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**Thatcherism and Blairism Policy  
in the British Society (1979-2007)**

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for Master's Degree in Anglo- Saxon Literature and Civilisation.

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## *Dedication*

If I used all the existing words, they would not express my thankfulness to ALLAH for all the gifts He has given, and they will not express my heartfull gratitude and immortal love for my dear PARENTS Fatima and Messaoud who have always supported me with moral and financial help and also boundless passions during my whole studies. I dedicate this work:

To, my lovely sisters Sabira , Ikrem and Sondoce.

To, my brothers Chahine and Mohemmed. All the ZEMAIM and LIBEDRI family.

Also, I would like to express my gratitude to all my dearest friends Mouna, Afaf, Wahiba and to all my best second year Master English classmates and I do not forget my all sweeter Malika Kayid campus friends .To someone who is far from my eyes now.

FATIHA.

## *Dedication*

If I used all the existing words, they would not express my thankfulness to ALLAH for all the gifts and opportunities He has given to me , and they would not express my heartfull gratitude and immortal love for my dear father mohammed and my mother Kamila who have always backed up me with motivation , financial help, and boundless passions during my whole studies.. I also dedicate it to my dearest sisters Asma, Faiza, Afaf and to my little rowdy brother Tarik. All my gratitude is granted to the Houmats' and the Billamis'.

AMINA.

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First and foremost, all praise of gratitude and thankfulness are due to the Almighty **ALLAH**, for enabling us to complete this work, peace and blessing of Allah be upon His messenger Mohammed who said: " whoever does not thank people (for their favors) is not thankful to Allah".

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## **Abstract**

This research focuses is in the area of historical and civilization studies. It is about Thatcherism and Blairism in the British society from the general election of 1979 until the end of Blair's leadership as Prime Minister in 2007. It aims at analyzing and showing to what extent Tony Blair and his Party adopted Thatcherism. This is done through studying common policies (economically, socially and philosophically) between Blair and Thatcher. As far as the approach is concerned, a comparative analysis of Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair policies is employed to shed light on the likeness between the two ideologies. The findings from this research provide evidence that many similarities between both policies concerning ideologies and philosophies are noticed. The conclusions drawn from this research are: first, Tony Blair's government embraced the methods and principles of Thatcher during his tenure of office. Second, Blair combined between socialist and Liberal policy with regulations up on which the term Blatcherism is created.

## List of Abbreviations

- **MA:** Master of Arts
- **BSC:** Bachelor of Science in Commerce.
- **B.A:** Bachelor of Arts
- **BFI:** British Finance Industries
- **EU :** European , Union.

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## **General Introduction**

Turning back to the previous century in 1979, Britain witnessed miserable situations such as the high levels of unemployment, crimes and inflation. Those periods of problems were after the general election of 1979. Who then could have supposed that Margaret Thatcher would be elected? Who would have expected that the style of economic policy of Britain would have changed from public to the private sector?

Margaret Thatcher is an extraordinary phenomenon. She is the only woman Prime Minister in British history. She won three successive general elections, two of them landslide majorities. She was a Prime Minister from May 1979 to November 1990; eleven and half years had really an effect on the British society and her policy influence continued until New Labour dominance again.

What mainly pushed us forward to search eagerly about both policies Thatcherism, Blairism and to show to what extent Tony Blair and his party adopted Thatcherite rule is to learn more about common policies between both, thus contributed to argue that Blair was Thatcherite in his ideology policy which was nicknamed Blatcherism.

Who would have expected that the labour party return back under Tony Blair to the governorship after 18 years of absence? What were the main causes and circumstances which helped the labour party to rise again? Moreover, to which extent Thatcherite effected the Labour Party policy and to what extent did Tony Blair adopt Thatcherism?

We put some hypotheses that may answer the previous questions:

-Maybe the Labour Party returned back under the leadership of Blair to political space instead of altering something in the British society.

-Maybe the cause which helped the Labour party to rise again that the British people were fed up with old government, or perhaps because of the weakness of the conservative party, or maybe because of luck.

We have chosen this topic because it is very interesting. Also we read and heard a lot about the British politics including the myth of the Iron Lady and about the idea that the Prime Minister Tony Blair was Thatcherite during his leadership from 1997 until 2007; so that created a big curiosity in ourselves to know more for the subject. In addition, we loved to search for this topic to reveal some realities and to open the way for more researches about it. We used MLA style in the methodology.

To answer the previous questions, this work is divided into three chapters. The first and second are descriptive parts. In the first part, we are going to reveal how the power shifted to the conservatives in the general election 1979. And we are trying to give information about Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister and Thatcherism as policy. Also, we are dealing with the impact of Thatcherism on the British society.

In the second chapter, we are going to show the transformations of power and governorship to the New Labour in the general election of 1997. In addition we bring some knowledge about Blair as Prime Minister and about Blairism as a policy, and we show the impact of Blairism on the British society.

The third chapter is going to be about the common points between both policies Thatcherism and Blairism and how Tony Blair adopted Thatcher's policy and what Blairism was.



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1. Introduction
2. The General Elections
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### 1. Introduction

Margaret Thatcher was the United Kingdom's Prime Minister. She was comfortably longer stint than anyone else has achieved in the twentieth century from 1979 to 1990. She was one of the most controversial figures of modern times. Her governments inspired hatred and veneration in equal measure, and her legacy that remains contested. This chapter devotes together Thatcher, Thatcherism leading according to some historians "Thatcher and Thatcherism within the political, social, cultural and economic history of modern Britain. It explores the social and economic crises of the 1970s, Britain's relationships with Europe; it opens a wide-range debate about the Thatcher era and its place in modern British history." (Jackson and Saunders 01).

Critique of UK social democracy during the 1970s and her adoption of key neoliberal strategies, such as financial deregulation, trade liberalisation, and the privatization of public goods and services, were popularly labeled Thatcherism.

In this chapter, we consider the nature of Thatcherism and its impact on the British society during her period as Prime Minister and, to a lesser extent, in the years that follow. Thatcher's policies were associated with substantial increases in socioeconomic inequalities; these issues were actively marginalized and ignored by her governments. In addition, her public-sector reforms applied business principles to the welfare state. She also held the office for longer continuous

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period than anyone else for more than a century and a half. She won three elections in row. John Major occupied the office as Prime Minister from 1990 to 1991 and Tony Blair went to become both the Prime Minister and the leader of the New Labour in 1997 and served it until 2007.

