

Lord (David) FROST

Conservative Peer

House of Lords

What lessons does the Age of Thatcher offer to modern Conservatives?

Abstract: The talk argues, first, that the preparations in opposition for the first Thatcher government offer a useful model for revamping the Conservative Party's political offer today; and, second, that the mix of economic reform, social conservatism, and emphasis on national independence represented by the Thatcher government remains relevant and potentially attractive in modern British politics. However, Conservatism must recognise that the polarising legacy of the Thatcher government is an obstacle to re-selling its ideas today, and accordingly that new language and new arguments need to be found if Thatcher-era politics are to be made relevant to modern voters.

Keywords: Social conservatism, Thatcher, language.