



POLITICAL PARTIES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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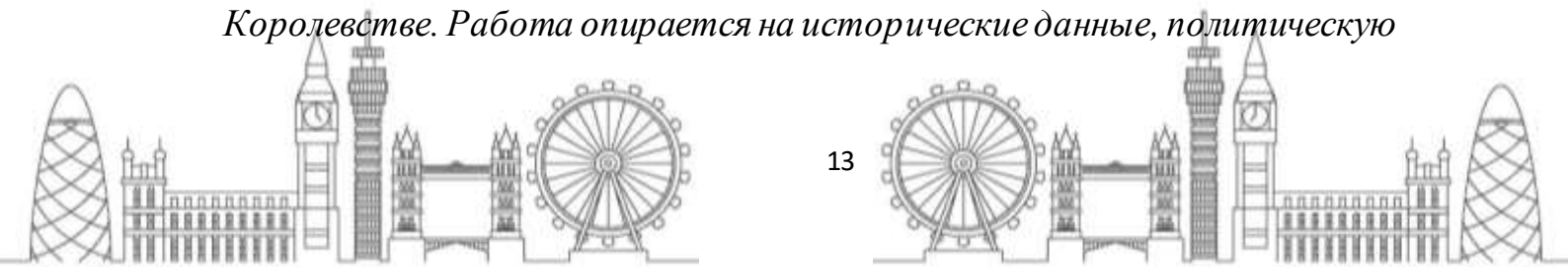
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Annotation: *This article explores the historical development, structure, ideology, and contemporary role of political parties in Great Britain. It focuses on the major parties such as the Conservative Party, the Labour Party, and the Liberal Democrats, examining their origins, core values, policy platforms, and influence on the British political system. The article also highlights the role of smaller and regional parties, such as the Scottish National Party and the Green Party, in shaping political discourse. By analyzing the party system, electoral behavior, and party competition, the study sheds light on how these organizations contribute to democratic governance in the UK. The research draws upon historical data, political theory, and modern developments in British politics to provide a comprehensive understanding of party dynamics.*

Keywords: *political parties, British politics, Conservative Party, Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, party ideology, party system, democracy, elections, political leadership, parliamentary system, party competition*

Аннотация: *Данная статья посвящена исследованию исторического развития, структуры, идеологии и современной роли политических партий в Великобритании. Основное внимание уделяется крупным партиям — Консервативной партии, Лейбористской партии и Либеральным демократам. Рассматриваются их происхождение, ключевые ценности, политические платформы и влияние на британскую политическую систему. Также анализируется роль малых и региональных партий, таких как Шотландская национальная партия и Партия зелёных, в формировании политической повестки. Через призму партийной системы, электорального поведения и конкуренции между партиями исследование раскрывает вклад этих организаций в демократическое управление в Соединённом Королевстве. Работа опирается на исторические данные, политическую*





теорию и современные процессы в британской политике для комплексного анализа партийной динамики.

Ключевые слова: *политические партии, британская политика, Консервативная партия, Лейбористская партия, Либеральные демократы, партийная идеология, партийная система, демократия, выборы, политическое лидерство, парламентская система, партийная конкуренция*

Albatta, Mahfuza! Quyida “Political Parties in Great Britain” mavzusida ilmiy maqolani Abstract dan boshlab, har bir tushunchani chuqur tahlil qilib, jadvalsiz, matn shaklida, mayda detallargacha, tayanch so‘zlar bilan yozdim. Maqola siyosiy, tarixiy va zamonaviy nuqtai nazarlarni qamrab oladi.

1. Introduction

Keywords: *United Kingdom, parliamentary democracy, political representation*

The United Kingdom (UK), often referred to as Great Britain in a political context, is one of the world’s oldest constitutional monarchies. Its political system is based on a parliamentary democracy, where political parties play a vital role in forming governments, proposing legislation, and representing the people.

Political parties in Britain are more than election vehicles; they are institutions that organize public opinion, shape policy, and hold governments accountable. The presence of a multi-party system ensures political pluralism, even though two major parties have historically dominated.

This paper provides an in-depth look at how political parties in Great Britain have evolved, function today, and influence the country’s political landscape.

2. Historical Background

Keywords: *party system, Whigs, Tories, political evolution*

The origins of British political parties date back to the late 17th century, following the Glorious Revolution of 1688. The two earliest political factions were the Whigs and the Tories.

