacting society (structural inequalities).
- Will always be remember by football fans for an incremental shift of her own.
- 32 years from Heysel – arguably, football fans are still held in a “negative regard” by the authorities and the public. This is cemented by legislation.

