

“Agent or Instrument? BP and the British Government from Churchill to Thatcher, 1914-1987”

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This paper will address the question: who profited most from the BP-British government relationship in the years from BP's part-nationalisation by Winston Churchill in 1914, to its full privatisation by Margaret Thatcher's government in 1987? The paper will show that over this long timespan, BP was highly successful in managing its relationship with successive British governments for its own ends. Governments, on the other hand, were consistently disappointed in their hopes/expectations that BP would perform the national strategic role that had been envisaged by Churchill.

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#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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*The History of the British Petroleum Company: Volume 2, The Anglo-Iranian Years 1928-1954.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.