



# **Political System in the UK**

## **The Parties**

# Logos:



**Britain is normally described as having a 'two-party system'.**

**Britain is unlike most other countries in that its parties were first formed inside Parliament, and were only later extended to the public at large.**






**Parties do not extend into every area of public and social life in the country=> Universities have their Conservative , Labour and Liberal Democrat clubs**

**It is usually a party's MPs who have the most control over party policy and the biggest influence on the choice of party leader**

# History of UK political parties

- UK political parties emerged in the mid-19th century. From then until the **1920s**, the **Conservative** and the **Liberal** parties dominated the political scene.
- From the end of the War in **1945** the **Conservative** and **Labour** parties have dominated British politics, alternating power between them ever since.
- These 3 parties dominate the UK delegation to the European Parliament.



**During the eighteenth century  
Members of Parliament tended to  
divide themselves into two camps,  
those who usually supported the  
government of the time and those  
who usually did not=>alternative  
government**



**There are nationalist parties in Scotland (the Scottish National Party) and Wales (Plaid Cymru –"Party of Wales")**

**Northern Ireland has a number of parties divided predominantly on ethnic and religious lines, including the Ulster Unionists, the Democratic Unionists, the Social Democratic and Labour Party and Sinn Féin.**

# **The pairing system**

**An MP of one party is 'paired' with an MP of another party=>neither of them bother to turn up for the vote=>the difference in numbers between one side and the other is maintained, while the MPs are free to get on with other work.**

# Conservative & Unionist Party



David Cameron

**«Change to Win – Win for Britain»**

# The Conservative Party is

- the second largest political party in the United Kingdom
- the most successful political party in history in terms of election victories
- One of the oldest political party in the world

Since World War I the Conservative Party and its principal opponent, the Labour Party, have dominated British political life


**Developed from the group of MPs known as the Tories in the early nineteenth century=> the term “Tory”**

**Although it was in government for two-thirds of the twentieth century, it has been in opposition in Parliament since losing the 1997 election to the Labour Party under Tony Blair.**



# **Guiding principles:**

- **the promotion of private property and enterprise**
- **the maintenance of a strong military**
- **the preservation of traditional cultural values and institutions.**



**“The Conservative Party is ambitious and optimistic about the future of Britain. Our country faces difficult times ahead which require strong leadership.”**

Chamali Fernando, Friday, September 25th, 2009 .