



# Hunger Strike: Margaret Thatcher's Battle with the IRA, 1980-1982

*Thomas Hennessey*

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other prisoners, led to two hunger strikes. The first, in 1980, ended without success for the

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Now, with the release of recently declassified documents, Thomas Hennessey forensically

examines the origins and evolution of the prisons dispute, leading up to the first hunger

strike of 1980, and setting the scene for the final confrontation with the British Government in 1981. Alongside republican protagonists – Bobby Sands and Gerry Adams – Margaret Thatcher’s personal role in the hunger strikes is analysed in detail, including her clashes with Charles Haughey and Garret FitzGerald, and also revealing her authorisation of the backchannel between MI6 and the IRA. Hennessey also addresses the controversial issues surrounding the hunger strike, in particular, whether there was a deal on the table that could have ended the strike in July 1981, and whether it was accepted by the prisoners in the H-Blocks.

Hunger Strike is the definitive account of one of the seminal events in modern Irish history.

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