

## Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

### A Level History Summer Work

Your A Level History course consists of three components, assessed by two exams at the end of Year 13/Upper Sixth, and one Non-Examined Assessment (Coursework) which you will complete in the summer term of Year 12/Lower Sixth. In Component 1 (Exam), you will study **'The making of a superpower: USA 1865-1975'** and in Component 2 (Exam) you will study **'The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007'**. Your coursework will be on the development of the **English Reformation from 1520-1603**. This summer work is aimed to prepare you to start the two examined elements of the course in September. **You should bring this summer work with you to your first History lesson for each component (you will have one teacher for the USA 1865-1975 and a different teacher for Britain 1951-2007).**

This pack also contains suggestions for wider reading for both parts of the course. The more reading you can do before and during the course, the better. Another good idea to broaden and deepen your knowledge is podcasts, for example:

- *History Extra Podcast*
- *Dan Snow's History Hit*
- *Dominic Sandbrook and Tom Holland's 'The Rest is History'*
- *BBC 'In Our Time'*
- *Short History Of . . .*

These are good for finding out more about topics you're studying (for both British and American), or for broadening your knowledge of other areas of History. You can listen on the bus, train, at home, in the gym, while walking/running etc.

If you have any questions about this work, please email:

- For general questions about A Level History, or questions about 'Component 2: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007', please email Mr Everett [d.everett@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:d.everett@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk)
- For questions about 'Component 1: The making of a superpower: USA 1865-1975' please email Miss Jones [k.jones@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:k.jones@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk)

## Component 1K: Breadth Study: The making of a superpower: USA 1865-1975

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042/subject-content/1k-the-making-of-a-superpower-usa,-18651975>

This option allows you to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How did government, political authority and political parties change and develop?
- In what ways did the economy and society of the USA change and develop?
- How did the role of the USA in world affairs change?
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How united was the USA during this period?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

### The Structure of the US government

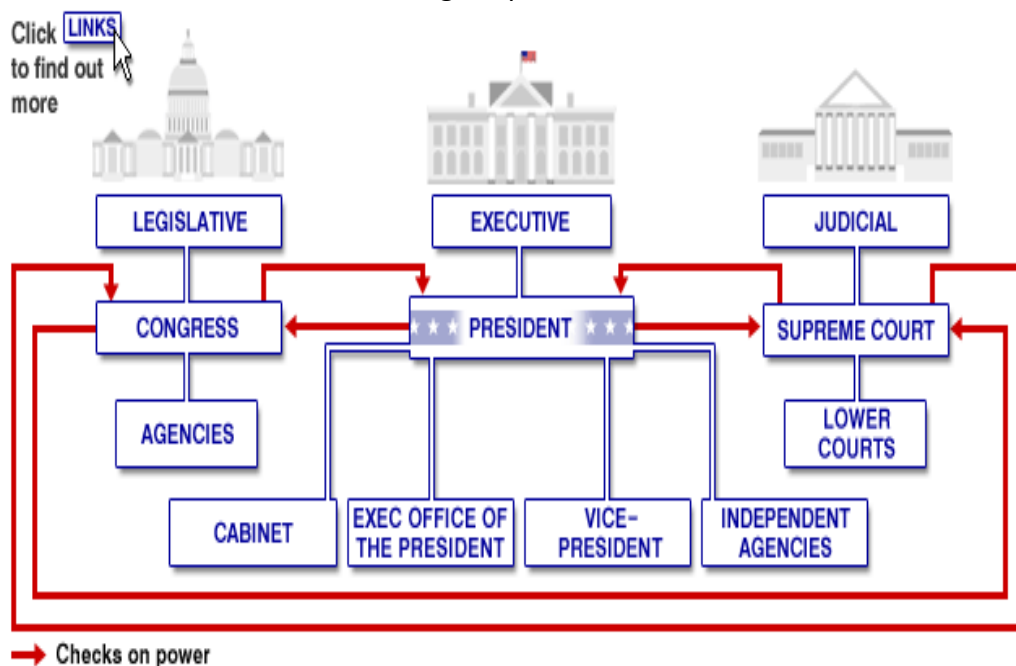
#### **Glossary:**

**Federal-** Government based in Washington that makes laws/decisions that all states have to abide by.

The government of the United States is based on a written **constitution**, the shortest in the world in fact. This constitution consists of a Preamble, seven Articles, and 27 Amendments. From this document, the entire federal government was created. It is a living document whose interpretation has changed over time.