### **2. The 1979 General Election**

The government of James Callaghan was defeated on 28 March 1979 on a confidence vote in the Commons by 311 to 310. And this government was considered as the first one to be so defeated since Ramsey MacDonald's minority Labour government of 1924. In many cases, the Labour government was on the defensive. The supporters and public voters of the Labour government had a feeling of anger, lack of enthusiasm, despondency and disappointment from its incomes policy (Butler and Dennis 209). All what was said about the failure of Callaghan government was true, because in August 1977 the unemployment rate reached 1.6 million. In fact, there was no doubt in the view of Callaghan conservative critics that the country was drifting to anarchy, with trade unions activists being allowed to obstruct personal freedom and step by step obstruct the economy. Between the defeat of Callaghan government and polling day "...there were five weeks for the parties to organize their resources, push their candidates and propagate their ideas" (Childs 96). The conservatives had the advantage of the best organizations in the country, and the most sophisticated and coherent media strategy because of Saatchi were in mission with, produced advocating effective posters to that campaign election . On the other side, the Tories election advertising superior to that of the Labour. The general election of 1979 was a different one, as Childs said:

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The 1979 election was more free from extraneous [not relevant or essential to the situation] events and sensations than any other contest since the war. It was the first to be fought in April for more than a century and was unusual in that Election Day was also the day (3 May ) on which the most of local councils in England and Wales were elected (Childs 98-9).

Thomson-a writer and a twentieth century commentator- commented on this election, saying that “when the general election took place on 03 May 1979, the Labour government not only had to answer the charge that it had presided over a doubling of prices and a tripling of unemployment, but also that its much vaunted ‘special relation’ with the trade unions, which was supposed to prevent the kind of industrial unrest which had occurred under the Heath government, was a hollow sham. In the circumstances, it was hardly surprising that Labour lost”. Although the opinion polls consistently showed that the country preferred the reassuring and non-ideological figure of Mr. Callaghan to somewhat intimidating and dogmatic Mrs. Margret Thatcher. The latter ousted Mr. Heath from the conservative leadership in February 1975. It was Mrs. Thatcher who occupied 10 Downing Street as Britain’s, and indeed Western Europe’s, first woman Prime Minister. Thanks largely to the continued buoyancy of the liberal vote, the conservatives did not win as large a share of the poll as they had done in 1970, but they had much larger majority in terms of seats. This bringing was ended parliamentary uncertainty (Thomson 336).

The wining of Margaret Thatcher of conservative leadership four years



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earlier the 1979 and her victory in becoming prime minister was helped and contributed to good fortune and the interfering of luck. Thatcher herself was given a little emphasis to this important section. She gave the determinist explanation of the victory allowed for luck just to reduce the noise of reaction of the public after the demonstrably superior Tory message:

Government's inability to control its allies in the trade union movement, an impalpable sense that socialists everywhere had run out of steam...The Tory Party, by contrast, had used its period in Opposition to elaborate a new approach to reviving the British economy and nation. Not only had we work out a full program for government (Thatcher 19).

That Thatcher's explanation contains considerable truth is not to be doubted, but how new was the Tory approach, and how consistently, and insistently, had it been put across since Mrs. Thatcher became leader? Mrs. Thatcher, quite, laid great stress on the electoral consequences of the winter of discontent. She might have had to put her complex and sophisticated case across in less favorable circumstances, with the International Monetary Fund's 1976 stringencies fading from the memory and an election to win. As a result, the 1979 election was a landslide victory for the conservatives. The party won 339 seats with an almost 40 percent share of the total votes. This election proved to be a watershed election in the history of U.K (Layton 191).

### **3. Who is Margaret Thatcher?**

This is not a new biography of Margaret Thatcher, nor is it a comprehensive

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survey of the Thatcher years. Margret Hilda Roberts was the first woman Prime Minister. She was born on 13, 1925, in Grantham England, she was premier for longer than anyone else in twentieth century Britain. She was Britain's longest-lasting Prime Minister in the 20th century, except for Churchill in war time. At the same time, she was adored by some people and hated by the others, but all of them had to cope with the radical transformation of the British society, which she undertook. Even today, the legacy of Thatcherism is alive. She was the second child of Alfred Roberts and Beatrice Ethel Stephenson. Her father was a grocer and Methodist lie preacher who rose to become mayor of Grantham, and he encouraged his daughter to take an interest in politics. She was educated at a local grammar school, Grantham girls High School. Her family operated a grocery store and they all lived in an apartment above the store. As a good student, Thatcher was accepted to Oxford University where she studied chemistry at Somerville College. Thatcher was politically active in her youth, she served as president of the Conservative Association at the university. She earned a degree in chemistry in 1947, and went on to work as a research chemist in Colchester.

Later, she worked as a research chemist in Dartford, and gained a BSc and a MA, after marrying Denis Thatcher. In 1952, Thatcher put politics aside for an time to study law. She and her husband welcomed twins Carol and Mark the next year. After completing her training, Thatcher qualified as a barrister, a type of lawyer, in 1953, but she did not stay away from the political arena for too long. Thatcher won a seat in the House of Commons in 1959, representing Fincheley.

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She was nicknamed The Iron Lady in 1976 by the enemy. At the time, then opposition leader Thatcher thundered in a speech: "The Russians are bent on world domination!" The Soviet army newspaper Red Star paid her back by coining the label.

This nickname was carried by Thatcher with pride. Whether she was fighting union leader Arthur Scargil, the Argentinean military junta or her dear European friends in Brussels, Thatcher reveled in her role as the island's unbending dominatrix. Completing the image were her shrill voice and the handbag she carried under her arm, which was eternalized by cartoonists as a fictional instrument used to whack her opponents. The term "handbagging" became a dictum in Britain.

Right from the beginning of her political career, Thatcher had to generate the anger of the working people and quickly enough her economic and social policies became part of a doctrine. The broad definition of Thatcherism would encompass her social, diplomatic, and economic doctrines. The narrower definition focuses on the economic policies of Thatcher. The narrower definition will be used for this paper.

### **4. What is Thatcherism?**

Political scientists generally do not talk about Wilsonism, MacMillanism, Attleeism, or Churchillism but many had talked about Thatcherism. Whatever Mrs. Thatcher did during her years in office, she was unique in that, she gave her

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name to what her friends and enemies alike elevated into a political doctrine: Thatcherism which is described as “...the conviction politics, economics and social policy, and the political style of the British conservative politician Margaret Thatcher” (Hills 20). Thatcherism in an international context. Richard Vinen locates Thatcherism within *the foreign and domestic policy debates surrounding the Cold War*. He concludes that, in crucial respects, the Thatcher governments should be seen as upholders of the establishment consensus rather than radical challengers thereof. Andrew Gamble reconstructs Thatcherite perceptions of Europe and America during the 1970s and 1980s, culminating in the neo-Thatcherite orthodoxy of the 1990s: that a clear choice had to be made between closer integration with Europe and stronger relations with the United States. Stephen Howe takes up the question of empire, which sits alongside Europe and the United States as one of the three referents that have historically shaped Britain’s role in the world.

