

CHAPITRE 45

PARTIS POLITIQUES EN GRANDE-BRETAGNE

Personalities of parties:

PAST

-**Whig Party**: Sir Robert Walpole.

-**Tory Party**: Lord Grey, William Pitt the Younger, Sir Robert Peel.

TODAY

-**Conservative Party**: Disraeli, Margaret Thatcher, John Major, David Cameron.

- **Lib-Dem Party** : Paddy Ashdown, Nick Clegg

-**Labour Party**: Clement Attlee, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown.

After Cromwell's revolution, there were two principal Parties: the Court Party (the **Tory Party**, supported by the Anglican Church and Charles II) and the Country Party (the **Whig Party** which prefer the supremacy of Parliament over monarchy).

The Whig Party, led by **Sir Robert Walpole**, in office from 1714 to 1762, was replaced during the next 60 years by the party of **Lord Grey**, the Tory Party.

After 1867, some Whigs associated with some Tories to form the **Liberal Party**.

In 1886, **Disraeli** founded the **Conservative Party**, in office during the end of the 19th century whereas the Liberal Party was the most powerful in the beginning of the 20th.

Several coalition governments led the country between 1914 and 1945, when Conservatives had to accept some of Labour's post-war decisions such as the **Welfare State**.

Clement Attlee, leader of Labour Party since 1935, became Prime Minister of the first majority Labour government. In power from 1945 to 1951, he introduced the **NHS** (National Health Service). Moreover, he granted India its independence and supported the creation of NATO.

The Conservative Party came back in office from 1951 to 1964 (Churchill) and from 1979 to 1997 with **Margaret Thatcher** and **John Major**.

The Labour Party lead also the country from 1964 to 1970 and from 1974 to 1975 but suffered from the **Militant Tendency**, an extreme left-wing faction. Thus, Margaret Thatcher came back in office in 1979.

Some people of the Labour Party have found the **Social Democratic Party** which associated with the Liberal Party to create the **Liberal Democrat Party**.

Since 1997, the Labour Party is in office with **Tony Blair**.

Some other parties exist but do not represent a significant political force.

Recently, whether it is the Labour Party or it is the Conservative Party, the two parties concentrate their policies on **health**, **security**, **defense**, **taxes** and **education** budgets.

