

## Background

**Labour** becomes the main opposition party.

**Liberals** are kicked to third place.

**Conservatives** are relatively the same.

## Decline of the Liberals

Pre-WWI was one of two major parties, main rival the Conservatives.

*Key figures:* Asquith and Lloyd George.

### ⚡ Causes: ⚡

- ⊙ Dangerfield said: failure to cope with threat of TU strikes, NI and suffragette militancy.

- ⊙ Bernstein said: failure to adopt to class-based voting habits.

*Most historians reject these views: would have been able to survive if not for events after 1914.*

- ⊙ Wilson said: "rampant omnibus"; split of party.

- ⊙ Coupon Election: cemented the split, alliance of LG with Tories.

- ⊙ ROTP Act 1918: allowed Labour to rise, but Liberals failed to adapt.

- ⊙ LG's Cash for Honours scheme.

- ⊙ FPTP system: favoured bi-party system.

## Rise of Labour

A minor party, until 1923 when it got more votes than Liberals and Ramsay MacDonald became the first Labour PM.

*Labour party biggest in 1929, MacDonald PM again.*

### ⚡ Causes: ⚡

- ⊙ Unified post-WWI

- ⊙ Huge growth in TU membership

- ⊙ Ran local politics well: e.g. didn't discriminate candidates by class

- ⊙ Growing working-class identity

- ⊙ Liberal split- Asquith backed Labour government but gambled and lost, MacDonald's economic policies good, would be remembered in 1929

## Consistent Conservatives

### *Conservative staying the same*

Stays consistent throughout, always one of top two biggest parties. Stability, family values.  
*Key figures:* Stanley Baldwin.

### ⚡ Causes: ⚡

- ⊙ Rebranding began in 1872 under Benjamin Disraeli. One-nation party idea. Built on by Baldwin.

- ⊙ Targeted the Liberals to win. Better alternative to combat Labour.

- ⊙ Benefitted from ROTP Act (plural voting for Oxbridge students/staff, wealthier, Tory voters), Irish independence, FPTP system.



By cescaharpham

Not published yet.

Last updated 7th December, 2017.

Page 1 of 1.

Sponsored by **CrosswordCheats.com**

Learn to solve cryptic crosswords!

<http://crosswordcheats.com>