When Margaret Thatcher took over from James Callaghan as prime minister. On being appointed she appealed in the words of Assisi for help in bringing harmony when there is discord. For the next eleven years Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister winning an incredible three general elections. During this time, thought, her style was anything but harmonious. This style and the policies that came to be associated with them came to be known as “Thatcherism”.

However, the term Thatcherism has got many definition, according to John Oakland’s critics:

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The term used to illustrate the political, social and economic policies (as well as the style of leadership) associated with Margret Thatcher, Britain's first woman Prime Minister (1979-90) and leader of the Conservative Party. An emphasis was placed on private enterprise, the reduction of public expenditure or government spending, the state concerns to the private sector lessening the power of Trade Unions and local government and reducing Inflation. The term suggested a mixture of Neo-Liberal beliefs in the free market and neo-conservative social attitudes about the limited role of government (Oakland 120).

Thatcherism has come to stand for the distinctive ideology, political style, and programme of policies which has defined the British Conservative Party since Margaret Thatcher became their leader. The name of Thatcherism does not only refer to Thatcher as a person, but comes from the change in the party where Margaret Thatcher identified herself with the causes and ideas of the New-right and used her position as a leader to promote the spread of these ideas in a manner that was quite unusual for a Conservative leader.

All in all, Thatcherism embodies a series of interconnected political attitudes rather than a coherent body of thought. The newness of Thatcherism was personal and political, not ideological. Thatcher was not an original thinker because she derived her policy and program from Liberalism and the thoughts of Friedman whose ideas were being put in practice in the United States of America. Furthermore little in her career before the early 1970s suggested that she was in

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any one exceptional. The fact that Prime Minister put an unexpected end to consensus politics brought about doubt, even among her supporters not mention her foes some of whom were very determined to put an end to her power by all means.

### **5. The Impact of Thatcherism on the British Society**

Margaret Thatcher played an important role in the promotion of an international neoliberal policy agenda that remains influential today. The nature of Thatcherism, and its impact on the British Society during her period as Prime Minister. And, to a lesser extent, in the years that follow; we focus mainly on Great Britain. Her policy was a mixture of positive and negative impacts, with success and failure.

Thatcher's achievement was to challenge this increasingly stagnant status quo by making decisions about the priorities, thus, rejecting the belief in the state as the enabler of all good things. Predictably, it earned her the hatred of the left. But it was the failure of state intervention that gave Thatcher her opening, which other western leaders, including François Mitterrand of France, who U-turned to the right – seized with gratitude or out of necessity. As Thatcher liked to say, "There is no alternative." And by 1979, she was right. Thatcher's main achievement, according to Andrew O'Hagan we might say:"was to move the spiritual headquarters of the Conservative Party from the Carlton Club to the working-class housing estates of Britain".( O'Hagan2013)

The impact of the Thatcherite on the British society was a fast productivity

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growth, thanks to which the relative, economic decline of the UK was stopped. The companies were effectively forced to be more competitive or to close down. The businesses had to cope with competitive pressures, on the other hand, they could benefit from a deregulated labour market, lower taxes and a liberal financial and trading system. For the same reasons, Britain became a magnet for foreign direct investment. The privatised companies also experienced a rapid improvement in productivity and efficiency. By creating a proper incentive structure, Thatcher succeeded in reviving entrepreneurship in the British society, according to John Vidal:

Thatcher's economic and cultural influence is still argued over. What is certain is that the policies she and her three successive governments backed had become the consensus of western governments by the time she left office in 1990, and still dominate economic thinking. (Vidal 2013).

An immediate impact of Thatcher-forced restructuring was high unemployment, for which Mrs. Thatcher was often criticised. However, most jobs were lost in unproductive industries or, as productivity improved; fewer people could do the same amount of work. The trade union reform, combined with social security reform and liberalisation, created favourable conditions for creating vacancies elsewhere in the economy, chiefly in services. Despite the fact that M. Thatcher was often blamed for high unemployment, from today's point of view a contrary may be justified. The evidence is the unemployment rate at historically

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low levels, a striking fact in comparison with other European countries.

Thatcher's policies were associated with substantial increases in socioeconomic and health inequalities: these issues were actively marginalized and ignored by her governments. In addition, her public-sector reforms applied business principles to the welfare state and prepared the National Health Service for subsequent privatization:

With Thatcherism, she set out to save the soul of the nation and ended up selling it off to the cheapest bidder. People who didn't agree with Mrs. Thatcher were just not 'one of us,' they deserved no empathy, had to be beaten, and Britain for a while found her drama of certainty addictive. Spite came to live in Britain during her time and we became partisan to the point of psychosis. Margaret Thatcher's greatest legacy will be to have made Britain a place more out of love with the idea of tolerance. (O'Hagan, 2013)

Yet, her political opponents recognize the immense impact Margaret Thatcher had, particularly on Britain, but also on the world there is, and will continue to be, fierce debate over whether that impact was for good or ill. For Margaret Thatcher was also one of the most divisive Prime Ministers Britain has ever had. There is a whole raft of areas where there is disagreement throughout both domestic and international politics. Clearly, Thatcher's impact was greatest domestically. For her supporters Thatcher's handling of the economy is her greatest triumph. Thatcher's government was a trend setter in promoting monetary



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and supply side economics to sort out the country's problems rather than using Keynesian stimulus though this did not prevent her from using fiscal policy on occasions such as stoking up the economy in 1986-8 creating the Lawson boom – which just happened to be around the 1987 election. Most agree that the economic situation Margaret Thatcher inherited was not good as Britain was in a period of stagflation which is both high unemployment and high inflation at the same time usually high inflation happens in an economic boom when there is low unemployment. Inflation was at 18% and unemployment at 1.4million then considered very high and a major issue, but today this would be seen as rather low. The government sorted out inflation by pushing up interest rates, which had the effect of pushing out of work resulting an unemployment reaching 3million.

Eventually, Mrs. Thatcher had no argument with traditional positions on law, property and liberty, but she was passionately convinced of a limited role for government, she wanted to roll back the socialist frontiers of the state. Furthermore, she was really revolutionary within her own party which had not stopped reverberating from her impact.

### **6. Conclusion**

Sometimes it is hard to separate how much politicians are responsible for certain events. Thatcher was personally responsible for the dramatic change in the composition of the British economy. The process of de-industrialization and growth of service sector was inevitable, whatever politicians had done.