2.1 The Whigs and Tories

Whigs supported constitutional monarchy, religious tolerance, and parliamentary supremacy.

Tories were more conservative, supporting the monarchy and the Church of England.

Over time, these groups evolved:

The Whigs became the foundation of the modern Liberal Party.

The Tories eventually transformed into the Conservative Party.





The 20th century saw the rise of the Labour Party, which emerged to represent working-class interests and trade unions, gradually replacing the Liberal Party as the main opposition to the Conservatives.

3. Major Political Parties

Political parties in the United Kingdom play a fundamental role in organizing the political system and shaping public policy. The UK operates as a multi-party system, although the two major parties, the Conservative Party and the Labour Party, dominate the political landscape. Other smaller and regional parties, such as the Liberal Democrats, the Scottish National Party, and others, have grown in influence, particularly in local and devolved elections. The UK party system is characterized by a combination of traditional party loyalties, shifting voter allegiances, and a first-past-the-post electoral system.

Keywords: *Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats, manifesto, centre-left, centre-right*

3.1 The Conservative Party

The Conservative Party is the oldest political party in the UK, with its origins dating back to the 1830s. It has historically represented right-wing ideologies, including support for free-market capitalism, a strong national defense, and limited government intervention in the economy. Over time, the party has evolved to adapt to changing social, economic, and political contexts, particularly under the leadership of figures such as Margaret Thatcher and David Cameron.

Historical Development: Initially, the Conservative Party was part of the aristocratic Tories, but by the 19th century, it became a modern political party, with a central emphasis on individualism, market-driven policies, and national unity. Under Thatcher, the party embraced neoliberal economics, privatization, and reducing the role of the state in economic affairs.

Contemporary Role: The Conservative Party has played a crucial role in shaping contemporary British politics, especially with its influence on Brexit and the reshaping of foreign and domestic policies. Leaders like Cameron and Theresa May modernized the party's image, but Brexit exposed internal divisions. Today, the Conservatives maintain a dominant presence in Westminster, but their policies continue to evolve in response to public concerns on issues such as immigration, the economy, and social services.

Founded: Early 19th century (from Tory roots)

Ideology: Centre-right; conservatism, economic liberalism, British nationalism

Support Base: Middle and upper classes, business owners, rural areas





Recent Leaders: David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak
Key Policies: Lower taxes, free-market economy, strong national defense, Brexit support

3.2 The Labour Party

Founded in 1900, the Labour Party is the second-largest political party in the UK and has historically been associated with social democracy, workers' rights, and progressive taxation. Over the years, the party has shifted from a socialist foundation towards a more centrist, market-oriented approach, particularly during the New Labour era under Tony Blair.

Historical Development: The Labour Party emerged as a voice for trade unions and the working class, advocating for the expansion of welfare programs, public ownership of key industries, and social reform. Under Tony Blair, the party embraced market-oriented policies, including privatization and a third-way approach to politics, which allowed Labour to remain electable while maintaining some progressive values.

Contemporary Role: In recent years, Labour has moved further left, especially under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, advocating for nationalization of key industries and wealth redistribution. However, its return to more socialist roots has resulted in challenges, especially in regaining electoral success, as the party struggles with internal divisions over leadership and direction.

Founded: 1900

Ideology: Centre-left, social democracy, democratic socialism

Support Base: Working class, trade unions, urban voters, youth

Key Policies: Welfare state, NHS investment, workers' rights, progressive taxation

3.3 The Liberal Democrats

The Liberal Democrats, founded in 1988 as a merger between the Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party, occupy a centrist position in British politics. Their platform advocates for civil liberties, electoral reform, social justice, and environmental sustainability. The party has been influential in the areas of political reform, particularly the introduction of proportional representation in some local elections.

Historical Development: The Liberal Democrats arose as an alternative to the two dominant parties, aiming to provide a third option that balanced social liberalism with economic pragmatism. Despite this, the party struggled to make





substantial electoral gains, even though it has occasionally formed part of coalition governments, such as the 2010-2015 coalition with the Conservative Party.

Contemporary Role: The Liberal Democrats have faced challenges in maintaining a broad voter base, particularly as the two major parties have adapted their policies to capture voter concerns about issues like Brexit. Nevertheless, the party remains a proponent of democratic reform, human rights, and international cooperation, with a particular focus on protecting the environment and addressing climate change.

