

Making of Modern Britain: 1951-1964 Knowledge Organiser

Winston Churchill PM 1951-55



Anthony Eden PM 1955-57



Harold Macmillan Chancellor
1955-57, PM 1957-63



Alec Douglas-Home PM 1963-64



Clement Attlee PM 1945-51



Hugh Gaitskell LAB Leader
1955-1963



Aneurin Bevan LAB MP 1929-60



Harold Wilson PM 1965-70, 74-76



Rab Butler Chancellor 1951-55



Peter Thorneycroft
Chancellor 1957-58



Derrick Heathcote-Amory
Chancellor 1958-60



Selywyn Lloyd Chancellor
1960-62



Reginald Maudling
Chancellor 1962-64



Politics

1950 General Election - **Attlee 315, Churchill 298 (5)**

1951 General Election - **Churchill 321 Attlee 295 (5)**

1955 General Election - **Eden 345 Attlee 277 (60)**

1959 General Election - **Macmillan 365 Gaitskell 258 (100)**

1964 General Election - **Wilson 317 Douglas-Home 304 (4)**

Labour Divisions

- Bevanites left wing vs Gaitskellites right wing
- Ideological differences e.g CND, Europe, Trade Unions
- 1959 party conferences in Blackpool and Scarborough arguments over direction of party

Economics

- Tories came into office at right time as post-war boom began—the age of affluence.
- Age of affluence—mens weekly wages doubled in period, full employment throughout, people able to buy expensive goods on hire purchase.
- Stop-go economics—Method of controlling economy through inflationary and deflationary methods = short-term prosperity, long-term balance of payments problems (£800 million in debt 1964)

Society

- **Women** - still had “housewife” stereotype but gained some greater freedoms. Labour saving devices helped women have more free time (54% owned washing machines by 1960)
- **Teenagers**- Thanks to rising living standards and ending of national service, teenagers had greater freedom. Subcultures emerged teddy boys and mods. High profile clashes (Margate '64) worried older classes about the youth.
- **Immigration** - Mass influx of West Indian migrants (500,000 1948-70). Moved into cities like London. Race riots occurred e.g Notting Hill 1958

Foreign Policy

- **“Special Relationship”** with USA extremely important. Britain reliant on USA Marshall Plan. USA gained much needed ally in fight against communism.
- **Europe** - Opted against joining EEC in 1957. Started less effective EFTA in 1960 before being rejected by France in 1963.
- **“Winds of Change”** - Speech by Macmillan in South Africa in 1960 in which Britain accept that decolonisation is inevitable.
- **Suez 1956** - After Egypt nationalised Suez Canal kicking out British workers, Eden attempted a coup to retake it. Told to back down by USA, humiliated and forced to resign a year later.