Her stubbornness in 1981 did mean the British experienced a much deeper recession than necessary. Thatcher's u-turn speech cemented her reputation as a great politician, but the 365 economists were right. Monetarism was a failure.

The social cost of 3 million unemployed is not a price worth paying for being 'strong' leader. There was a steady rise in the number of claimants of long-term sickness disability benefits. The rise in the number of disability benefit claimants has been attributed to a government desire to move people off the unemployment register and to the lack of jobs in the economy disability benefit rolls grown so much. (Mc Vicar 114).

Similarly, the decline in industrial disputes was only partly due to Thatcher's policies on unions and industrial relations. It was also a reflection of changing economic fortunes. Her determination to defeat the miners for good or ill was very important. Other leaders could have sought greater compromise.

The supply side policies of the 1980s were a mixed bag. There is no doubt that some privatized industries saw great strides in efficiency and quality of

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service a combination of both privatization and greater competition. The greater Labour market flexibility, she encouraged could be responsible for reducing the structural unemployment. But, at the same time, the deregulation of the finance sector saw a rise in underlying instability, which is a factor behind the credit explosion and crunch of the 2000s.

Thatcher solved certain problems such as high inflation; time lost to strikes, poor manufacturing productivity, but also created new problems. Mass unemployment, rising inequality and a more fragmented society. It is also ironic that she came to power promising to solve inflation, but left power with an unnecessary inflationary boom, which led to another unnecessary recession of 1991.

Andrew O'Hagan remembers Margaret Thatcher when Politicians have always been disliked and always blamed, but Thatcher appeared to many people in Britain, to have no feeling and no understanding for the people whose lives were hurt by her policies. Her stridency appeared to excite boys who remembered their nannies. But, to other men and women, the poorer sort, she was the incarnation of blind authority. She knew there were real families out there in Britain's hinterlands or northern lands, yet, like a crazed statistician or a bad novelist, she couldn't really imagine what their lives must be like.(O'Hagan 2013).

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Yes...We are free to build that model 21st Century nation, to become that beacon to the world...We will not be that beacon to the world in the year 2005 with a welfare state built for the very different world of 1945.”

Tony Blair in Brighton, 1997

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Tony Blair has dominated British political life for more than a decade, (1997 - 2007) when he took leadership, like Margaret Thatcher before him, he changed the terms of political debate and provoked as much condemnation as administration at the end of his era in power. However, this second chapter presents a wide-range of the achievements and failures of the Blair governments. Bringing together Britain’s most eminent academics and commentators on British politics and society, it examines the effect of the Prime Minister and his administration on the machinery of government, economic and social policy, combining serious scholarship with clarity and accessibility. Also, this chapter represents the authoritative verdict on the impact of the Blair years on British politics and society.

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### **2. The General Election of the Labour Party 1997**

If we go back to five years ago, the only two previous post-war administrations to have secured office with a lower share of vote and minority were the two Labour governments, which both of them came to power after the elections of February and October 1974.

Although the Labour party suffered when it was under Jim Callaghan from the crucial fall of vote of 2,4 percentage points bigger than its suffering by Conservatives from the 1979 until 1992 or by Clement Attlee in 1950. Despite these defeats in elections instead, the conservatives forced the Labour party and the other parties to look at themselves again and the weakness that led them to lose; so the Labour returned back to political arena much stronger with the New Labour (Seldon 38).

Joe Rogaly in the Financial Times (25 May 1990) commented that the Labour's policy document looking to the future (has nothing to do with socialism). Labour had abandoned its unilateral nuclear disarmament position, accepted the market economy, and sought to become the party of Europe.

The weakness and the bad management of the system policy of John Major led Tony Blair to taunt him at the dispatch box in 1995 "I lead my party – he follows his." (Seldon 4).

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If the twentieth century had been predominantly a Conservative one, Blair apparently gave his party a head start in making the twenty-first century a period of Labour dominance.

Of all the post-war governments (1945, 1951, 1964, 1970, 1974 and 1979) none was lucky as the Labour party in 1997. How much did Blair's destiny and his Labour's fate help to all that success? Because the 1997 year was considered as the win card at the political side to achieve some victory "In 1997 the opportunities seemed so immense" (Seldon 3). So, all the previous post-war new governments were obstructed by some problems like a weak economy and non-existent majority in parliament.

In opposition, Tony Blair and his Labour party were helped and blessed by a strong economy and a high majority in the House of Commons and a large number of voters "In 1997 new Labour successfully built a broad electoral coalition enabling it to secure 44% of the popular vote" (Diamond 89). In addition, Tony Blair had a good relationship with the US President Bill Clinton, and Labour party was helped by national newspapers in its general election campaign in 1997. Besides, because of Blair's strong leadership, the Labour party of the cabinet were satisfied and got the office that Brussels and the EU capitals were looking for young strong Prime Minister who could engage effectively with EU and Blair was the ideal person at that time.

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The Conservatives opposition was exhausted, divided and discredited. After many shocks, especially after the black Wednesday had an equally corrosive impact on the reputation of the Conservative Party as an effective manager of the economy. In 1992, Labour enjoyed a double digit lead in the polls. All of these were backed up the Labour to profit from the Conservatives lack of luck.

In May 1994 the Labour Party advanced than the Conservatives in the opinion polls by 33 points. At the same time, it saved 44 percent of the vote and that added to its stock points as many as system points advanced of the conservative in June European elections. By all these previous advantageous data of the Labour party before 1997 general election, there was no doubt that it was in strong position (Seldon 37-38 ). Labour got a great 419 seats including the speakers ahead of conservatives got just 165 seats their worst performance since 1906. The Labour party won the 1997 general election by a land slide, after 18 years in opposition at the age of 43 Tony Blair became the youngest Prime Minister since Lord Liverpool in 1812.

### **3. Who is Tony Blair?**

He is Anthony Charles Lynton Blair. He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on May 6, 1953. He is the second son of Leo and Hazel Blair (née Corscadden); he has one older brother Sir William Blair, a court judge and a younger sister,



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Sarah. Blair spent the 19 months of his life at the family home in Paisley Terrace in the Willowbrae area of Edinburgh. In the 1950s, his family spent three years and a half in Adelaide, Australia, where his father was a lecturer in law at the University of Adelaide. The family returned to the UK in the late 1950s. He spent remainder of his childhood in Durham, England. After attending The Choister School in Durham from 1961 to 1966. Blair boarded at Fettes College, a prestigious independent school in Edinburgh. After Fettes Blair spent a year in London, where he attempted to find fame as a rock music promoter before reading jurisprudence at St John's College, Oxford in 1975 with a second class honours B.A. in jurisprudence, Blair became a member of Lincoln's Inn, enrolled as a pupil barrister, and he met his future wife Cherie Booth.

