



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

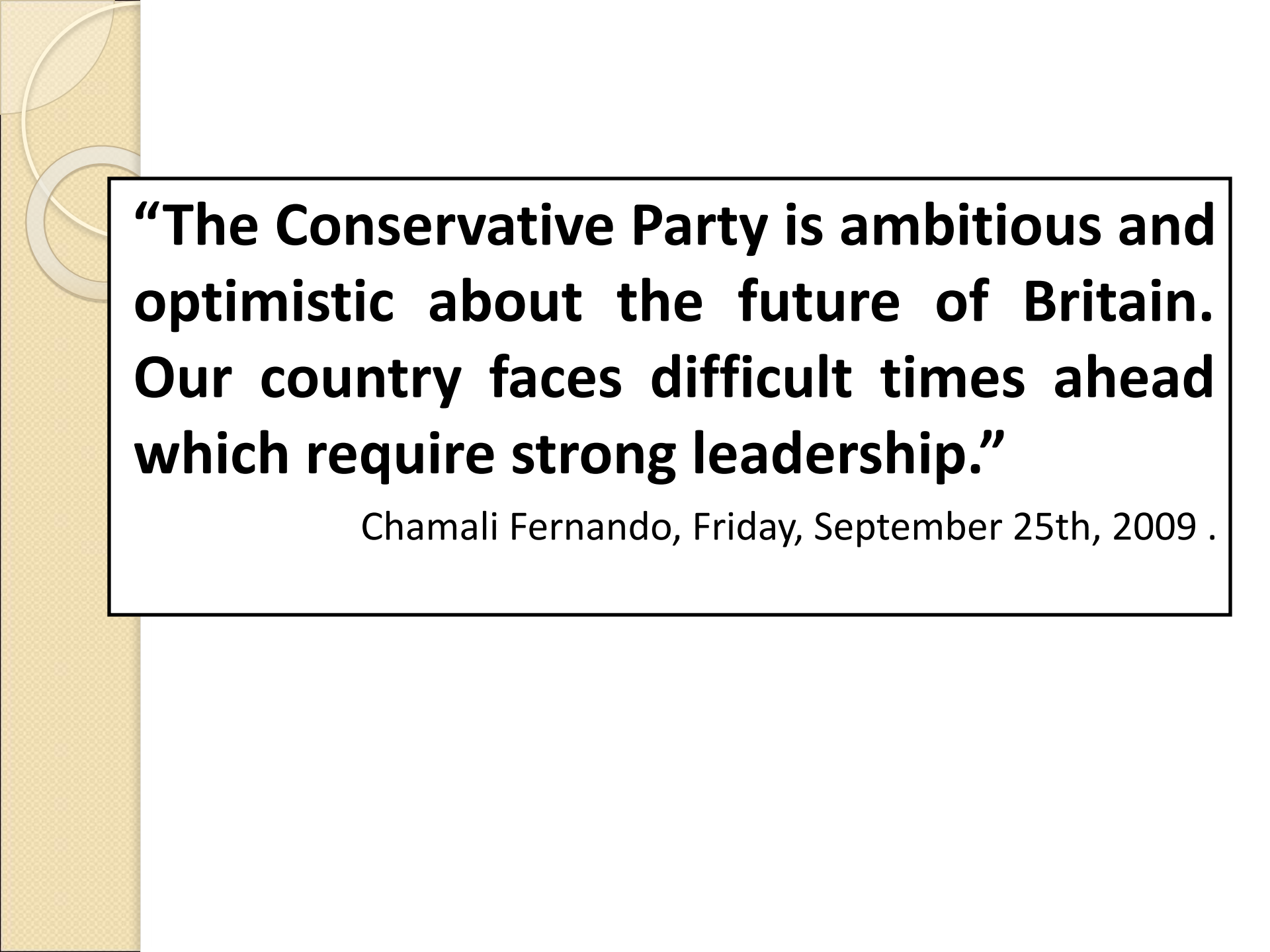
Developed from the group of MPs known as the Tories in the early nineteenth century=> the term “Tory”

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 .