#### **Three Branches of Government**

The Constitution created three separate branches of government. Each branch has its own powers and areas of influence. At the same time, the Constitution created a system of checks and balances that ensured no one branch would reign supreme. The three branches are shown in a diagram below:



## Research Questions



- What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?
- How many representatives are there in each branch of Congress?
- Which branch of Government would be responsible for making the decisions?
  - I. To declare war
  - II. To raise taxes
  - III. To decide that a law is against the constitution

**Six Foundational Principles.** The Constitution is built on six basic principles. These are deeply ingrained in the mindset and landscape of US Government. Research what each of the terms means and in no more than three sentences, provide a definition in the space below.

- **Popular Sovereignty –**
  
- **Limited Government –**
  
- **Separation of Powers –**
  
- **Checks and Balances –**
  
- **Judicial Review –**
  
- **Federalism - Political Processes**

## Political Parties; Democrat Vs Republican

How do the two political parties in America differ? Based on the election of 1860, complete the table below.

 <b>Democratic Party</b>	 <b>Republican Party</b>
<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
<b>Views towards Slavery</b>	<b>Views towards Slavery</b>
<b>Divisions in the party</b>	<b>Divisions in the party</b>
<b>Regional Support</b>	<b>Regional Support</b>
<b>Key policies</b>	<b>Key policies</b>
<b>Modern Day Policy (place a tick if the Democrat Party support the policy)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abortion restrictions</li><li>• Capital punishment</li><li>• Civilian gun control</li><li>• Immigration restrictions</li><li>• Legalization of same-sex marriages</li><li>• Limiting private financing of campaigns</li><li>• Progressive taxation</li><li>• Universal government health care</li></ul>	<b>Modern Day Policy (place a tick if the Republican Party support the policy)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abortion restrictions</li><li>• Capital punishment</li><li>• Civilian gun control</li><li>• Immigration restrictions</li><li>• Legalization of same-sex marriages</li><li>• Limiting private financing of campaigns</li><li>• Progressive taxation</li><li>• Universal government health care</li></ul>

## The American Civil War

Websites you might find useful: <https://www.britannica.com/event/American-Civil-War>

[https://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/american-civil-war-history#section\\_2](https://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/american-civil-war-history#section_2)

1. BRIEFLY outline the main causes of the American Civil War. Colour code these into at least 3 categories (you need to decide these)
2. Create a BRIEF timeline of what happened during the American Civil War
3. Why did the north win the American Civil War?

# Reading and resources list

1K The Making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975

## Key texts for classroom and individual study

- H Brogan, *The Penguin History of the United States of America*, Penguin, 2001
- P Clements, *Prosperity, Depression and the New Deal: 1890-1954*, Hodder, 2008
- J de Pennington, *Modern America: 1865 to the Present*, Hodder, 2005,
- D Murphy et al, *Flagship History - United States 1776-1992*, Collins, 2001
- C Rowe, *AQA History AS: Unit 1 - USA, 1890-1945*, Nelson Thornes, 2008

## Useful books for students

- P Boyer, *American History: A Very Short Introduction*, OUP, 2012
- P Clements, *Prosperity, Depression and the New Deal*, Hodder, 2005
- R Dallek, *Hail to the Chief*, Oxford University Press, 1996
- J Diggins, *The Proud Decades 1941-60*, Norton, 1989
- H Evans, *The American Century*, Random House, 1998
- N Ferguson, *Colossus*, Penguin, 2004
- D Reynolds, *America: Empire of Liberty*, Penguin, 2010
- H Zinn, *The Twentieth Century: A People's History*, SOS Free Stock, 2003