Blair joined the Labour Party shortly after graduating from Oxford in 1975. In 1982, Blair was selected as the Labour candidate in the safe conservative seat of Beaconsfield, but it was the only election he lost in his entire political career. He became Prime Minister of the UK at the age of 43, on 2 May 1997 (Eccleshal and Walker 392).

### **4. What is Blairism?**

Blairism refers to the political ideology attributed to the government, which supports former British Labour party and Prime Minister Tony Blair's political views. People who advocate Blairism are called Blairites. Some Blairisms include The Third Way ideology or also called centrism:

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the Third Way in broad terms still indicates the policies, the electoral stance and the political style that are most likely to be successful in present circumstances for a party of the left. Yet a weakness remains. The inability of new Labour to construct a convincing narrative around either its constitutional or its welfare reforms meant that too. (Seldon and Kavanagh 121)

In his *Fabian pamphlet* on the Third Way, published in 1998, Tony Blair wrote that the Third Way was "the best label for the new politics which the progressive Centre-left is forging in Britain and beyond." (Blair 01). Which supports as marriage of capitalism and socialism. Therefore, according to Blair defined "Blairism as the beacon for Europe" in his famous speech in Brighton: "We are free to build that model 21st Century nation, to become that beacon to the world...We will not be that beacon to the world in the year 2005 with a welfare state built for the very different world of 1945 (Blair 1997).

Blairism is the support for a stronger police authority, as well as support for the government of former United States President George W. Bush. "Blairism did not begin with Blair or his election to the leadership of the Labour party in 1994, although he has taken matters forward. Its roots lie in 1970s" (Matthew 2011).

Moreover, Blairism is political and ideological formations, which have a 'project' for social change and conservation; neo-liberalism can be seen as a doctrine or theory and as a larger, slower tendency to transformation, which

## **Chapter Two: Blairism from Conservatives to New Labour**

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Gramsci would have called 'organic'. This transformation is affecting, in fundamental ways, the nature of social and economic relationships in this world, and also the forms of subjectivity or individuality in relation to collective life and Social solidarities. 'Neo-liberalism' expresses both an ideology (organism) and, rather abstractly, a major dynamic of social change, much larger than the project of any party or political grouping "We are to be overwhelmed. A tidal wave of epitaphs, eulogies and obsequies of Tony Blair is upon us. His era will crave definition. The flesh must be made word, and the word is Blairism. It hangs on the lips of friend and foe" (Jenkins 2001).

### **5. The Impact of Blairism**

#### **How was the impact of Blair on the UK?**

When Tony Blair took the leadership as Prime Minister, his first three years as party leader while in opposition (1994 – 97) had been principally directed to sweeping the party clear of unpopular and outdated 'Old' Labour policies, on the economy, tax, trade unions, "The Old Labour party was much more right wing than either Galloway or Sedgemore remember... 'Old Labour' is not a recollection of the past, but something that is worked up in the present" (Heartfield 2005)

In 20 years, the present Labour government will be remembered for the big changes and achievements. He made to Britain's constitution: devolution, half-reform of the House of Lords and all the rest. But it is not this that people

## **Chapter Two: Blairism from Conservatives to New Labour**

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will call Blairism. He himself has never shown much interest in all those reforms, most of which sprang from promises he inherited with the leadership of his party. And most were fixes for individual political problems, the rise of Scottish nationalism, or the built-in Tory majority in the upper house, rather than parts of a thought-through vision of how Britain should be governed (O'Hagan 2013).

The impact of Blairism refers to the deliberate revolution Mr. Blair made in the nature of competition between the political parties, not the semi-inadvertent revolution he made to the nature of government. By turning Labour into New Labour, abandoning socialism, befriending business and promising not to squeeze the rich, Mr. Blair has done more than build an election-winning party.

He has broken the tribal pattern of British politics in just the way the Social Democrats who broke away from Labour in the 1980s hoped but failed too. Some of the results have been comic, as when Mr. Blair could not remember where, with tribes abolished, the foes that all politicians occasionally need were now to be found. At one point he identified them as “forces of conservatism” that stretched all the way from the party of the same name, through the killers of Martin Luther King, to nurses and teachers who would not change their ways for economic and welfare policy. But Blair did benefit from four legacies from John Major: a strong economy to provide surpluses to fund increases in spending, embryonic work taking Thatcher's reforms into the

## Chapter Two: Blairism from Conservatives to New Labour

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public services, Northern Ireland moving in the direction of peace, and the Maastricht opt-out, which made his European policy viable.

In his first term, (1997 – 2001), Blair's principal achievement, shared with Brown and Peter Mandelson, came at its very outset: the electoral victory with a majority of 179. The remarkable fact for Blair personally was quite how bare the first term was of personal domestic success, beyond providing the stable platform for others to achieve.

Some Achievements and impacts on the UK country, which is still considerable on constitutional issues, of course, talking of these reforms in the first level of the Blairism impact. These reforms comprised a veritable constitutional revolution, a quiet revolution and one little noticed by the general public. In the Labour's second term, Blair's policy was an even mixture of successes and failures. His policy was clear as early as 1999, when he sketched out his doctrine of international community in Chicago. Blair said "We have learned twice before in this century that appeasement does not work". The British economy sustained growth for ten years under Tony Blair. It had done very well compared to the world's five largest economy Peter Sinclair said:

Despite following the previous government's spending limits, Blair managed to deliver The New Deal welfare-to-work program, funded by a windfall tax on big corporations. The growth decreased in public sector debt interest allowed the Treasury to allocate more money for all other spending programs. (Sinclair 187).

## **Chapter Two: Blairism from Conservatives to New Labour**

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However, his major achievement was that, as Labour leader, Blair dragged his party into the modern world. The Labour's record in government was marred by sky-high borrowing a policy that treated the enterprise with contempt. The impact the perception that Blair was a toxic influence on the body politic is not mainly generated from within the Labour party.

To sum up, both Blair " successes and failures were controversial; his critics differ vigorously when assessing his legacy". Jenkins believes Blair's reform had introduced aversion, defensive administration and red tape (Jenkins 2006) But, his successes had guaranteed his place as one of the most successful prime ministers in British history.

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### **6. Conclusion**

Above all, the second chapter offers an assessment of the social economic and political reforms promoted by the New Labour Party under Tony Blair. We discussed the nature and the impact of Blairism on the British society taking office from 1997 to 2007. It is maintained that this policy has increased inequalities, entrenched social, economic and geographical divides and re-enforced the deep-seated tendencies of the British political system towards centralization.

