

SSWH21: EXAMINE CHANGE AND CONTINUITY IN THE WORLD SINCE THE 1960S



Element D: Examine the rise of women as major world leaders, include: Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi, and Margaret Thatcher



GOLDA MEIR

□ Golda Meir became the first female prime minister of Israel in 1969. She had been a leader of the Zionist movement in the 1920s when she migrated to Israel, and she supported the unrestricted immigration of Jews to Israel.

- She soon became a leader of the Jewish Agency and signed Israel's Declaration of Independence in 1948.
- She became a member of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, and served as foreign minister in 1956.
- As prime minister, Meir instituted major programs in housing and road construction. She also tried to form enduring peace agreements with Arab countries, but these efforts came to an unsuccessful end with the Yom Kippur War in 1973.



INDIRA GANDHI



- ❑ Indira Gandhi grew up in the Indian independence movement and was jailed by the British for her efforts.
 - In 1964, she became the nation's second prime minister, after her father, and initially proved popular and energetic.
 - She was voted out of office in 1977, but voted back in 1980.
 - Soon after, Sikhs in the Punjab region began to protest for an independent state. Thousands occupied the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest site for Sikh worship.
 - Gandhi sent troops to attack the demonstrators and killed more than a thousand Sikhs. In response, two of Gandhi's Sikh bodyguards assassinated her within a few months.

One of Bhindranwale's bodyguards lies wounded inside the temple



MARGARET THATCHER



- ❑ Margaret Thatcher led the Conservative Party in Britain from 1979-1990 as the first female prime minister in Europe.
 - She fiercely opposed communism and embraced a free-market economy.
 - This led her to dramatically cut social welfare programs, ease government controls on business, reduce labor unions' power, and privatize state-run industries. She maintained close ties with the United States throughout her tenure.
 - Her political decline came when she replaced the property tax with the poll tax. The poll tax was the same percentage of income, regardless of income level. It proved very unpopular, and seeing that she would not win another election, Thatcher resigned in 1990.



Golda Meir and Margaret Thatcher, April 1976, Tel Aviv