

British Depth Study 1939-1975: Names, Dates, Laws and Other Items

Formation of the Welfare State in Britain

1942: Churchill's government commissioned the **Beveridge Report** assessing the level of support given to the poorest in society. He claimed five giant evils- want (need), disease, ignorance, squalor (poor living conditions) and idleness (laziness) that needed to be overcome. **1945:** Atlee's government introduced a **Family Allowances Act** (1945) providing child benefit payments. **1946:** Atlee's government introduced a **National Insurance Act** which meant all persons of working age had to pay a weekly contribution and in return were entitled to a wide range of benefits, including Guardian's (or Orphans) Allowances, Death Grants, Unemployment Benefit, Widow's Benefits, Sickness Benefit, and Retirement Pension. **1948:** Atlee's government introduced the **National Health Service** (NHS). Britain's hospitals were nationalised (taken over by the government) and it provided free health care to all. Its demand was immediately high (e.g. 1887 million prescriptions written in the first year) and it began a huge financial crisis. **1951:** Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced charges for false teeth and glasses leading to splits between members of the Labour party. The NHS also sparked a Labour shortage which immigrants from the Commonwealth were invited to fill.

Immigration into Britain

1948: **British Nationality Act** which confirmed the right of Commonwealth citizens to come and settle in Britain, regardless of race, religion or colour. British government invited (and continues to invite throughout this period) immigrants from the Caribbean (West Indies) to come and work in the NHS and London Transport in particular. **1950s:** The partition of India into India and Pakistan led to violence and unrest with many Indian refugees fleeing to safety in Britain. **1956:** Hungarians fled to safety in Britain to escape the brutal squashing of the Hungarian Revolution by the Soviet Union (Russia). **1958:** Teddy boys attacked West Indian residents in **Notting Hill Race Riots**. **1959:** **Caribbean carnival set up** to respond to race relations being at a low point after the race riots and murder of Kelso Cochrane. **1960s:** Mangla Dam constructed in Pakistan submerged 250 villages, forcing 100,000 people to move, many settling in Britain. **1962: Commonwealth Immigrants Act** introduced by a Conservative government (PM Macmillan) to limit immigration from the Commonwealth to those who obtained employment vouchers from the government. This was in response to complaints made against the immigrants. It did allow people with parents or grandparents born in the UK to settle, which actually meant that immigration was not effectively limited. **1965: Race Relations Act** introduced by Labour government making discrimination against other races illegal in public places and set up the Race Relations Board and National Committee for Commonwealth Immigrants. **1965: Caribbean carnival moved to Notting Hill** by Claudia Jones. **1967, Anti-immigrant political party, the National Front**, set up to oppose immigration and multicultural policies, but failed to get a single MP throughout the 1970s. **1968: Second Race Relations Act** outlawing discrimination in housing, employment and provision of goods and services, in trade unions and in advertising. **Enoch Powell's Rivers of Blood speech**, a strongly worded speech warning of the dangers of immigrant communities was in response to this and he was sacked from the shadow cabinet as a result. **1972:** President of Uganda, Idi Amin expelled 60,000 Asian Ugandans from Uganda, blaming them for economic problems which led to many settling in Britain.

Governments and Prime Ministers

Neville Chamberlain: 1937-1940 CONSERVATIVE

Winston Churchill: 1940-45 CONSERVATIVE

Clement Atlee: 1945-51 LABOUR ★

Winston Churchill: 1951-55 CONSERVATIVE

Anthony Eden: 1955-1957 CONSERVATIVE

Harold Macmillan: 1957-1963 CONSERVATIVE ★

Alec Douglas-Home: 1963-1964 CONSERVATIVE

Harold Wilson: 1964-1970 LABOUR ★

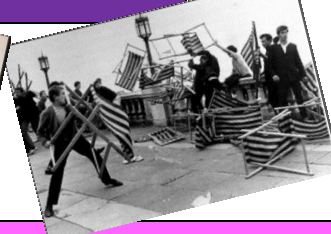
Edward Heath: 1970-1974 CONSERVATIVE

James Callaghan: 1974-1979 LABOUR ★

The leaders with a star ★ by them have particularly important legislation (laws) you need to be aware of.

Why is their political party important to be aware of?

Which party they belong to indicates a difference in the kind of policies they will produce. Conservatives are more commonly **right wing** meaning they want people to look after themselves and are more resistant to changes that lead to a less traditional society (e.g. changes to the family, immigration, new cultures). Labour are more **left wing** meaning that they want people to be looked after by their governments (e.g. a welfare state) and are more enthusiastic about changes such as bringing in new cultures and allowing different types of family and relationship to exist.



Women

1939-1945: Women involved in war work and the armed forces. **1943: Equal Pay Commission**, which didn't work. **1944 Education Act:** outlawed the sacking of women teachers when they got married. **1945 Butler Education Act** guaranteed all females the right to a secondary education, increasing women attending university and having professional careers dramatically. **1950s: Cult of Domesticity** fuelled by advertising for the sudden growth in consumer goods for home which showed women as homemakers and housewives. **1960s: growth of a feminist movement.** **1961 Contraceptive Pill*** subsidised by the government and available on the NHS, announced by Enoch Powell. This allowed women to start families at a later date. **1967 Abortion Act** introduced by David Steel, backed by the Labour government meant that abortion was now legal in the UK. **1969 Divorce Reform Act*** which allowed women to divorce without the consent of their husband (after five years) and meant women could sue for divorce on the grounds of adultery, cruelty or desertion of at least two years. **1975 Equal Pay Act** tried to prevent discrimination in wages between men and women which meant women were less likely to be exploited at work and more likely to support themselves without depending on a man. **1975 Sex Discrimination Act** protected men and women from being discriminated against on the basis of gender.

*as these acts were controversial, Members of Parliament were allowed to vote on them from their own beliefs, not according to party policy, therefore some Conservatives may have voted for those acts and some Labour politicians may have voted against.

Young People

1944, Education Act ensures that secondary education is free to all until the age of 14. Tripartite system was made up of grammar schools (where you went if you passed the 11+ exam at age 11, and was more likely to lead to university and professional careers), the secondary modern school (perceived lower standards to the grammar, much less likely to lead to university and professions) and secondary technical schools (very few were ever built). **1950s:** Era of the Teddy Boy. The teenager emerges as a separate, individual group within society. Increased influence from American idols in film (James Dean, Marlon Brando) and rock music (Elvis), and the consumer boom leads to teenagers cultivating own styles, going to cafes, buying scooters. **1958: Beginning of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament** formed protesting against nuclear weapons. **1960s** Mods and Rockers rise to prominence in riots in 1964 in Brighton, Margate and Hastings causing a moral panic where they were referred to as folk devils but it was all actually exaggerated by the press at the time. Other subcultures included hippies, skinheads, and punks. The Beatles and the Rolling Stones emerge as British idols. Protests include Vietnam. **1964 General Election**, the new Labour government instructed all local authorities to prepare plans for the creation of comprehensive schools which would give access to university to all. **1960s and early 1970s:** New universities were founded throughout this period and there was a huge expansion of full-time university students in the UK. Local Education Authorities paid students fees and provided maintenance grants.