

Country: United Kingdom

Years: 1945 - 1950

Head of government: Prime Minister Clement Richard Attlee

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the Labour Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Labour Party's (LAB) ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party's ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government's ideology as "Center-left" (-.833) in 1970. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing "Labour Party. An evolutionary socialist party in basic doctrine and tradition, the Labour Party (founded in 1900) has moved to the center over the past decade but continues to reflect the often conflicting views of trade unions, doctrinaire socialists, and intellectuals."

Years: 1951 - 1954

Head of government: Prime Minister Winston Churchill

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Conservative Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Conservative Party's (CON) ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the Conservative Party's ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify head of government's ideology as "Center-right" (1.434) in 1970. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Conservative Party as rightist, writing "Conservative Party... Following the party's return to power in May 1979, a rift developed between moderate members (derogatively styled "wets") and those supporting Thatcher's stringent monetary and economic policies; through the 1980s prominent wets were gradually dropped from the government, while others came to terms with "Thatcherism." The party's successful 1983 campaign manifesto called for, among other things, tough laws to curb illegal strikes and privatization of state-owned industry."

Years: 1955 - 1956

Head of government: Prime Minister Robert Anthony Eden

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Conservative Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Conservative Party's (CON) ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the Conservative Party's ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify head of government's ideology as "Center-right" (1.434) in 1970. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies

the Conservative Party as rightist, writing “Conservative Party... Following the party’s return to power in May 1979, a rift developed between moderate members (derogatively styled “wets”) and those supporting Thatcher’s stringent monetary and economic policies; through the 1980s prominent wets were gradually dropped from the government, while others came to terms with “Thatcherism.” The party’s successful 1983 campaign manifesto called for, among other things, tough laws to curb illegal strikes and privatization of state-owned industry.”

Years: 1957 - 1962

Head of government: Prime Minister Maurice Harold Macmillan

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Conservative Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Conservative Party’s (CON) ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the Conservative Party’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify head of government’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.434) in 1970. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Conservative Party as rightist, writing “Conservative Party... Following the party’s return to power in May 1979, a rift developed between moderate members (derogatively styled “wets”) and those supporting Thatcher’s stringent monetary and economic policies; through the 1980s prominent wets were gradually dropped from the government, while others came to terms with “Thatcherism.” The party’s successful 1983 campaign manifesto called for, among other things, tough laws to curb illegal strikes and privatization of state-owned industry.”

Years: 1963

Head of government: Prime Minister Alexander Frederick Douglas-Home

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Conservative Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Conservative Party’s (CON) ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the Conservative Party’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify head of government’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.434) in 1970. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Conservative Party as rightist, writing “Conservative Party... Following the party’s return to power in May 1979, a rift developed between moderate members (derogatively styled “wets”) and those supporting Thatcher’s stringent monetary and economic policies; through the 1980s prominent wets were gradually dropped from the government, while others came to terms with “Thatcherism.” The party’s successful 1983 campaign manifesto called for, among other things, tough laws to curb illegal strikes and privatization of state-owned industry.”

Years: 1964 - 1969

Head of government: Prime Minister James Harold Wilson

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the Labour Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Labour Party's (LAB) ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party's ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government's ideology as "Center-left" (-.833) in 1970. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing "Labour Party. An evolutionary socialist party in basic doctrine and tradition, the Labour Party (founded in 1900) has moved to the center over the past decade but continues to reflect the often conflicting views of trade unions, doctrinaire socialists, and intellectuals."

Years: 1970 - 1973

Head of government: Prime Minister Edward Richard George Heath

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Conservative Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Conservative Party's (CON) ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the Conservative Party's ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify head of government's ideology as "Center-right" (1.434) in 1970. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Conservative Party as rightist, writing "Conservative Party... Following the party's return to power in May 1979, a rift developed between moderate members (derogatively styled "wets") and those supporting Thatcher's stringent monetary and economic policies; through the 1980s prominent wets were gradually dropped from the government, while others came to terms with "Thatcherism." The party's successful 1983 campaign manifesto called for, among other things, tough laws to curb illegal strikes and privatization of state-owned industry."

Years: 1974 - 1975

Head of government: Prime Minister James Harold Wilson

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the Labour Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Labour Party's (LAB) ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party's ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government's ideology as "Center-left" (-.833) in 1974. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing "Labour Party. An evolutionary socialist party in basic doctrine and tradition, the Labour Party (founded in 1900) has moved to the center over the past

decade but continues to reflect the often conflicting views of trade unions, doctrinaire socialists, and intellectuals.”

Years: 1976 - 1978

Head of government: Prime Minister Leonard James Callaghan

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the Labour Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Labour Party's (LAB) ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party's ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government's ideology as “Center-left” (-.833) in 1974. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing “Labour Party. An evolutionary socialist party in basic doctrine and tradition, the Labour Party (founded in 1900) has moved to the center over the past decade but continues to reflect the often conflicting views of trade unions, doctrinaire socialists, and intellectuals.”

