

# Thatcher peddles 'special relationship' in Virginia

by Scott Thompson

On Feb. 5, 1994, the recently created baroness, Lady Margaret Thatcher, was installed as chancellor of the University of William and Mary, which began under Royal Charter in 1693 and once boasted George Washington as its chancellor. One wonders whether her position as a director of Philip Morris—the company fueling the black market with “free trade” in Russia—won her the post. Even in Virginia—at one time the homeland of a tobacco and cotton-growing slavocracy—some must have wondered at the contrast.

Thatcher's speech was a lie in the grand British style, from start to finish. For example, her introduction cited Winston Churchill as the authority to claim that the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence were based on the *Magna Carta*. Actually, the latter was a common law contract between squabbling barons (or baronesses, these days), to gain power over England.

## Locke versus Leibniz

Thatcher boasted about the intellectual subversion of America's founders in the main point of her speech titled, “The Roots of the Special Relationship,” stating: “Even when the Founders of this great republic came to believe that the course of human events had made it necessary for them to dissolve the political bands that connected them to Britain [it was] . . . from our Locke and Sidney, our Harrington and Coke that your Henry and Jefferson, your Madison and Hamilton took their bearings.”

Thatcher conveniently overlooked the fact that the concept embedded in the U.S. Constitution, that God's natural law was knowable to all men, had originated with Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz. Leibniz's *New Essays on Human Understanding*, published before the American Revolution, tore apart the false axiomatics of British liberals like Locke, Hobbes, et al. According to Leibniz, Locke's method, “less-er than reason,” could easily cause new initiates “to burn down the four corners of the earth,” as British tyranny has tried to do. In a long quote from the Declaration of Independence, Thatcher left out Leibniz's influence, when she not only avoided its basis in God's natural law, but cut the phrase about “certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” Incredibly, no one at William and Mary seemed to notice.

At the very moment when the Church of England may be decoupling from the British monarchy as its governor, Prince

Charles risks being passed over in an effort to save the Windsor-Mountbatten dynasty, and Anglican priests and even royal family members are converting to Catholicism, Thatcher delivered her pitch on behalf of the eternal “special relationship.” This at a time, too, when even the Feb. 4 *New York Times* reports on a deep anxiety in London that “comes from the fear that the United States no longer cares about Britain.” Does Thatcher think the U.S. will once again pull Britain's chestnuts out of the fire?

Excerpts of her speech suggest she does:

“The 20th century especially has demonstrated the historical closeness of our nations. The rise and fall of the monstrous fascist and communist tyrannies have joined us in common purpose; and as recently as the Gulf war, we . . . decided the aggression must not be allowed to stand—and the other countries followed our lead. . . .

“But the real vitality of our relationship goes far deeper. . . . It is our willingness to defend those principles, and when necessary to fight for them, that Britain and America serve as a beacon to the whole world. . . .

“It is ironic that at this very moment the great historic relationship between Britain and America is being called into question. . . . The fashionable opinion of the moment holds that our future lies more with Europe and yours more with the Pacific rim. . . .

“I must respectfully but firmly disagree. . . . The substantive evils that confronted us for so long have not vanished. . . . There was, and I believe there always must be a special relationship between Britain and America.”

Thatcher ended her speech with one further historic lie to buttress her plea for a “special relationship.” She quoted Alexis de Tocqueville to the effect that America and Russia were natural enemies in competition with one another over whose path the world would follow.

Here, the greengrocer's daughter is merely aping the efforts of Britain's Lord Castlereagh and Austria's Prince Metternich during the 1815 Holy Alliance to use Russia to crush republicanism in the Americas. As U.S. cabinet documents attest, President James Monroe, the former envoy to Russia, argued that Russia would not send its fleet against the United States. History proved him right.

Later, Czar Alexander II risked war with Britain by deploying his Navy to stop Britain from giving even greater military and other support to the slave-owning Confederacy during the Civil War. Thus, history shows it was Britain that supported the Confederate slavocracy's secession from the Union, while it was Russia that mobilized its military forces to save the republic.

Fortunately for Virginia, Lady Thatcher's chancellorship is honorary. She will have a few chances to ride her broomstick each year over the Old Dominion and stir up her witches' brew of confusion. As an antidote, just a few miles from the university is Yorktown, where George Washington led his troops to the final victory over the British in 1781.