Country: New Zealand

Years: 1945 - 1948

Head of government: Prime Minister Peter Fraser

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand Labour Party (*Rōpū Reipa o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-.991) in 1972. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing “New Zealand Labour Party (Labour Party)… the Labour Party initiated much of the legislation that created the New Zealand welfare state. However, in a radical policy shift compelled by international economic changes, the post-1984 Labour administration of David Lange introduced free-market policies, including privatization of state enterprises, deregulation of commercial activities, and elimination of subsidies… In December 1993 a Labour caucus ousted Moore in favor of his deputy, Helen Clark, a leader of the party’s left wing” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Years: 1949 - 1956

Head of government: Prime Minister Sidney George Holland

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand National Party (*Rōpū Nāhinara o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the National Party’s ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.1) in 1972. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist, writing “New Zealand National Party (National Party)… A party of the center-right… National was traditionally committed to the support of personal initiative, private enterprise, and minimum government regulation. However, the distinction between right and left blurred as Labour shifted to free-market policies, and the 1975–1984 National government led by Sir Robert Muldoon endorsed selective state intervention in the economy, including subsidies for farmers” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Years: 1957 - 1959

Head of government: Prime Minister Walter Nash

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand Labour Party (*Rōpū Reipa o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-.991) in 1972. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing “New Zealand Labour Party (Labour Party)… the Labour Party initiated much of the legislation that created the New Zealand welfare state. However, in a radical policy shift compelled by international economic changes, the post-1984 Labour administration of David Lange introduced free-market policies, including privatization of state enterprises, deregulation of commercial activities, and elimination of subsidies… In December 1993 a Labour caucus ousted Moore in favor of his deputy, Helen Clark, a leader of the party’s left wing” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Years: 1960 - 1971

Head of government: Prime Minister Keith Jacka Holyoake

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand National Party (*Rōpū Nāhinara o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the National Party’s ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.1) in 1972. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist, writing “New Zealand National Party (National Party)… A party of the center-right… National was traditionally committed to the support of personal initiative, private enterprise, and minimum government regulation. However, the distinction between right and left blurred as Labour shifted to free-market policies, and the 1975–1984 National government led by Sir Robert Muldoon endorsed selective state intervention in the economy, including subsidies for farmers” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Years: 1972 - 1973

Head of government: Prime Minister Norman Eric Kirk

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand Labour Party (*Rōpū Reipa o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-.991) in 1972. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing “New Zealand Labour Party (Labour Party)… the Labour Party initiated much of the legislation that created the New Zealand welfare state. However, in a radical policy shift compelled by international economic changes, the post-1984 Labour administration of David Lange introduced free-market policies, including privatization of state enterprises, deregulation of commercial activities, and elimination of subsidies… In December 1993 a Labour caucus ousted Moore in favor of his deputy, Helen Clark, a leader of the party’s left wing” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Year: 1974

Head of government: Prime Minister Norman Wallace Edward Rowling

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand Labour Party (*Rōpū Reipa o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-.991) in 1972. DPI identifies the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing “New Zealand Labour Party (Labour Party)… the Labour Party initiated much of the legislation that created the New Zealand welfare state. However, in a radical policy shift compelled by international economic changes, the post-1984 Labour administration of David Lange introduced free-market policies, including privatization of state enterprises, deregulation of commercial activities, and elimination of subsidies… In December 1993 a Labour caucus ousted Moore in favor of his deputy, Helen Clark, a leader of the party’s left wing” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Years: 1975 - 1983

Head of government: Prime Minister Robert David Muldoon

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand National Party (*Rōpū Nāhinara o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the National Party’s ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center” (.424) in 1975, “Center-right” (.754) in 1978 and “Center” (.398) in 1981. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist, writing “New Zealand National Party (National Party)… A party of the center-right… National was traditionally committed to the support of personal initiative, private enterprise, and minimum government regulation. However, the distinction between right and left blurred as Labour shifted to free-market policies, and the 1975–1984 National government led by Sir Robert Muldoon endorsed selective state intervention in the economy, including subsidies for farmers” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Years: 1984 - 1988

