

**Prime Ministers:**

Edward Heath 1970-1974



**Chancellors:**

Ian Mcleod (1970)



Anthony Barber (1970-1974)



**Leaders of the opposition (Labour):**

Harold Wilson (1970-1974)



**General Elections:**

1970 - **Wilson 288**, **Heath 330 (42)**

1974 (Feb) - **Heath 297** **Wilson 301 (4)**

1974 (Oct) **Heath (277)** **Wilson (319) (18)**

**The End of Post War Consensus — New Tory Policies**

**“One Nation Conservatism”** = societies exist and develop organically, and that members of society have obligations towards each other. Emphasis on the **paternalistic obligation** of the upper classes to the lower classes.

**“The New Right”** = less government intervention and let the economy, wages and prices be influenced by market forces.

Conservative Manifesto 1970:

- Lower taxes
- Better relations with Unions
- Join EEC
- Don't support “lame duck” industries

**Foreign Policy**

- **“Special Relationship”** - Maintained the relationship but it wasn't as close as the 1950s.
- **USSR** - Although there were moves towards peace in the 1970s, Détente, tension remained. UK worried about KGB activity in London.
- **Europe** - Britain joins the EEC on 1st January 1973. Arguments over how **Sovereign** the British Parliament would be.
- **OPEC Oil 1973** - a period of high oil prices caused by oil embargo by OPEC. The company was based in the Middle East and was angry at the west for supporting Israel in the Yom Kippur War.

**1974 Election (Feb):** Heath called an election in February 1974 with the slogan **“Who governs Britain”**. Heath was tired of being challenged by the Unions and wanted to consolidate his authority. Labour took power, but only with the support of the 14 Liberal MPs.

**Economics**

- **The Barber Boom** = In 1971 Chancellor Anthony Barber gives 2% tax cut to stimulate economy. Pumps £2.5 billion into economy in increased pensions and benefits.
- **Rolls Royce nationalised and £35 million** is given to **Clyde Ship Builders** to stay afloat. Heath accused of not sticking to Conservative manifesto.
- Strikes continue from unions, growing from 228 in 1971 to 2872 in 1973.
- 1973 = Heath placates unions with **a 21% pay rise**. Unemployment reduces to 500,000.
- 1974 = Inflation 16% due to OPEC oil crisis. £ to \$ falls to £1 to \$1.50.

**Trade Relations and 3 Day Week**

- Heath had lost upwards of 23 million days to strike by 1972.
  - Excessive union power, particularly that of the **National Union of Miners (NUM)**, made other unions strike and only exacerbated the situation by the mid 1970s.
  - **3 Day Week** was called by Heath in 1973.
- OPEC oil crisis coincided with a 13% pay rise rejection by the Unions. Massive fuel shortages. Industry is restricted, power cuts, TV hours cut, people sharing baths to restrict use of water and heating.

**Society**

- **Women: (1970) Equal Pay Act**  
**(Second Wave Feminism: 1970s** saw expansion of debate on domestic violence and abortion. Erin Pizzey sets up 1st women's refuge in Chiswick.
  - **Teenagers-** New era of Punk. Bands such as the Sex Pistols and the clash became popular.
  - **Immigration** - Accusations of racist policing methods.
- “Stop and Search”** = method used by police to search suspects. Overwhelmingly used on black people. #
- National Front** = New Right Wing Party that enjoyed brief electoral success in the 1970s

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James Callaghan 1976-1979



**Chancellors:**

Denis Healey 1974-1979



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Edward Heath (1974-1975)

Margaret Thatcher (1975-1979)



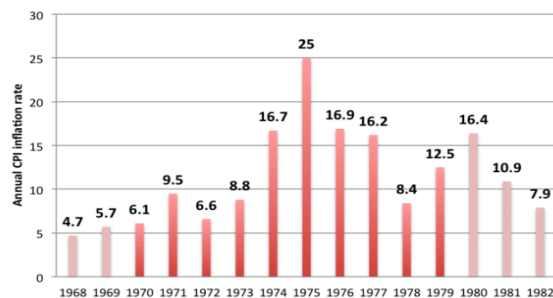
**General Elections:**

1979 - Callaghan (269) Thatcher (339) (62)

**IMF Loan**

- Sterling fell in price from £1- \$2.75 to £1 to \$1.50 in 1976
- November 1978 - UK asks for £3 billion loan from the IMF
- Deflationary measures are used by the government = 7% cut in gov.

UK Inflation 1970s



**Trade Unions and The Winter of Discontent**

The Winter of Discontent was a period of **widespread industrial unrest** in the UK in the winter of 1978-79. The strikes were caused by a number of factors, including :

1. The government's attempt to control inflation by imposing wage limits
2. A change in union leadership (Jack Jones retired in favour of Moss Evans) who were not in favour of **the social contract.**
3. The coldest winter in 16 years meant that people were even more unhappy with the fuel strikes and demanded more support
4. A decline in the British economy made it harder for the Gov. to meet the unions demands.

Ford workers were granted a 17% pay rise in Autumn 1978, and Lorry drivers got a 20% wage increase.

These strikes encouraged others to go on strike. The consequences of this were:

1. Dustbins went unemptied
2. Rubbish piled high on the streets
3. Liverpool cemetery workers refused to bury the dead



**Why did Labour lose the 1979 Election?**

1. **Winter of Discontent** = damaged Labour's reputation for competence and left a sense of public dissatisfaction with the government.
2. **The Conservatives had a simple message for the electorate** — bring down inflation, reduce taxes, and curb union power,
3. **Labour's biggest support base, manufacturing, was in decline.** Falling from 34% to 30% of national output. There was a loss of 2 million jobs.
4. **The rise of the New Right**, a political movement that advocated free markets and limited government intervention, which appealed to many voters who were disillusioned with Labour's economic policies.
5. **The leadership of Margaret Thatcher**, who was seen as a strong and decisive leader who could provide the country with the change it needed .



**Society**

- (1975) **Sex Discrimination Act** — set up commissions to ensure women had protection legally against discrimination.
- **1976 Race Relations Act** = outlawed indirect discrimination e.g. not hiring someone due to their colour but not telling them the reason. why.
- Black protests with police sometimes turned violent. **1979 = Blair Peach**, a white protester and teacher from New Zealand, was killed. However riots were not on the scale if the 1960s
- Police try on several occasions to prevent the Notting Hill Carnival from taking place.
- **The British Black Panther Movement (BPM)** were founded in the summer of 1968, by Obi Egbuna and Kwesi Johnson . Their motto was "blackness". They were labelled a radical group by the government and the media.