As a result, Blairism and the New Labour has taken further the conservatives efforts to promote decentralisation, in other words, Blairism is just a continuation of Thatcherism, because Blair has followed Thatcherism and adapted it within his policy. Which gave birth to a new ideology called “Blatcherism”.

## **Content**

1. Introduction
2. The Common Point between Thatcherism and Blairism
3. Blatcherism
4. Conclusion



## Chapter Three: Blairism is the Legacy of Thatcherism

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### 1. Introduction

Everything had an effect around it and there was no smoke without fire; so how about 18 years of governorship with a strong policy hand? The Iron lady and her Thatcherite method had radically altered the economic, social and political life in British society, even after her fall; her influence remained. The coming of the Labour Party to power in 1997 and Blairism did not mean at all that there would be real change at the respect of the political strategy of the government in all the flanks and British society. So, in this chapter we would see that Blair and his Labour Party accepted and adopted Conservative's and Thatcherism rule with open hands, through exposing the common policies, taking in consideration that Thatcherism rule embraced by the Labour Party was considered one of the greatest causes of Labour success.

There were some in the Labour Party that had the same idea as us that Blair's labour continued Thatcherism such as Peter Mandelson who notably stated "we are all Thatcherites now" (O Sanderson ). These similarities and commons between Thatcher's and Blair's ideology were nicknamed Blatcherism.

### 2. The Common Points of Thatcherism and Blairism

Although the Labour is the party of left and the Conservative is the party of right, most people are already aware that there were many similarities between both. A lot of British waited 18 years for Labour government to come to power with its principal policies to change deeply Thatcher's British society, but in fact, that time (1997) the party had reorganized itself as a Thatcher-hugging right wing, media-friendly concern watered down version of former conservation style.

Some of the world might say that New Labour (Tony Blair) was Thatcher's achievement, the creation of the user supporter Tony Blair to carry on her policy. Blair's Labour was a continuation to Thatcher's heritage. Author Simon Jenkins surely stated in his book *Thatcher and sons* that "Thatcher's legacy continued throughout the Blair years, manifesting itself in both his economic, domestic and foreign policies" (Halpern and Wood 10-18). Also their manifesto's philosophical basis notes were merely the same, Thatcher in her manifesto of 1979 claimed for radical change to British society with all its problems (poverty, inequality, unemployment, crime), "it will all most certainly never recur...I was determined to send out clear signal of change" (Eric J. Evans 1), and she opened it with the comment, "For me, the heart of politics is not political theory, it is people and how they want to live their lives". The manifesto argued that "the balance of our society has been increasingly tilted in favor of state at expense of individual freedom" (Halpern and Wood 10-18). In essence it is believed that the state might encourage individuals on which a country prospers. Tony

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Blair also declared for change in his project “The New Labour ‘project’ was about modernization and change” (Bulmer 3). The Labour manifesto of 1997 *The Road to the Manifesto* was taken from the Thatcherite philosophy manifesto of 1979 but with some regulations, “Its philosophy can be seen as a correction to that offered by Thatcher, though in the opposite ideological direction, of our understanding of the relative importance of the community or collective compared to the individual” (Halpern and Wood 10-18 ).

Then, on the economic policy side Tony Blair did not go far away from Thatcher’s policy. In 1995 Thatcherite consensus privatization was accepted by the Labour Party through the exposing of the abolishment of notorious Clause Four of the Labour Party constitution. Labour that time believed in economic interventionism, but no more after, it accepted keeping free markets, because New Labour recognized that this policy was more effective than the older one (it offered good incomes without high Taxes). It was very clear that Blair adopted Thatcherite economic policy, especially in the case of privatization, because he maintained many private institutions like British Steel, British Airways and British Petroleum. In addition to that, many privatization policies begun by Conservatives were continued like (P F I) Private Finance Initiative. (Turn left for No blatcherism). As Colin Hay stated, “Hay argues that there is nothing new about New Labour and in reality it merely offers a continuation of Thatcherism ” (Aimee Oakley 6).

It was well known that the Labour government’s traditional supports the trade unions but no more during the 80s and early 90s after the passing of the anti- trade unions legislation .The later legislation was not changed and no one from Labour

## Chapter Three: Blairism is the Legacy of Thatcherism

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defended Trade Unions. Blair's negligence toward the decaying of trade union's powers that indicated the acceptance of Thatcherite consensus.

Regards foreign policy, they had common strategies and ideas. In the respect of international relationships, Blair and Thatcher stressed the idea of building association between Britain and the United States and even particular friendships with American Presidents. She was a friend to USA President Ronald Reagan and he was a friend to USA President George Bush Junior. While Thatcher and Reagan struggled their own symbolic combat for neo-liberal economics, Blair and Bush stood side by side in the Iraq war. There were other similar foreign views between both of them such as:

- 1- The strong role of Thatcher in the world stage: cold war, Falklands conflict.
- 2- The strong role of Blair in the world stage: Kosovo and Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan wars.
- 3- They had the same style of conviction.
- 4- The optimistic view of Britain's style and role in the world.

Considering the social policy they still had some similarities. Although the Labour was merciful with the prisoners in its declaration of "prison works" Blair recognized that the vote card winner of conservatives was the matter of crime. He used the same harsh and tough punishments to the crimes as he said in his words "tough on crime ,tough on the causes of crime" so, he adopted numerous Conservative policies on crime for example(A S B O) Anti-Social Behavior Order.

## Chapter Three: Blairism is the Legacy of Thatcherism

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Despite all these similarities there remain others, for instance, the gap enlarged between the poorest and richest under the governorship of Blair and Thatcher .(O Sanderson) .

### 3. Blatcherism

Blatcherism can be defined as the combination of Blairism and Thatcherism. according to Oxford University Press” It is a compound of Blairism and Thatcherism The word implies a criticism of New Labour's adoption of Thatcherite values”. Ainley (2000) Describes Blatcherism as the new type of state policy that has accommodated British capitalism with the new global economy. The British press is rarely occurred as a “porte-manteau” for Tony Blair’s brand of Thatcherism, but the Israeli terminologists usually dislike “porte-manteau “for them, Sometimes is considered to be self-explanatory, so it may occur in context without a definition...we also see porte-manteau, as oligarchy based on controlling oil production and trade”(Nachum, and Nissan 499)

The term is also used as shorthand by Ye. V. Ananyeva “according to whom Blatcherism is currently personified by Tony Blair, has substituted for the previous postwar political consensus", and is "consensual" with "neo-conservatism as embodied in Thatcherism" in the approach to a solution to Britain's modernisation problems.”

