

## = The History of British Political Parties =

The History of British Political Parties , also referred to as Politico 's Guide to the History of British Political Parties , is a reference book about political parties in the United Kingdom . Written by David Boothroyd , it was published in 2001 by Politico 's Publishing Ltd and distributed in the United States by International Specialized Book Services ( ISBS ) . At the time of the book 's publication , Boothroyd worked as a researcher with Parliamentary Monitoring Services . The book contains entries on over 250 UK political parties that have participated in parliamentary elections . It is structured alphabetically by entry , with the size of each entry relative to the history and influence of the individual political party . Boothroyd includes information about the history and election statistics of each party , as well as a brief narrative . He focuses on the Conservative , Liberal , and Labour parties ; the parties with the most significant histories in British politics .

Boothroyd 's work received positive reviews in book journals . The book was recommended by The School Librarian and Choice : Current Reviews for Academic Libraries ; although the latter criticised it for not including bibliographical aids . The authors of the bibliographical work Information Sources of Political Science described it as a " handy guide " , and it was used as a reference in Third Force Politics : Liberal Democrats at the Grassroots .

## = = Contents = =

The History of British Political Parties is a comprehensive work which lists and describes over 250 political parties in the United Kingdom that have participated in parliamentary elections since 1832 . Entries are organised alphabetically , and most descriptions of the political parties span a few paragraphs or pages . Space is allotted to each entry based on the individual party 's history and influence ; 34 pages are devoted to the Conservative Party , whereas only two paragraphs are given to the Captain Beany 's New Millennium Bean Party .

Each entry contains objective information on the party including its history , address , the number of registered members , election statistics , and their email address and website if these exist . The author provides a detailed , narrative description of each party . Boothroyd writes , " Only three parties out of the 250 ... have ever formed a government in the United Kingdom . " He devotes the most discussion in the book to the Conservative , Liberal and Labour parties . The book includes cross @-@ references to enable the reader to easily locate political parties that have had changes over time .

## = = Reception = =

In a review of the book for The School Librarian , Valerie Caless wrote , " Overall , this is a thorough historical guide to the political parties , and will serve as a very useful reference book for students of both history and politics at all levels . A glossary or ' concepts ' guide would have been a bonus for the new or less patient student . " N.W. Polsby of the University of California , Berkeley reviewed the book for Choice : Current Reviews for Academic Libraries , and wrote , " The total absence of bibliographical aids is a weakness of this book . Its strengths are its plainly factual and accessible writing . This is a book to be consulted , not read straight through . Recommended at all levels . " A review in Reference & Research Book News said , " The book is intended as an affordable reference book for the general reader interested in British politics " . The History of British Political Parties was also reviewed in Parliamentary Affairs .

In the 2003 book The Times House of Commons Guide : 1929 , 1931 , 1935 , Boothroyd is mentioned as the author of The History of British Political Parties and referred to as " an elections specialist " . In the 2005 bibliographical work Information Sources of Political Science , authors Stephen W. Green , Douglas Ernest , and Frederick L. Holler described Boothroyd 's book as " a handy guide to approximately 250 British political parties , " and wrote , " Even some of the more humorous and tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek political parties are included in this handbook , such as the Official Monster Raving Loony Party " .

The book is used as a reference in the works *Third Force Politics : Liberal Democrats at the Grassroots* ( 2006 ) by Paul Whiteley , Patrick Seyd and Antony Billingham , published by Oxford University Press ; *The Logic of Pre @-@ Electoral Coalition Formation* ( 2006 ) by Sona Nadenichek Golder , published by Ohio State University Press ; and in *Posters , Propaganda , and Persuasion in Election Campaigns Around the World and Through History* ( 2008 ) by Steven A. Seidman . Nicholas Whyte of the website *Northern Ireland Access Research Knowledge ( ARK )* wrote , " For general information about political parties in Northern Ireland since 1922 , the whole of Ireland 1801 ? 1922 , England , Scotland , and Wales , I urge you to get hold of *Politico 's Guide to the History of British Political Parties* by David Boothroyd available from *Politico 's* . "