## Reference books

- M Adams, *The Best War Ever*, Johns Hopkins UP, 1993
- C Calhoun (ed.), *The Gilded Age*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2007
- D Carter, *The Politics of Rage*, OUP, 1996
- S Cashman, *America in the Gilded Age*, NYU Press, 1993
- R Daniels, *Coming to America*, Harper Collins, 2002
- M Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights*, Princeton University Press, 2011
- D Farber, *The Age of Great Dreams: America in the Sixties*, Hill & Wang, 1994
- E Foner, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution*, HarperCollins, 2002
- S Fraser, *Every Man a Speculator: A History of Wall Street*, Harper, 2006,
- R Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform: From Bryan to FDR*, Random House, 1988
- M Isserman & M Kazin, *America Divided, The Civil War of the 1960s*, OUP, 2007

## Component 2S: Depth study: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042/subject-content/2s-the-making-of-modern-britain,-19512007>

This section of the course is a study in depth of the key political, economic, social and international changes which helped to mould Britain in the second half of the 20th century. It explores concepts such as government and opposition, class, social division and cultural change. It encourages students to reflect on Britain's changing place in the world as well as the interrelationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival. The course begins in 1951, when Winston Churchill returns to power having been surprisingly ousted in a landslide victory for Clement Attlee's Labour Part in the post-war election of July 1945. To understand the situation in 1951, it is important to also understand the election result in 1945, and Attlee's government from 1945-1951. To do this:

### **Before you begin**

1. You need to find the meaning/definitions of these key political terms:

- Left Wing and Right Wing \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Socialist \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- First past the post \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Conservative Party \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Labour Party \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Liberal Party \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Welfare State \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **The 1945 General Election**

2. Read this article on the 1945 election on the BBC website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/special/politics97/background/pastelec/ge45.shtml> along with the Wikipedia page on the election [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1945\\_United\\_Kingdom\\_general\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1945_United_Kingdom_general_election). Then, for further analysis, read this article by Paul Addison [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/election\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/election_01.shtml).
3. As you read the articles, note down your answers to these three questions:
- Why did Labour win in 1945?

- Why did the Conservatives lose in 1945?
- Why was the 1945 election so significant? (Think about the long term impact of Labour's victory – this will become clearer once you have learned about Attlee's government so you may want to come back to this question)

### The Attlee Government 1945-1951

4. Watch the first episode of Andrew Marr's 'The History of Modern Britain' entitled 'Advance Britannia'.  
<https://bishopveseygrammarschool.sharepoint.com/sites/BVGS-Subjects/Hi/Staff%20Resources/Forms/Folder%20View.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FBVGS%2DSubjects%2FHi%2FStaff%20Resources%2FYear%2012%20GB%2FEp%201%20Advance%20Britannia%20%2D%20FOR%20SHAREPOINT%20COMPLETE%2Emp4&parent=%2Fsites%2FBVGS%2DSubjects%2FHi%2FStaff%20Resources%2FYear%2012%20GB&p=true&ga=1> If you can't access the video, send an email to [d.everett@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:d.everett@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk) and I should be able to give you access.
5. This will give you essential background knowledge for the start of the course, and should enable you to judge how effective the Attlee governments were, which will be the key question for your first lesson. **As you watch, complete the mindmap below.** Use different colours for each section. You then need to read the extract from the Connell Short eGuide to Britain after WW2 (see below). You can use this to add to your mindmap, make separate notes or annotate/highlight it.