Head of government: Prime Minister David Russell Lange

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand Labour Party (*Rōpū Reipa o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center” (.527) in 1984 and “Center-right” (1.236) in 1987. In V-Party (2020), 3 expert identified head of government party’s cohesion as “A high level of visible disagreement" in 1984 and 1987. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing “New Zealand Labour Party (Labour Party)… the Labour Party initiated much of the legislation that created the New Zealand welfare state. However, in a radical policy shift compelled by international economic changes, the post-1984 Labour administration of David Lange introduced free-market policies, including privatization of state enterprises, deregulation of commercial activities, and elimination of subsidies… In December 1993 a Labour caucus ousted Moore in favor of his deputy, Helen Clark, a leader of the party’s left wing” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.” Rulers.org (2021a) states, “Lange, David (Russell)… Sir Wallace Rowling ceded the party leadership to him in February 1983… At home, he initiated radical free-market reforms.” Encyclopedia Britannica (2020) states, “Strongly influenced by his father, a physician noted for his socialist views, Lange grew up in a working-class suburb of Auckland. After receiving a law degree from the University of Auckland, he chose to provide low-cost legal aid to the poor rather than pursue a more lucrative practice… As prime minister, Lange took various measures to deal with the economic problems he had inherited from the previous government. He introduced a number of controversial measures, most notably free-market reforms, that dramatically transformed the country’s economy.” Encyclopedia Britannica (2021) also states, “… Prime Minister David Russell Lange, suffering serious setbacks in party loyalties and public opinion, resigned in August 1989…” Sinclair et al. (2021) state, “Prime Minister Lange began to face substantial opposition within his own party, especially as a result of the privatization of state-owned enterprises, which was initiated in 1987, and over his conflict with the finance minister, Roger Douglas. Douglas was pushing for economic measures, such as a flat-scale tax system and deregulation of the labour unions, that the prime minister considered extreme. Lange dismissed Douglas in December 1988, but in August 1989, with the aim of shoring up Labour’s poor standing in the polls, Labour MPs voted to return Douglas to the cabinet. Lange resigned a few days later and was replaced by justice minister Geoffrey (Later Sir Geoffrey) Palmer.” Hayward and Shaw (2016: 11) write, “During its first term in office, the Lange administration focused on economic reform. To the surprise of some, however, Labour’s economic policy drew heavily from the playbook of right-wing (or at least center-right” economists rather than from those on the social democratic left. The economic prescription—subsequently referred to as “Rogernomics”—administered by the finance minister, Roger Douglas, and his official at the Treasury… called for liberalizing finance markets, removing controls on prices, reducing government subsidies (beginning with producers in the primary sector), and reforming the tax system…” The authors (2016: xlvi) also write, “1988 January: Lange publicly opposes flat-tax concept. Beginnings of public disagreements over policy between Lange and Douglas.” Boston and Douglas (2011: 100-101) write, “[The economic reforms enacted by the Labour government in the 1980s] followed a particular paradigm or ideological framework, being largely market orientated and liberal by nature…First of all, New Zealand was provided with a window of opportunity. This came about by an exchange-rate crisis in the middle of 1984 associated with the election, coupled with protracted economic difficulties—decades of economic decline creating a window of opportunity for people who were prepared to seize that window. In a sense, it was no longer possible to continue pursuing this approach. Something had to change… The political stream emerged when the Labour Party came to power in 1984… Had the government not had that willingness to take risks and the leadership capabilities of the people at that time, these sorts of changes would not have been possible.”

Year: 1989

Head of government: Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand Labour Party (*Rōpū Reipa o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.236) in 1987. In V-Party (2020), 3 expert identified head of government party’s cohesion as “A high level of visible disagreement" in 1987. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing “New Zealand Labour Party (Labour Party)… the Labour Party initiated much of the legislation that created the New Zealand welfare state. However, in a radical policy shift compelled by international economic changes, the post-1984 Labour administration of David Lange introduced free-market policies, including privatization of state enterprises, deregulation of commercial activities, and elimination of subsidies… In December 1993 a Labour caucus ousted Moore in favor of his deputy, Helen Clark, a leader of the party’s left wing” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.” Rulers.org (2021b) states, “Palmer, Sir Geoffrey (Winston Russell)… He declined an invitation to enter politics as a National Party candidate in Nelson in 1972, but was recruited for Labour by Wallace Edward Rowling, the party leader… With Labour out of power and Rowling defeated for the leadership by David Lange in 1983, Palmer narrowly was chosen deputy leader… As Lange’s deputy, he provided a steady hand… It was Palmer who warned his colleagues against ‘speed wobbles’ in Labour’s frantic policies based on deregulation.” Encyclopedia Britannica (2021) states, “When Prime Minister David Russell Lange, suffering serious setbacks in party loyalties and public opinion, resigned in August 1989, he nominated Palmer as his successor, and party leaders confirmed the choice. One year later, in September 1990, Palmer resigned for virtually the same reasons.”

