



British Labour Party Papers, 1968-1994

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The **Labour Party** was founded in 1900 to represent the interests of trade unions and working-class voters. In political terms, it has often been characterised as a “broad church”, encompassing a range of left and centre-left viewpoints.

This collection contains **minutes of party meetings, Liaison Committee meetings, and Parliamentary Committee (Shadow Cabinet) meetings** compiled by the **Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP)** during the period **1948-1994**. These minutes cover a turbulent era in the party’s history, from the **Harold Wilson** and **James Callaghan governments** to years in opposition under **Michael Foot, Neil Kinnock, John Smith, and Tony Blair**.

The minutes provide an insight into the party’s often divided outlook on several important domestic and international political issues, including: **nationalisation** of key industries; Britain’s **trade deficit; nuclear disarmament**; Britain’s membership of the **European Economic Community (EEC)** and **European Union (EU)**; **Northern Ireland**; the **Falklands War**; the **miner’s strike**; how to respond to **Margaret Thatcher’s premiership**; the **balance of power within the party** between members, trade unions, and MPs; and the emergence of **New Labour** and the **Social Democratic Party (SDP)**.

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