(Ananyeva 163)

According to Douglas in his book of in *The Politics of Convergence and Divergence* Blatcherism is divergences within Blatcherism, in future, in large measure we will be discussing differences of opinion in sects, cults, factions and groups rather than between large parties".

## Chapter Three: Blairism is the Legacy of Thatcherism

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Blatcherism was Butskellism, by which Butskellism “gave the way to (Thatcher and Blair), because of the strong neoliberal individualists influences inherent within their policies” (Pycott and Gough 11). This was epitomised by the new deep consensus about law and order, a fundamental acceptance of what can be called the crime-control complex” (Seldon 324).

As for some conservative intellectuals such as Ferdinand Mount and Simon Jenkins they have described the decades since 1979 the Blair-Thatcher years as:

A period dominated by the doctrine of Blatcherism, Inevitably, the underlying continuities between the regimes meant a reconsideration of the first as the Thatcher years themselves became the subject of historical rather than contemporary political or sociological study, the general tone of the official media reflection became...the passing of the social democratic society which, sadly but inevitably, able to be swept away in order for the new middle class to come into its inheritance, it was unfortunate no doubt, that the requisite transformation required the agency of someone as vulgar as Thatcher.

(Jenkins 86)

Labour, as the party of socialism, Blair made some changes in the British implement, he had to decide either to stay pure in endless opposition or to adapt and hope to serve one day again. But the decision was a slow and painful process.

If Thatcher had influenced the policies of conservatism then she was equally influential in the birth of New Labour.” many saw the ideology of Mrs. Thatcher in the policies of Tony Blair so much so that some commentators referred to this

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continuation as Blatcherism in this recent biography”(Warner 50) But, Blair had this to say about elements of Thatcherism:

Where Thatcher was absolutely on the side of history was in recognising that as people became more prosperous, they wanted the freedom to spend their money as they chose, and they didn't want a big state getting in the way of liberation by suffocating people in uniformity, in the drabness and dullness of the state monopoly. It was plain that competition drove up standards, and that high taxes, were a disincentive. Anything else was to ignore human nature. (Tony Blair)

The election of the Labour Party in 1997 produced a further period of uncertainty for citizenship education, New Labour and Conservative politics showed a strong degree of congruence. In a range of social and economic spheres the Labour government colonized the discourse of Conservatism and attempted to create an alliance with policies originating from the ideology of the right, Blair has also been described by the political left as “undoubtedly the most rightwing leader Labour has ever had” (Callinicos 15).

### 4. Conclusion

The notion of Blairism, is just Thatcherism in trousers. Thatcher has described Blair as her “invention”, because he was generally seen as offering Thatcherism with a human face. Thatcher herself was obviously seen as a successful counter-revolutionary.

Yet, when researching to both Thatcherism and Blairism we may find that the two governing methods had quite some similarities and common points, because Tony Blair had followed Thatcher’s footsteps in the same way of governing Britain. New Labour has not just adopted the politics and policy-making of Thatcherism, it has taken it beyond Thatcherism. Blatcherism was a political and economic consensus between the three main political parties from 1994 to 2010. While neo-liberal economic policies are essentially still in place, the consensus is gradually ending owing to the Labour Party leadership returning to its left wing as well as the backbenches of the Conservative Party becoming increasingly right wing and more vocal in government than they had been in opposition. John Major said “when you look at things in perspective...you see reality rather than current dramas. It takes a long time. You need to wait for the academics.”( Temple 2000)

Above all, Blatcherism was a political and economic consensus between the three main political parties from 1994 to 2010. While neo-liberal economic policies are essentially still in place, the consensus is gradually ending owing to the Labour Party leadership returning to its left wing as well as the backbenches of the Conservative Party becoming increasingly right wing and more vocal in government than they had



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been in opposition. The consensus therefore cannot be fully analysed from a historical angle until at least the aftermath of the 2015 General Election.

## General Conclusion

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New Labour Party returned to power after eighteen years in opposition; it was a great celebration within the party. In 1979, no one had expected that the return of the Labour Party would take so long; some doubted that it would never happen at all, the heavy defeats of 1938-1987 left a great deal of ground to make up. The Labour Party came to power with its principal policies and tactics for the sake of the radical change of the previous British Thatcher's society.

Thus, there were several causes and circumstances behind the rise of the Labour Party; Tony Blair and his Labour party were supported and blessed by a strong economy and a big majority in the House of Commons and a great number of voters. Furthermore, the Labour party was sustained by US national newspapers in Blair's General Election campaign in 1997 because he had particular friendships and strong relations with American President Bill Clinton. In addition, the success was due to Blair's sense of leadership, his optimistic view and the strong role in the political sphere. We can add that the Labour Party's embracement of Thatcherism was a factor of success. The Labour party members of the cabinet were satisfied, and Tony Blair was the youngest and strong Prime Minister who could engage effectively with the Party.

Blair's conviction politics, admittedly influenced by Margaret Thatcher's political reign, led to the characterisation of Blair as a softer version of "the Iron Lady". Tony Blair transformed the Labour Party and as a result enhanced its representative status by appealing to a broader electorate; when analysing both Thatcherism and Blairism, we

## General Conclusion

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may find that the two governing systems have some similarities, and common strategies, because Tony Blair had followed Thatcher's footsteps in the same way of governing Britain. New Labour has not just adopted the politics of Thatcherism; New Labour recognized that this policy was more effective. Besides, it is obvious that Blair adapted Thatcherite economic policy, especially in the case of privatization; many privatization strategies started by Conservatives were continued like Private Finance Initiative (P F I).

Above all, and after analysing both policies of Thatcherism and Blairism, many theories and policies have developed concerning this topic. We make the conclusion that Blair was pragmatic in that he left aside the different ideologies and made use of the Liberal economic policy that saved the British economy.

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## Glossary

**Argentina Military Junta:** Dirty War, Spanish Guerra Sucia, also known as Process of National Reorganization, Spanish Proceso de Reorganización Nacional or El Proceso, infamous campaign waged from 1976 to 1983 by Argentina's military dictatorship against suspected left-wing political opponents. It is estimated that between 10,000 and 30,000 citizens were killed; many of them were "disappeared"—seized by the authorities and never heard from again.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/165129/Dirty-War> 27.05.2015.

**Centrism:** It is a political philosophy of avoiding the extremes of left and right by taking a moderate position or course of action

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/centrism>. 27.05.2015.

**Consensus:** 1854 as a term in physiology; 1861 of persons; from Latin consensus "agreement, accord," past participle of consentire (see consent). There is an isolated instance of the word from 1633. Consensus refers to a collective opinion, the words of opinion in the phrase consensus of opinion are redundant and should therefore be avoided

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Consensus>. 27.05.2015.

