

**A Short History of England—1945-79—Simon Jenkins—The Welfare State**



**Clement Attlee**

'The new government was infused with a spirit of optimistic euphoria. It was led by Labour's coalition leader, Clement Attlee.'

**Q. What did Churchill famously say about Attlee?**

**Q. Who were parts of Attlee's cabinet?**

Foreign Office -

Minister of health -

Deputy Prime

Minister -

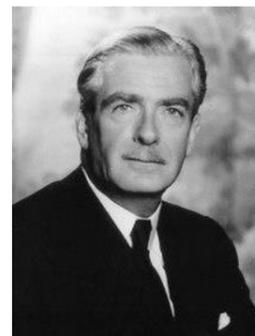
**Q. The new welfare state would take responsibility for every citizen from the...**

**Q. What did the 1944 Butler Education Act introduce?**

**Q. What did the 1946 National Insurance Act introduce?**

In 1948 came Bevan's National Health Service Act, with a free general practitioner and hospital for all.

**Q. How did Bevan overcome the doctors concerns?**



**Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden**

'At a second election in the Autumn of 1951, the Tories won a majority and Churchill returned to power at the age of 76.'

**Q. What was Churchill's government's slogan?**

**Q. What did the Tories do to the welfare state and nationalisation?**

**Q. What was the welfare consensus dubbed as?**

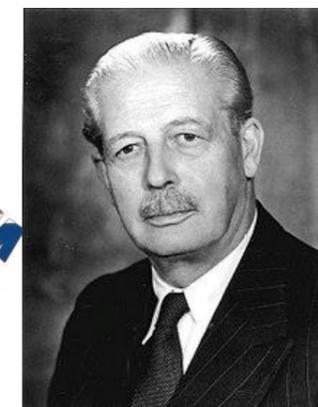
In 1956, Churchill's successor as Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, threw the country back into imperial mode.

**Q. How did Eden react to Egypt's nationalisation of the Suez Canal?**

**Q. Who was the President of Egypt at this time?**

**Q. Why was Eden forced to withdraw from Egypt?**

This was the final signal that Britain's status as a world power was over. Washington now called the shots.



**Harold Macmillan**

'Eden resigned soon after Suez and was succeeded by Harold Macmillan, another elderly survivor of the First World War, whose ironic nickname was Supermac.'

**Q. In 1957, which treaty did Macmillan's government refuse to sign?**

This treaty established a 'common market' of the principal war states of Europe however Macmillan insisted that Britain should keep its implied 'seat at the top of the table.'

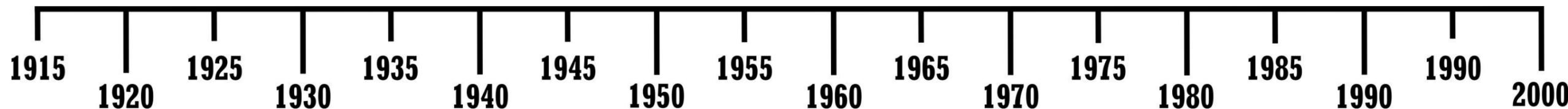
**Q. Macmillan retained power at the 1959 election. What phrase did he coin 2 years earlier?**

**Q. Which immigrant area was racial conflict a major issue in 1958?**

**Q. Which sex scandal distracted the Macmillan government in 1961?**

'The affair was manna to the nation's new satire industry. The often savage television show That Was The Week That Was began in 1962.'

**Q. In 1963, Macmillan decided to join the Common Market, but who were they vetoed by?**



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**Harold Wilson – 1<sup>st</sup> Term**

Labour's new leader, Harold Wilson, scraped to victory at the 1964 election, was quick to capitalise on the mood of the 'swinging sixties.

**Q. Wilson invigorated his party to harness the...**

**Q. What did Wilson's amended Butler Education Act encourage?**

This amendment began a major programme of social reform largely championed by liberal home secretary Roy Jenkins.

**Q. What other reforms did Jenkins introduce?**



**Q. In 1967, what did Wilson have to do to protect Britain's balance of payments and what did he say to the public?**

**Q. What did Tory MP say following the government's decision to admit 50,000 Commonwealth immigrants?**



**Edward Heath**

In 1970 the Tories returned to power under a downbeat former chief whip, Edward Heath. Economic management was now the central theme of British politics, in particular the balance of power between government and organised labour.

**Q. How did Heath signal a break with the post-war consensus?**

**Q. What happened on Bloody Sunday?**

A soaring world oil price also stoked inflation and led to running battles with the unions.

**Q. Heath had to perform an embarrassing U-turn to rescue which company and type of industries?**

Heath was then hit by a miner's strike. The cabinet responded in line with the usual customs of governments throughout the century and opted for more control. However, this led to further unrest, most seriously in energy supply.

**Q. What issues arose due to the energy supply issues?**

In desperation, the miners were conceded a 35% pay rise, ensuring the demise of half their industry in the next decade.

**Q. Heath sought an election on the issue of what?**



**Wilson's 2<sup>nd</sup> term and Callaghan**

Following Heath's failed election in which the electorate replied, 'Not You,' Wilson returned to 10 Downing Street having secured a narrow majority. However, the economic situation was dire with the government consuming almost half the national product

**Q. What was inflation running at?**

**Q. What did foreign commentators label Britain as?**

In 1976, Wilson handed 10 Downing Street to his old colleague James Callaghan, the only man to have held the offices of home secretary, foreign secretary, chancellor and prime minister.

**Q. In 1976, what did chancellor Denis Healey have to do to help save the British economy?**



Like Heath, Callaghan was beset by a trade unionism bo public sector growth to an unprecedented 12 million members.

**Q. What were the 1978-9 strikes called?**

Frozen rubbish piled up in the streets and there were improbable reports of bodies lying unburied.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 1979, Callaghan arrived back from a summit in Guadeloupe and was famously quoted as saying by the Sun, 'Crisis? What crisis?'

In March 1979, Callaghan lost his slender majority on a motion of no confidence.