Founded: 1988 (merger of Liberal Party and Social Democratic Party)

Ideology: Centre to centre-left; liberalism, civil liberties, pro-European

Support Base: Academics, young professionals, liberal urban voters

Key Policies: Electoral reform, climate action, education reform, EU integration

4. Regional and Minority Parties

While the Conservative and Labour parties dominate the UK's political system, smaller and regional parties play an increasingly significant role, especially in devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. These parties often have a more focused agenda, advocating for regional autonomy, independence, or specific policy areas like environmentalism and social justice.

The Scottish National Party (SNP): The SNP advocates for Scottish independence and has become a dominant force in Scottish politics, challenging the Labour Party's historical dominance. The SNP currently holds a majority in the Scottish Parliament and has consistently advanced the cause for a second referendum on Scottish independence.

The Green Party: Focused primarily on environmental issues, the Green Party has gained traction due to growing concerns about climate change and sustainability. Although the party has struggled to gain widespread support in general elections, it has had success in local and European elections, particularly in urban areas where environmental policies resonate with voters.

Plaid Cymru: As the party advocating for Welsh independence, Plaid Cymru has played a significant role in Wales' political landscape. It seeks greater autonomy for Wales within the UK and aims to promote Welsh culture, language, and policies that align with progressive social agendas.

Keywords: *devolution, regional nationalism, identity politics*

In addition to the major UK-wide parties, several regional and nationalist parties play a significant role, especially in devolved governments.





4.1 Scottish National Party (SNP)

Founded: 1934

Ideology: Scottish nationalism, social democracy

Main Goal: Scottish independence from the UK

Dominant Party in: Scottish Parliament

4.2 Plaid Cymru (Wales)

Founded: 1925

Ideology: Welsh nationalism, centre-left

Main Goal: Greater autonomy and promotion of the Welsh language

4.3 Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and Sinn Féin (Northern Ireland)

DUP: Pro-UK, conservative, unionist

Sinn Féin: Irish nationalist, pro-unification with Ireland

These parties reflect the multinational character of the UK and show how regional identities shape politics.

5. The Westminster System and Party Roles

Keywords: *House of Commons, majority government, opposition, Prime Minister*

The UK Parliament operates under the Westminster system, where the party (or coalition) with a majority in the House of Commons forms the government. The leader of that party becomes the Prime Minister.

The governing party introduces laws, manages national policy, and represents the UK internationally.

The opposition scrutinizes the government, proposes alternatives, and represents dissent.

Political parties also influence:

Committee memberships

Legislative agendas

Public debates

Policy manifestos

6. Party Funding and Elections

Keywords: campaign finance, political donations, electoral system, First Past the Post





MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

Elections in the UK use the First Past the Post (FPTP) system for parliamentary seats. This system benefits larger parties and often leads to single-party majority governments.

6.1 Party Funding

Parties are funded through:

Membership fees

Donations (individuals, businesses, trade unions)

State subsidies (for administrative costs)

Transparency in party funding is overseen by the Electoral Commission, but issues of influence and lobbying remain concerns in public discourse.

7. Challenges and Modern Developments

Keywords: political polarization, Brexit, populism, voter disengagement

7.1 The Brexit Divide

The 2016 Brexit referendum reshaped party politics, with new dividing lines beyond the traditional left-right spectrum. Both the Conservatives and Labour were split internally, while new movements like the Brexit Party emerged briefly.

7.2 Rise of Populism

Like other Western democracies, Britain has seen populist rhetoric, often challenging traditional party elites and institutions. Social media and misinformation have further complicated political communication.

7.3 Voter Disengagement

Young people and minorities are often less represented in traditional party politics, raising questions about inclusivity, trust, and reform.

8. Conclusion

Keywords: *political engagement, democratic representation, future of parties*

Political parties in Great Britain are central to its democratic system. They shape policy, reflect public values, and provide the structure for governance. However, the party system is not static—it evolves in response to social, economic, and cultural changes.

As Britain continues to face complex challenges—economic inequality, regional demands, and global uncertainty—political parties must adapt. Renewing public trust, embracing diversity, and fostering dialogue are essential for the future of democracy in the UK.





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