### Beyond 1951

6. To help you get an overview of what happened between 1951 and 2007 (the years covered by your course), and to start assessing the governments of the period, write two paragraphs to answer this question:

**“Clement Attlee is the greatest post-war British Prime Minister.” How far do you agree with this statement?**

To help you out, here are a few links:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/theresa-may-resigns-how-long-prime-minister-ranking-legacy-history-brexite-a8929116.html>

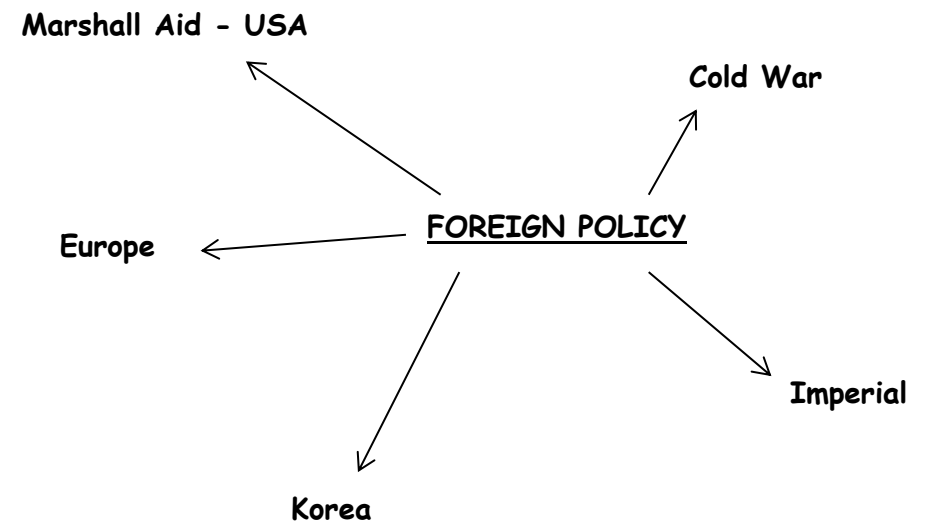
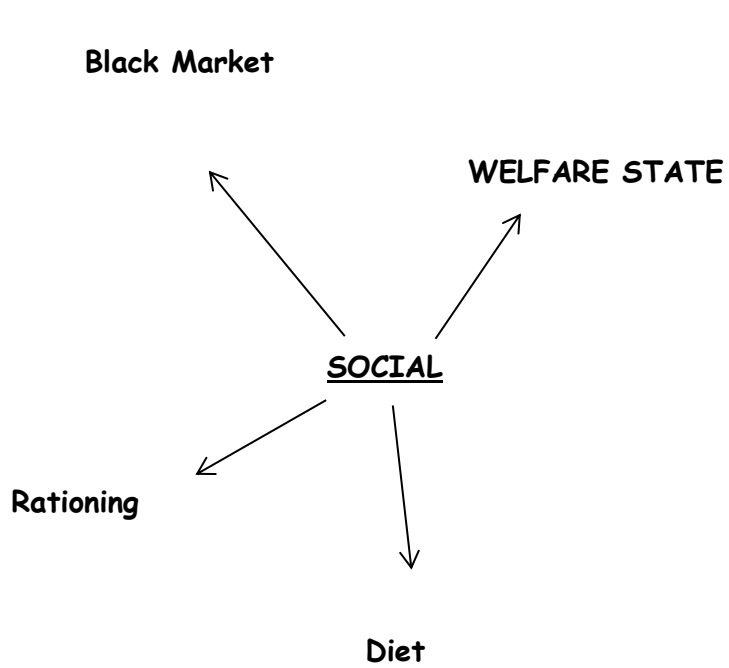
<https://www.leeds.ac.uk/news/article/3930/britains-post-war-prime-ministers-ranked-by-politics-experts>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical\\_rankings\\_of\\_prime\\_ministers\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_rankings_of_prime_ministers_of_the_United_Kingdom)

