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Hunger Strike: Margaret Thatcher s Battle with the IRA: 1980-1981 (Paperback)

By Thomas Hennessey

Irish Academic Press Ltd, Ireland, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Based on recently declassified British government documents, this authoritative new book by best-selling popular historian Thomas Hennessey argues that it was almost impossible for the British government to grant the demands of the Irish Republican prisoners, regardless of the impact that the hunger strikes had in boosting support for Sinn Fein. The concession of the 5 demands would have amounted to POW status for Republican prisoners and would have fatally undermined the British position that it was fighting terrorism. Controversially, Hennessey concludes that the long-term consequence for the Republican Movement was an irreversible change of strategy, effectively sowing the seeds of the end of the armed struggle as far back as 1981. In the book, Margaret Thatcher s personal role in the hunger strikes is forensically analyzed, including her clashes with Charles Haughey and her early experience of Irish Republicanism: the assassinations of Airey Neave and Lord Mountbatten, as well as the Warrenpoint Ambush. The book also reveals: Thatcher s authorization of the back channel between MI6 and the IRA * fierce clashes between the foreign office and the NIO over the handling of the...



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