

# The Power of Prime Minister

The Case of Great Britain

Cabinet Government or, presidential Style  
Prime Ministerial Government?

Does the Prime Minister dominate the  
political system? How?

Presidentialization of Prime Ministerial  
Power and future of democracy

# Power of Prime Minister

- The extent of the power of Prime Minister.
- How does s/he exploits the power?
- Does a Prime Minister really dominate the overall political system?
- Cabinet leader, first among the equals, appoint and dismiss, responsible for his colleague's work
- Policy making
- Party leadership,
- Public spending
- National leader
- Represent the country internationally

## Sources:

1. Heffernan, Richard. Presidentialization in the United Kingdom, Prime Ministerial Power and Parliamentary Democracy. Paper prepared for delivery at the 28th Joint Sessions of Workshops of the European Consortium of Political Research, University of Copenhagen, 14 to 19 April 2000, Workshop 7: The Presidentialization of Parliamentary Democracies?
2. [To what extent does the prime minister dominate the political system ... \(slideshare.net\)](#) **(Must READ)**
3. McEwen, Nicola. 2004. **Power within the Executive**. BBC News. [BBC NEWS | Programmes | BBC Parliament | Power within the Executive](#)

- Three qualifications:
- Parliament membership, leadership, confidence, “command of the confidence of the executive he or she appoints and leads.”

Heffernan, Richard. Presidentialization in the United Kingdom, Prime Ministerial Power and Parliamentary Democracy. Paper prepared for delivery at the 28th Joint Sessions of Workshops of the European Consortium of Political Research, University of Copenhagen, 14 to 19 April 2000, Workshop 7: The Presidentialization of Parliamentary Democracies?

# Prerogatives Power

- appoint ministers;
- allocate portfolios;
- dismiss ministers;
- reallocate portfolios;
- regulate government business;
- manage the Cabinet system;
- create Cabinet Committees and appoint particular ministers to them;
- refashion central government;
- generally supervise the machinery of government;
- create peers;
- confer honours; and.
- dissolve Parliament and call a general election

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# Constraints?

- Party's most senior leaders
  - Gordon Brown in Blair Cabinet
- Capacity- skills, energy, style (Coxall and Robins, 2001).
- Core-Executive- complex institutions of govt. machine (Rhodes and Dunleavy, 1995).

Source: McEwen, Nicola. 2004. **Power within the Executive**. BBC News. [BBC NEWS | Programmes | BBC Parliament | Power within the Executive](#)

# Cont.

- Prime Ministerial dominance is dependent on
  - “electoral strength, political base, success, and a favourable profile, resources parliamentary majority, policy record, backbench and frontbench popularity, party popularity, electoral rating, news media profile, and personalization....”

Reference: Heffernan, Richard. Presidentialization in the United Kingdom, Prime Ministerial Power and Parliamentary Democracy. Paper prepared for delivery at the 28th Joint Sessions of Workshops of the European Consortium of Political Research, University of Copenhagen, 14 to 19 April 2000, Workshop 7: The Presidentialization of Parliamentary Democracies?

# Future of Democracy: The Case of Great Britain

- Democratic accountability and representation.
- Separation of powers.

- <https://www.slideshare.net/PhilosophicalInvestigations/to-what-extent-does-the-prime-minister-dominate-the-political-system-in-the-uk>
- [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/bbc\\_parliament/2561931.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/2561931.stm)