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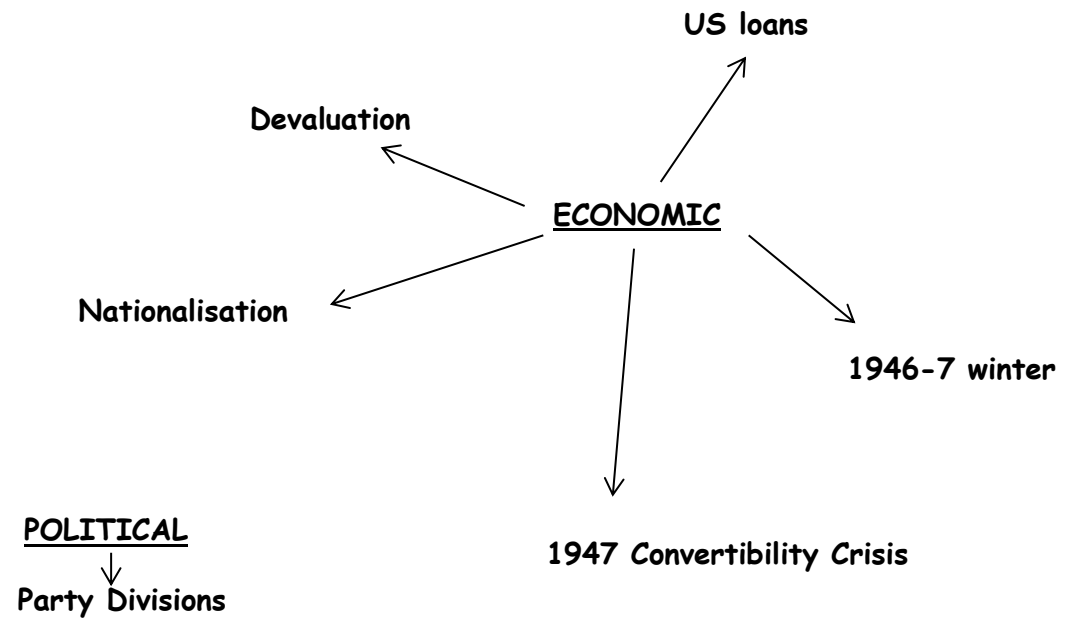
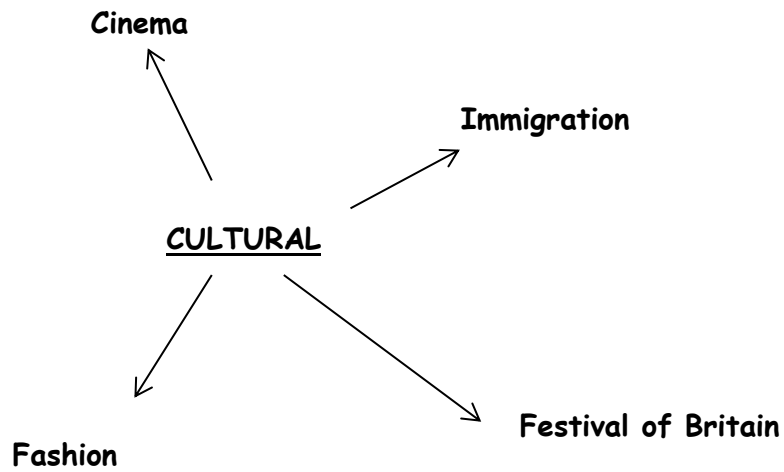
- Churchill can only be ranked based on his 1951-1955 premiership, not what he did as Prime Minister during WW2, as this is about who is the best POSTWAR Prime Minister.





**Attlee Governments, 1945-51**

General - comments made re.  
GB post-war:



**Adapted from Connell Short eGuide to Britain after WW2. You can use this to add to your mindmap, make separate notes or annotate/highlight it.**

In 1945, Britain emerged from the most devastating war it had ever seen. Though victorious, the country was severely in debt, had suffered major structural damage from German bombing, and found its world status overshadowed by the rise of the United States and Soviet Union as superpowers. Yet the 20 years that followed were some of the most successful in British history. The creation of the welfare state marked a new chapter in the relationship between state and society, providing Britons with greater economic security than ever before. The 1940s were a time of austerity, but 1950s were a time of affluence; Jim Tomlinson describes the 1950s and 1960s as “the most successful period of British economic performance ever”. Real wages grew rapidly, while unemployment never rose above 2%, the lowest level of any sustained period between 1870 and 2000.