Years: 1979 - 1989

Head of government: Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Conservative Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Conservative Party's (CON) ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the Conservative Party's ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government's ideology as “Right” (2.005) in 1979, 1983 and 1987. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Conservative Party as rightist, writing “Conservative Party... Following the party's return to power in May 1979, a rift developed between moderate members (derogatively styled “wets”) and those supporting Thatcher's stringent monetary and economic policies; through the 1980s prominent wets were gradually dropped from the government, while others came to terms with “Thatcherism.” The party's successful 1983 campaign manifesto called for, among other things, tough laws to curb illegal strikes and privatization of state-owned industry.”

Years: 1990 - 1996

Head of government: Prime Minister John Major

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Conservative Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Conservative Party's (CON) ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the Conservative Party's ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government's ideology as

“Right” (2.005) in 1987 and “Center-right” (1.641) in 1992. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Conservative Party as rightist, writing “Conservative Party... Following the party’s return to power in May 1979, a rift developed between moderate members (derogatively styled “wets”) and those supporting Thatcher’s stringent monetary and economic policies; through the 1980s prominent wets were gradually dropped from the government, while others came to terms with “Thatcherism.” The party’s successful 1983 campaign manifesto called for, among other things, tough laws to curb illegal strikes and privatization of state-owned industry.”

Years: 1997 - 2006

Head of government: Prime Minister Anthony Blair

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the Labour Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Labour Party’s (LAB) ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government’s ideology as “Center” (-.2) in 1997, 2001, and 2005. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government’s ideology as “Some visible disagreement” in 1987, 2001 and 2005. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing “Labour Party. An evolutionary socialist party in basic doctrine and tradition, the Labour Party (founded in 1900) has moved to the center over the past decade but continues to reflect the often conflicting views of trade unions, doctrinaire socialists, and intellectuals.”

Years: 2007 - 2009

Head of government: Prime Minister Gordon Brown

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the Labour Party. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Labour Party’s (LAB) ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government’s ideology as “Center” (-.2) in 2005. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government’s ideology as “Some visible disagreement” in 2005. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing “Labour Party. An evolutionary socialist party in basic doctrine and tradition, the Labour Party (founded in 1900) has moved to the center over the past decade but continues to reflect the often conflicting views of trade unions, doctrinaire socialists, and intellectuals.”

Years: 2010 - 2015

Head of government: Prime Minister David Cameron

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Conservative Party. Political Handbook (2015:1539) identifies party as the Conservative Party, writing that “attention in early in 2006 focused on ... the collateral emergence of the new Conservative leader, David Cameron”. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Conservative Party’s (CON) ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the Conservative Party’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government’s ideology as “Center-right” (.884) in 2010 and 2015. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Conservative Party as rightist, writing “Conservative Party... Following the party’s return to power in May 1979, a rift developed between moderate members (derogatively styled “wets”) and those supporting Thatcher’s stringent monetary and economic policies; through the 1980s prominent wets were gradually dropped from the government, while others came to terms with “Thatcherism.” The party’s successful 1983 campaign manifesto called for, among other things, tough laws to curb illegal strikes and privatization of state-owned industry.”

Years: 2016 - 2018

Head of government: Prime Minister Theresa May

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Conservative Party. Encyclopedia Britannica (2018) identifies party as Conservative Party. DPI identifies ideology of Conservative Party as right. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Conservative Party’s (CON) ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government’s ideology as “Center-right” (.884) in 2015 and “Center-right (1.613) in 2017. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Conservative Party as rightist, writing “Conservative Party... Following the party’s return to power in May 1979, a rift developed between moderate members (derogatively styled “wets”) and those supporting Thatcher’s stringent monetary and economic policies; through the 1980s prominent wets were gradually dropped from the government, while others came to terms with “Thatcherism.” The party’s successful 1983 campaign manifesto called for, among other things, tough laws to curb illegal strikes and privatization of state-owned industry.”

Years: 2019-2020

Head of government: Prime Minister Boris Johnson

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. Varieties of Democracy identifies

party affiliation as Conservatives. Political Handbook of the World (2018-2019) identifies party affiliation as the Conservative Party. DPI identifies ideology of Conservative Party as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government's ideology as "Right" (1.998) in 2019. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing, "Following the party's return to power in May 1979, a rift developed between moderate members (derogatively styled "wets") and those supporting Thatcher's stringent monetary and economic policies; through the 1980s prominent wets were gradually dropped from the government, while others came to terms with "Thatcherism." The party's successful 1983 campaign manifesto called for, among other things, tough laws to curb illegal strikes and privatization of state-owned industry." Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Conservative Party's (CON) ideology as rightist. Perspective Monde (2021) corroborates party affiliation as Conservative Party and identifies the party as rightist. World Statesmen (2021) corroborates party affiliation as Conservative Party and identifies the party as center-right.

References:

- Armingeon, Klaus, Virigina Wenger, Fiona Wiedemeier, Christian Isler, Laura Knöpfel, David Weisstanner and Sarah Engler. 2019. Supplement to the Comparative Political Data Set – Government Composition 1960-2017. Bern: Institute of Political Science, University of Berne.
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- World Statesmen. 2020. "United Kingdom".
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