

Thatcherism

A Tale of Two Nations

BOB JESSOP, KEVIN BONNETT,
SIMON BROMLEY AND TOM LING

Polity Press

Contents

Preface	vii
Part I Coming to Terms with Thatcherism	1
1 The Nature of Thatcherism	3
What is Thatcherism?	5
Stages of Thatcherism	11
Concluding Remarks	20
2 Theories of Thatcherism	22
Who Theorizes Thatcherism?	22
Scratching at the Surface	24
Three Economic Explanations	29
Putting Politics Back in Command	37
The Battle for Hearts and Minds	41
Feminist Analyses of Thatcherism	48
Theoretical Reflections	51
Part II Critique and Counter-Critique	57
3 Introduction to Part II	59
The Rise of Thatcherism	59
Consolidating Power, 1979–1982	62
Consolidated Thatcherism	64
The Debate in Context	65
4 Authoritarian Populism, ‘Two Nations’ and Thatcherism	68
The Ideological Celebration of Thatcherism	69
The Political Economy of Thatcherism	75

- Economic Failure, Political Success	84
Margaret Thatcher's 'Two Nations'	87
A Thatcherite Power Bloc?	90
Concluding Remarks	92
5 Authoritarian Populism: A Reply by Stuart Hall	99
Development of the Concept	100
Levels of Abstraction	102
'Ideologism'?	104
The Keynesian Welfare State	107
6 Thatcherism and the Politics of Hegemony: A Reply to Stuart Hall	109
Political Theory and Socialist Strategy	110
The Politics of Hegemony	113
Foregrounding the Ideological	116
The Strategic Implications of AP	118
Alternative Strategic Recommendations	122
Part III The Highest Stage of Thatcherism?	125
7 Introduction to Part III	127
8 Popular Capitalism, Flexible Accumulation and Left Strategy	134
The Electoral Record	136
The Thatcherite Strategy	140
Left Strategy	145
9 Analysing Thatcherism	154
Our Approach	156
The Background to Thatcherism	163
A New Settlement?	167
The Thatcherite Agenda	169
An Alternative Agenda	180
Agenda for Future Research	182
Notes	184
Bibliography	195
Notes on the Authors	208
Subject Index	209
Name Index	218