In the wider world, Britain found itself in a more challenging position. The 1956 Suez Crisis dramatized “the limits of post-war British power”. The decision to abstain from discussions about European integration left Britain side-lined, beginning the troubled relationship with Europe that continues to the present day. Decolonisation brought independence to much of the empire in a somewhat painful, haphazard process forced more by pragmatism than enlightened political choices. Despite this, the development of British nuclear weapons in the 1950s ensured the country’s continued status as a major world power.

**Why did Labour win the election in 1945?**

The general election of 5<sup>th</sup> July 1945 delivered a sweeping landslide to Clement Attlee’s Labour Party, which attained 393 seats to the Conservatives’ 197. The result astonished many, in light of Churchill’s huge wartime popularity, but it reflected the population’s growing mistrust of Conservative policy-making, and the association of the party with the Great Depression and the appeasement of Germany in the 1930s. Churchill also did himself a disservice during the election campaign by claiming during a radio broadcast that Labour would have to introduce “some form of Gestapo” to govern Britain, a comment that, unsurprisingly proved deeply unpopular. By contrast, under the slogan “Let us Face the Future Together”, Labour promised people greater economic security, ranging from full employment to the adoption of the 1942 Beveridge Report’s recommendation for comprehensive, ‘cradle to grave’ social insurance.

Labour also committed itself to the nationalisation of major utilities, such as gas, electricity, transport and the Bank of England. Though, nominally, the party delivered on this promise, government responsibility for utilities remained a grey area during Labour’s incumbency- most of them were run by semi-autonomous public corporations rather than directly by the government.

Labour’s greatest success, once in power, was the creation of the welfare state. British public opinion had shifted to the left during the war. The wartime coalition government responded by expanding state welfare provision, promising free secondary education up to the age of 15 in 1944 and the provision of family allowances in 1945. After the war, Labour expanded on this foundation, raising the school leaving age to 15 in 1947, for instance. Its efforts culminated in 1948, with the creation of three organisations that changed the face of the nation: The National Health Service, National Insurance, with individuals paying a flat rate insurance contribution to be eligible for flat rate pensions, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, and funeral benefit; and National Assistance, giving financial help to those with no other source of income.

Historians have, broadly, perceived these events as an extraordinary and successful new departure. Peter Baldwin claimed they were “an historic event equivalent in importance and stature to the French and Russian Revolutions”. However, politically right-wing commentators, such as Corelli Barnett, have contended that excessive spending on these welfare institutions contributed to Britain’s economic decline.

The development of infrastructure for the new welfare state was hampered by economic conditions. Benefit levels remained low, and hospital and education services operated from run-down buildings with little imminent prospect of renovation. House building also stagnated: despite war damage and population growth, between 1944 and the end

of 1947 fewer than 200,000 permanent dwellings were built. From 1948 to 1951, only 200,000 further homes were added each year. By 1951, there was a shortfall of a million houses. This reflected a post-war economy in serious crisis. The historian Martin Francis writes that between 1945 and 1951 “Britain walked on a knife edge between economic recovery and collapse.” During the war, Britain had diverted exports into the war effort (exports were a third of their 1939 level in 1945), sold off foreign assets and accumulated large debts (sterling balances) with India, Egypt, and other colonies. The result was a post-war crisis in the balance of payments. The government tried to solve this by boosting exports and reducing imports. It did this by prioritising the building of industrial and commercial buildings, and imposing a policy of domestic austerity to reduce consumption, including continuing wartime rationing. Prime Minister Clement Attlee warned: “It is vital to realise that we have come through difficult years and we are going to face difficult years and to get through them we will require no less effort, no less unselfishness and no less work than was needed to bring us through the war.”

