



## **Sacking Prime Ministers**

*An introduction: Sacking prime ministers*

### **Archive material montage of British Prime Ministers leaving Office.**

#### **Specially shot material London**

##### **Andrew Rawnsley:**

If you look back at the last hundred years you can really say that only two British Prime Ministers have left No.10 entirely voluntary. Most of them have been booted out by the electorate.

#### **BBC News Archive of John Major resigning.**

##### **Archive: John Major:**

“When the curtain falls, it’s time to get off the stage and that is what I propose to do.”

(Applause)

#### **Specially shot material London**

##### **Andrew Rawnsley:**

Then there is another section of them who are removed and replaced by somebody else because their own party has lost confidence in them.

#### **BBC Newsnight archive of Margaret Thatcher.**

##### **(Applause) Kirsty Wark Newsnight:**

The party faithful couldn’t have been more effusive when Margaret Thatcher celebrated 10 years as prime minister. But just 13 months later the woman who’d won 3 elections for the Conservatives was deposed. (Applause).

##### **Margaret Thatcher:**

Ladies and Gentleman. We’re leaving Downing Street for the last time after eleven and a half wonderful years. (applause)

#### **Specially shot material London**

##### **Andrew Rawnsley:**

Prime Ministers believe that they should remain there and nobody else can do the job as well as they can usually exceeds how long their colleagues and the voters are going to tolerate them.

#### **BBC News Archive**

##### **Newsreader:**

When the Prime Minister spoke out for modernising services like the NHS, some in the audience had had enough.

(Slow hand clap.)

#### **Specially shot material London**

##### **Andrew Rawnsley:**

In the case of Tony Blair, they have become so weakened as he was in 2006 that they’re obliged to say they’ll leave Number 10.

#### **BBC News Archive**

##### **Tony Blair:**

Today I announce my decision to stand down from the leadership of the Labour Party. The Party will now select a new leader. On the 27th June, I will tender my resignation from the office of Prime Minister to the Queen.

**Specially shot material London****Andrew Rawnsley:**

When the leader's brand becomes tarnished, when as is nearly inevitable, they get tainted by scandal, they make mistakes, disillusion starts to attract to them. Then they pull the whole party down with them because they put so much weight on the leader's personality

**Montage of Ex Prime Ministers leaving office**

In any democracy, you are the tenant. You're prime minister one morning and the next morning you're not. Your furniture is being removed from the back car park of No.10. The electorate always have the right to throw you out.