Year: 1990 - 1996

Head of government: Prime Minister James Brendan Bolger

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand National Party (*Rōpū Nāhinara o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the National Party’s ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.127) in 1990 and “Center-right” (1.465) in 1993 and 1996. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist, writing “New Zealand National Party (National Party)… A party of the center-right… National was traditionally committed to the support of personal initiative, private enterprise, and minimum government regulation. However, the distinction between right and left blurred as Labour shifted to free-market policies, and the 1975–1984 National government led by Sir Robert Muldoon endorsed selective state intervention in the economy, including subsidies for farmers” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Years: 1997 - 1998

Head of government: Prime Minister Jennifer Mary Shipley

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand National Party (*Rōpū Nāhinara o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the National Party’s ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.465) in 1996. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist, writing “New Zealand National Party (National Party)… A party of the center-right… National was traditionally committed to the support of personal initiative, private enterprise, and minimum government regulation. However, the distinction between right and left blurred as Labour shifted to free-market policies, and the 1975–1984 National government led by Sir Robert Muldoon endorsed selective state intervention in the economy, including subsidies for farmers” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Years: 1999 - 2007

Head of government: Prime Minister Helen Elizabeth Clark

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand Labour Party (*Rōpū Reipa o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-.982) in 1999, 2002 and 2005. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing “New Zealand Labour Party (Labour Party)… the Labour Party initiated much of the legislation that created the New Zealand welfare state. However, in a radical policy shift compelled by international economic changes, the post-1984 Labour administration of David Lange introduced free-market policies, including privatization of state enterprises, deregulation of commercial activities, and elimination of subsidies… In December 1993 a Labour caucus ousted Moore in favor of his deputy, Helen Clark, a leader of the party’s left wing” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Years: 2008 - 2015

Head of government: Prime Minister John Phillip Key

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand National Party (*Rōpū Nāhinara o Aotearoa*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the National Party’s ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.096) in 2008, 2011 and 2014. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist, writing “New Zealand National Party (National Party)… A party of the center-right… National was traditionally committed to the support of personal initiative, private enterprise, and minimum government regulation. However, the distinction between right and left blurred as Labour shifted to free-market policies, and the 1975–1984 National government led by Sir Robert Muldoon endorsed selective state intervention in the economy, including subsidies for farmers” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Year: 2016

Head of government: Prime Minister Bill English

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right.CHISOLS identifies party as the New Zealand National Party (Nat). Political Handbook of the World (2018: 1058) identifies party as the New Zealand National Party (*Rōpū Nāhinara o Aotearoa*). DPI identifies National Party’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.096) in 2014. Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the National Party’s ideology as rightist. DPI identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the National Party’s ideology as rightist, writing “New Zealand National Party (National Party)… A party of the center-right… National was traditionally committed to the support of personal initiative, private enterprise, and minimum government regulation. However, the distinction between right and left blurred as Labour shifted to free-market policies, and the 1975–1984 National government led by Sir Robert Muldoon endorsed selective state intervention in the economy, including subsidies for farmers” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.”

Year: 2017- 2020

Head of government: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. Varieties of Democracy identifies party affiliation as the Labour Party. Encyclopedia Britannica (2018) identifies party as the Labour Party of New Zealand (*Rōpū Reipa o Aotearoa*). DPI identifies Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. Armingeon et al. (2019) identify the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the Labour Party’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-.975) in 2017. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the Labour Party as leftist, writing “New Zealand Labour Party (Labour Party)… the Labour Party initiated much of the legislation that created the New Zealand welfare state. However, in a radical policy shift compelled by international economic changes, the post-1984 Labour administration of David Lange introduced free-market policies, including privatization of state enterprises, deregulation of commercial activities, and elimination of subsidies… In December 1993 a Labour caucus ousted Moore in favor of his deputy, Helen Clark, a leader of the party’s left wing” and “A two-party system has long characterized New Zealand politics, with conservative and liberal policies offered by the National and Labour parties, respectively. Differences between the two narrowed considerably after World War II, and even more so with the initiation of policies by the Labour Party after its election in 1984 that introduced liberalization and deregulation reforms similar to those advocated by the National Party, thus attenuating New Zealand’s long-standing protectionist and welfare state policies.” World Statesmen (2021) and Perspective Monde (2021) corroborate party affiliation as the Labour Party and identify the party as center-left.

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