Other crises hampered Britain’s recovery. The Lend-Lease agreement with the United States was terminated on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1945. The large quantity of goods still in transit from America had now to be paid for in dollars, which was a great economic shock. Breathing room was gained by the Anglo-American loan agreement (1946), by which Britain received \$3.75 billion (equivalent to \$57 billion today) from the US. But there was a hugely problematic condition with the loan. Until 1947, foreign nations were not allowed to change their sterling balances into other currencies, as it was feared that this would drain Britain’s reserves. Under the terms of the American loan, however, sterling had to become convertible by 1947. As soon as currency conversion was permitted, holders of sterling balances rushed to exchange them for dollars. Within a month, nearly a billion dollars had been drawn from Britain’s dollar reserves. This crisis forced the government to abandon the permission it had given for currency conversion and to make huge cuts to its expenditure.

In spite of this, economic historian Catherine Schenk argues that by 1948 the British economy had begun “to turn the corner from austerity to growth”. In large part, this was due to yet another American initiative: as part of the Marshall Plan to help rebuild European economies after the war the US gave Britain around \$2.7 million between 1948 and 1950. In addition, in 1949 the pound was devalued from \$4.03 to \$2.80. Although this was damaging to the attempt to maintain sterling as a global reserve currency (which depended on maintaining the value of sterling), it made British exports far more competitive abroad, especially so since Germany and Japan had yet to reorganise their economies to compete effectively. The year 1948 also saw the “Bonfire of Controls”, where many restrictions on consumer goods, industrial equipment and foreign supplies were lifted.

### Why did Labour lose the election in 1951?

Historians widely agree that by 1950 Labour had run out of steam. Its “reforming impulse had largely atrophied”; it fought the general elections in 1950 and 1951 in an “ideological cul-de-sac”. Labour was suffering from internal divisions and an ageing cabinet, losing many key members of the government through ill health. After the great success of the welfare state, its policies became uninspiring, with the promise of nationalising the sugar, cement and water industries one of the main planks of its election campaign. The party was a victim of its own success, unable to make promises which matched its past achievements.

Moreover, the war between North and South Korea- which began in 1950 and involved Britain through its membership of the United Nations- put pressure on the country’s still shaky economy. This resulted in cuts in domestic spending. Most contentiously, charges were introduced for dental care and spectacles, causing Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, and the man who had spearheaded the creation of the NHS, to resign angrily from his post.

Meanwhile, the Conservative Party had undergone an important reorganisation. In 1947 it published the Industrial Charter, a policy statement in which the party accepted many of the economic and social policies of Attlee’s government and made it clear that, once elected, it would not dismantle the welfare state. In addition to this, the Conservative election campaign took advantage of the electorate’s dislike of austerity. Despite the “Bonfire of Controls”, food and coal rationing continued (they were not ended until 1954 and 1958 respectively), making popular the Conservatives’ rally cry that they would “set the people free” from controls. Although some attributed the eventual

Conservative victory purely to “militant housewives and resentment from women about rationing”, historian Andrew Thorpe finds this “somewhat wide of the mark”: the largest group of voters Labour lost were men.

The final nails in Labour’s coffin were changes to the electoral system. Some constituency boundaries were moved in 1949, disadvantaging Labour. The Liberal Party, meanwhile-already in electoral decline- was caught out by the financial cost of a second election. In 1950 it had put up 475 candidates, but could only afford 109 in 1951. Former Liberal voters tended to vote for the Conservatives, a tendency strengthened by various measures taken by the Conservatives to ally with local Liberal associations.