**Fabian Pamphlet:** The Fabian Society became the pre-eminent intellectual society in the United Kingdom in the Edwardian era, but its roots are in the late Victorian period. Fabianism was one of the more interesting strands of British socialism which emerged

in the late Victorian era. The early Fabians were opposed to the revolutionary theory of Karl Marx, who propagated the necessity of a class war. Their purpose was to advance the socialist cause by reformist, rather than revolutionary, means. Fabianism sought to reconcile the utilitarian philosophy of Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill with the values of liberty, democracy, economic progress and social justice.

<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/fabian.html> 27.05.2015.

**House of Commons:** The House of Commons is the lower chamber of the UK's bicameral legislature. In other words, the lower of the two Houses of Parliament. It plays a major part of the process that makes new laws, debating and looking in detail at proposals for new legislation. It is able to question Secretaries of State and Ministers about their work and holds them to account for their actions. Unlike the House of Lords, the House of Commons looks at the financial work of the Government and must approve Government spending and taxation. The House of Commons is also referred to as the Lower House, and is elected, as opposed to the appointed/hereditary House of Lords.

<http://pub33.bravenet.com/faq/show.php?usernum=2771924044&catid=4479&keywords> 28.05.2015.

**Legislation:** refers to the actual law enacted by a legislative body at the national, state, or local level. There has been some very odd legislation over the years. In one state it was illegal to kiss on a train; in another, it was illegal to take a bath on Sunday. The sweeping legislation made radical changes to tax law, health care, and immigration law.

<http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/legislation> 28.05.2015.

**NeoLiberalism:** It is a political orientation originating in the 1960's, blends liberal political views with an emphasis on economic growth, it favors social progress by reform and by changing laws rather than by revolution.

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Neo+liberal> 28.05.2015.

**Monetarism:** An economic policy based on controlling a country's money supply.

Based on this theory and on a belief in the efficiency of free market forces, that gives priority to achieving price stability by monetary control, balanced budgets, etc, and maintains that unemployment results from excessive real wage rates and cannot be controlled by Keynesian demand management.

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Monetarism> 28.05.2015.

**Third way:** It is a political ideology that seeks to combine between socialism and capitalism.

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Third+Way> 28.05.2015.

**Tory Party:** It is a member of a British political Party, founded in 1832, it has been known as the Conservative Party since about 1832.

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Tory+Party> 28.05.2015.

**Trade Union:** It is an association of employees formed to improve their incomes and working conditions by collective bargaining with the employer, or employer organization.

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Trade+Union> 28.05.2015.

## Appendices

### Appendix : Biographies of Famous Figures

- **Bill Clinton:** William Jefferson Clinton, better known as Bill Clinton, was born on August in Hope, Arkansas. In 1975, he married Hillary Rodham. The following year, he was elected attorney general of Arkansas, and in 1978 he won the governorship, becoming the youngest governor the country had seen in 40 years. Clinton was elected president in 1992. Six years later, in 1998, he was impeached by the House of Representatives, but was acquitted by the Senate in 1999. <http://www.biography.com/people/bill-clinton-9251236> 28.05.2015.
- **Clement Attlee:** Clement Earl Attlee (3 January 1883 – 8 October 1967) was Britain's first post war Prime Minister (45-51), winning a landslide for Labour, helping to usher in a new era of British Politics. Attlee's Labour Government introduced sweeping reforms such as nationalisation of major industries, extension of the Welfare State and the introduction of the National Health Service.  
  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/attlee\\_clement.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/attlee_clement.shtml) 28.05.2015.
- **François Mitterrand:** was born on October 26, 1916, in Jarnac, France. Mitterrand served with the French forces during World War II. In 1971, he became secretary of the Socialist Party and tried to unify the French Left. He was elected president in 1981 and was re-elected in 1988, retiring at the end of that term. In 1991, Mitterrand appointed France's first female Prime Minister,

Edith Cresson. He retired after completing his second term in office in 1995, and died in Paris in 1996. François Mitterrand served as president of France from 1981 to 1995. Associated with the Socialist Party, he's known for trying to unify the French Left.

<http://www.biography.com/people/francois-mitterrand-9410764> 28.05.2015.

- **James Callaghan** :(1912 – 2005) Callaghan was British Labour Prime Minister from 1976 to 1979, years dominated by economic recession and industrial militancy which contributed to the election of the Conservatives and Labour's exclusion from office for the next 18 years.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/callaghan\\_james.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/callaghan_james.shtml)

28.05.2015.

- **John major:** Was a Prime Minister and a member of the British Parliament's Conservative Party and England's prime minister from 1990 to 1997.

<http://www.biography.com/people/john-major-21176777> 28.05.2015.

- **Lord Liverpool:** Robert Jenkinson, the eldest son of the first Earl of Liverpool, was born on 7th June, 1770. He was educated at Charterhouse and Christ Church, Cambridge. At the age of twenty Robert was granted the seat of Appleby, a pocket borough owned by Sir James Lowther. Robert Jenkinson was a Tory and in May 1793, he spoke against Earl Grey's attempt to introduce parliamentary reform. In February 1801, the Prime Minister, Viscount

Sidmouth, promoted Jenkinson to the cabinet. Two years later he got the title Lord Hawkesbury in November 1803. When Pitt replaced Sidmouth as Prime Minister in 1804, Jenkinson became leader of the government in the House of Lords. <http://spartacus-educational.com/PRliverpool.htm> 28.05.2015.

- **Ramsey McDonald:** James Ramsay MacDonald (1866-1937) was born on 12 October 1866 in Lossiemouth, Morayshire, and the illegitimate son of a crofter. He worked as a teacher locally and then moved to London where he became a clerk and then a journalist. He joined the Independent Labour Party in 1893. He stood unsuccessfully as a parliamentary candidate in 1895 and rose through the party ranks. He became leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party in 1911. Macdonald was the first British Labour prime minister, but his decision in 1931 to lead a coalition government was considered a betrayal by many in the party he had done much to create.

<http://spartacus-educational.com/PRmacdonald.htm> 28.05.2015.

- **Ronald Reagan:** was Born in Tampico, Illinois, on February 6, 1911, Ronald Reagan initially chose a career in entertainment, appearing in more than 50 films. While in Hollywood, he served as president of the Screen Actors Guild and met his future wife, Nancy (Davis) Reagan. He served two terms as governor of California. Originally a liberal Democrat, Reagan ran for the U.S. presidency as a conservative Republican and won two terms, beginning in 1980.

<http://spartacus-educational.com/PRmacdonald.htm> 28.05.2015.