The general election of 1950 was a victory for Labour-but only just. It won a majority of five seats, so small that Attlee felt there would shortly have to be another election. A date- 25<sup>th</sup> October 1951- was chosen, putting paid to the king’s proposed tour of Africa as he was unwilling to leave the country while the ruling party had such a small majority. The second election was a misjudgement on Labour’s part: the Conservatives won 321 seats to Labour’s 295. Although their majority was narrow, only 17 seats, and Labour had polled a larger proportion of the popular vote, the Conservatives were in power again. They would not be toppled until 1964.

# Reading and resources list

## 2S The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

### Key texts for classroom and individual study

- C Rowe, *The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007*, Nelson Thornes, 2009
- M Lynch, *Britain 1945-2007*, Hodder, 2008
- S Waller, *A Sixties Social Revolution? British Society 1959-1975*, Nelson Thornes, 2008

### Useful books for students

- S J Lee, *Aspects of British Political History 1914-1995*, Routledge, 1998
- N Lowe, *Mastering Modern Britain*, Palgrave, 1998
- **A Marr, *A History of Modern Britain*, Macmillan, 2007** (This is the best book to cover the whole course)
- A Mayer, *Women in Britain 1900-2000*, Hodder, 2002
- D Murphy (ed), *Britain 1914-2000*, Collins, 2000
- M Pearce, *British Political History 1867-200: Democracy and Decline*, Routledge, 2001
- C Rowe, *Britain 1929-1998*, Heinemann, 2004

### Reference books

- G Bernstein, *The Myth of Decline: The Rise of Britain Since 1945*, Pimlico, 2004
- D Childs, *Britain Since 1945*, Routledge, 1997
- P Clarke, *Hope and Glory: Britain 1900-1990*, Penguin, 1996
- P Hennessy, *The Prime Minister: The Office and its Holders Since 1945*, Penguin, 2000
- P Hennessy, *Having It So Good: Britain in the Fifties*, Macmillan, 2007
- K Jefferys, *Finest & Darkest Hours*, Atlantic, 2000
- S Jenkins, *Thatcher & Sons: A Revolution in Three Acts*, Penguin, 2007
- P Johnson, *20<sup>th</sup> Century Britain: Economic, Social and Cultural Change*, Longman, 1994
- A Marwick, *The Sixties*, OUP, 1998
- D McKittrick & D McVea, *Making Sense of the Troubles*, Penguin, 2001
- K Morgan, *The People's Peace: British History 1945-1990*, OUP, 1992
- A Rawnsley, *The End of the Party: The Rise and Fall of New Labour*, Penguin, 2010
- A Seldon (ed), *Blair's Britain 1997-2007*, Cambridge, 2007
- D Sandbrook, *Never Had It So Good: A History of Britain from Suez to the Beatles*, Abacus, 2010
- D Sandbrook, *White Heat: A Cultural History of Britain in the Sixties*, Abacus, 2009
- D Sandbrook, *State of Emergency: The Way We Were: Britain, 1970–1974*, 2010
- D Sandbrook, *Seasons in the Sun: The Battle for Britain, 1974-1979*, 2012
- D Sandbrook, *Who Dares Wins: Britain 1979-82*, 2019
- N Tiratsoo (ed), *From Blitz to Blair*, Penguin, 1999
- R Winder, *Bloody Foreigners: The Story of Immigration to Britain*, Abacus 2004

### Biographies and first-hand accounts

- A Campbell, *The Blair Years: Extracts from the Alastair Campbell Diaries*, Arrow, 2008
- J Cole, *As It Seemed To Me*, Phoenix, 1995
- C Beckett, *Thatcher*, Haus, 2006
- F Beckett, *Harold Macmillan*, Haus, 2006
- D MacShane, *Edward Heath*, Haus, 2006
- J Major, *John Major: The Autobiography*, Penguin, 2000,
- P Routledge, *Harold Wilson*, Haus, 2006
- J Sergeant, *Maggie: Her Fatal Legacy*, Pan, 2005
- M Temple, *Tony Blair*, Haus, 2006

### Visual sources and websites

- Andrew Marr's *History of Modern Britain*, DVD 2entertain, 2009
- <http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday>