

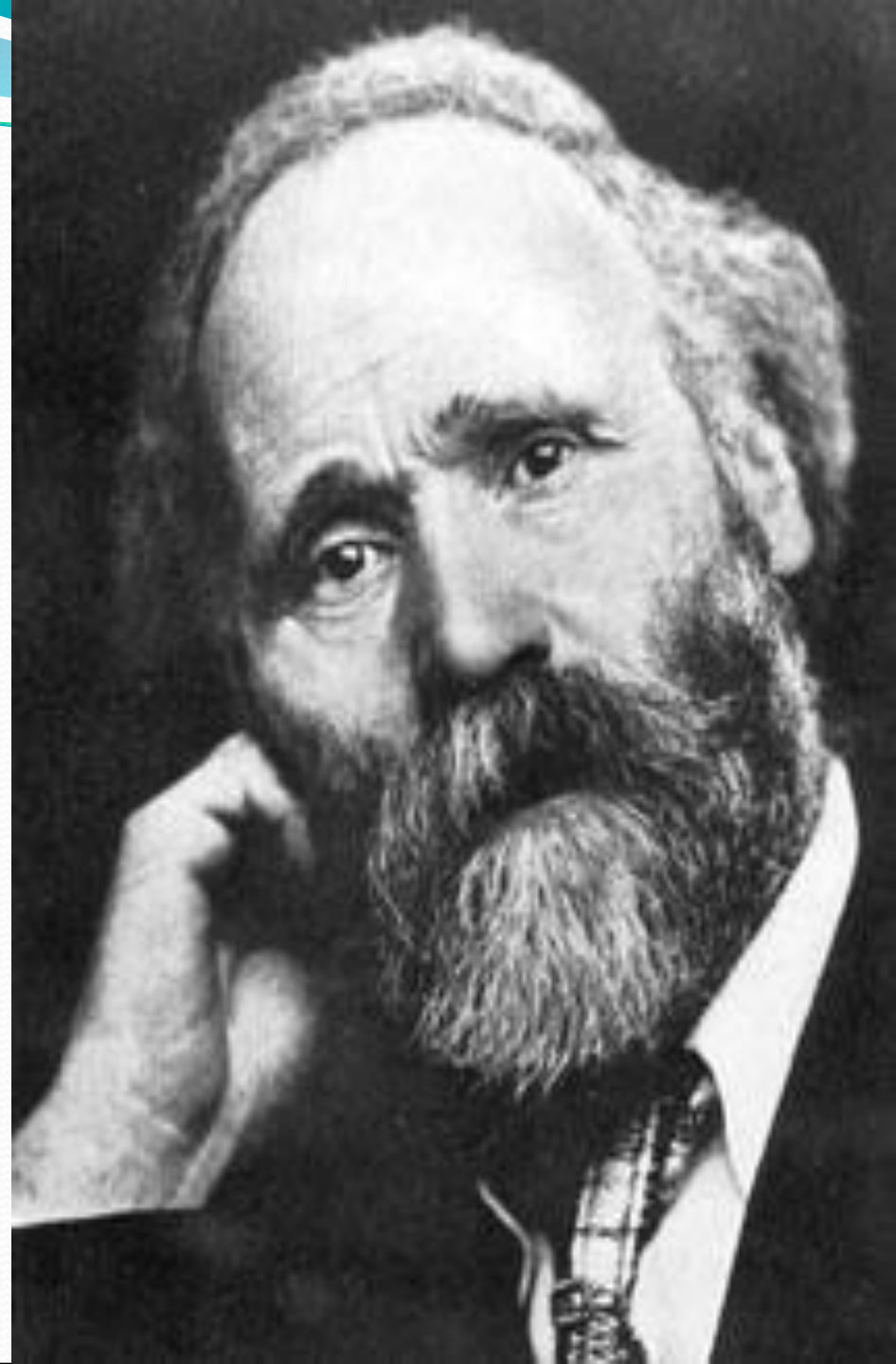
# The Labour Party



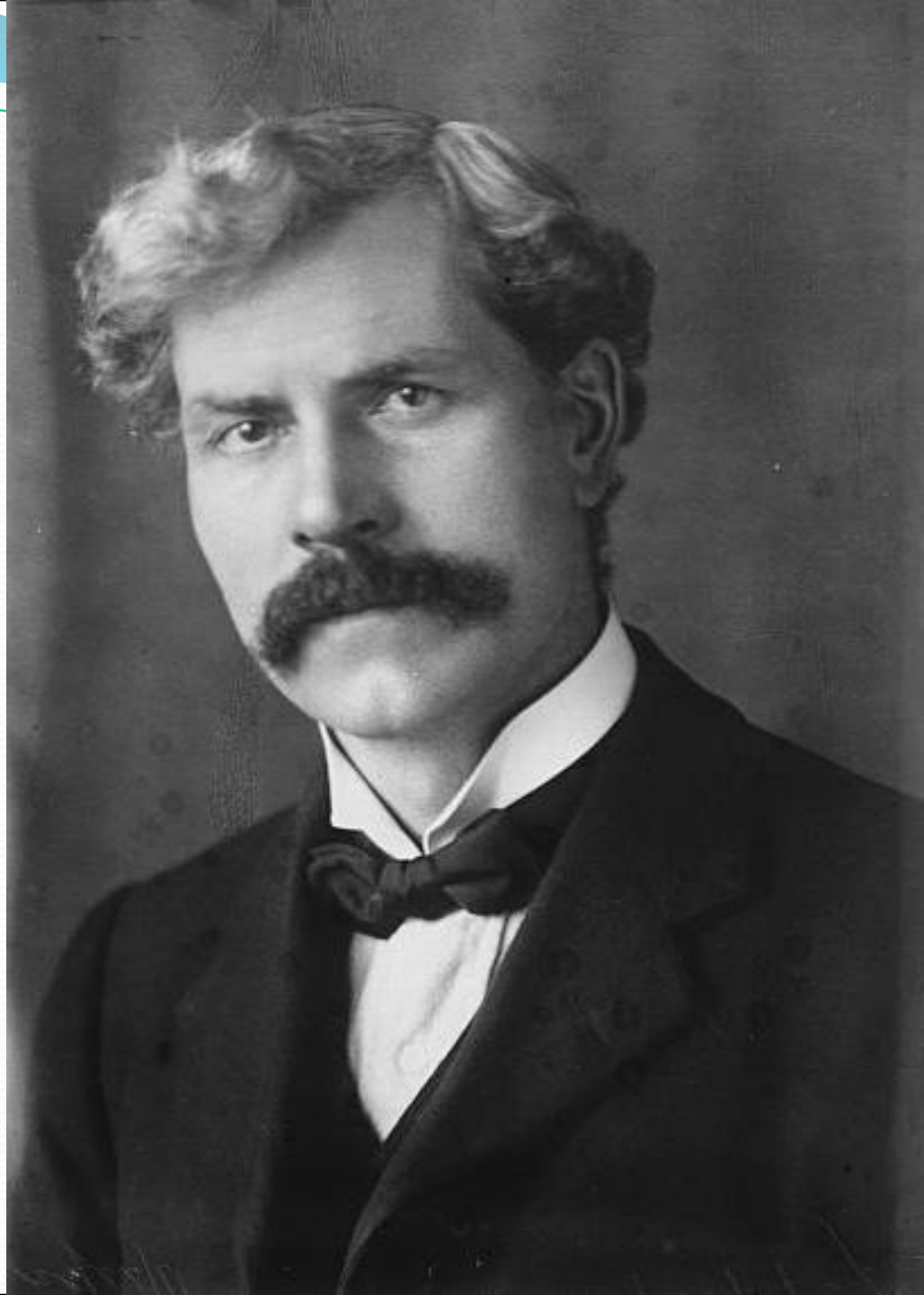
# Formation of the Labour Party

- 19th century – strong trade unions in the UK
- Labour Party was formed in 1900
  - Response to legal attacks on unions
  - Dominated by unions – hence, ‘Labour’ Party
    - Party of the organised working class
    - Socialist societies (e.g. Fabians)
- Extension of suffrage 1918
  - Overtook Liberals in 1920s
  - Labour Governments in 1924 and 1929-31
  - Party split in 1931

Keir Hardie-a former miner,  
became the first working  
class MP to be elected for  
the Independent  
Labour Party (ILP) in 1892.



Ramsay McDonald-  
the first Labour  
Prime Minister



# Attlee Government 1945-51

- Nationalisation of key industries
- Welfare state (Beveridge Report)
- Formation of National Health Service
- Keynesian demand-management
- High-water mark of British socialism – and accepted by Tories in 1950s
- Opposition in 1950s – splits between Left and Right in Labour Party



Clement Richard Attlee

# Labour's Problems in Government: 60s & 70s

- Wilson Governments 1964-70 and 1974-76
  - Economic recessions
  - Dilemma: maintain high spending and redistribution – or target inflation?
  - Conflict with unions
- Callaghan Government 1976-79
  - End of 'tax & spend' statist consensus
  - 'Winter of Discontent' 1978-79 – wave of strikes that brought down Labour Govt



Harold Wilson





Jim Callaghan

# 1979-97

- 1979-83: shift to Left – electorally damaging
  - Formation of SDP in 1981
- 1983-92: ‘modernisation’ under Kinnock
  - Abandoned left-wing policies on economy, defence
  - Centralised power inside Labour Party
  - Four consecutive electoral defeats
- 1992-94: Smith – reformed link with unions
- 1994: Blair elected as ultra-moderniser



Neil Kinnock

# Blair: Modernising the Labour Party

- Rebranded party as 'New Labour'
  - Tackling internal opponents (Left & unions)
  - Rewriting Clause IV
- Confront 4 major changes
  1. Electoral – popularity of Tory policies
    - No return to 'tax-and-spend'; tough on crime
  2. Sociological – demise of working class
    - Appeal to 'Middle England'
  3. International – globalisation
  4. Ideological – socialism and fall of communism

# New Labour Versus Old Labour

## NEW LABOUR

- Community
- Consumers
- Post-industrial economy
- Equality of opportunity – training and education
- Welfare-to-work
- Rights & responsibilities
- ‘Mixed economy’ in public services
- Market economy
- Regulate private sector

## OLD LABOUR

- Working class
- Producers (unions)
- Industrial economy
- Equality of outcome – redistribution
- Welfarism
- Social & welfare rights
- State provision of public services
- Mixed economy
- Nationalisation

# Blair's First Term in Government, 1997-2001

- Cautious start 1997-99
- Bank of England independence
  - Emphasis on sound economic management
- Constitutional changes
- Welfare reforms – ‘New Deal’
- Big spending increases in 2000
  - Healthcare & education – but also tuition fees

# Blair's Second Term, 2001-05

- Dominated by foreign policy – 9/11, Iraq
- Domestic policy – big spending increases and some tax increases
- But more emphasis on reform of public services – marketisation, choice in education and health (limits of the state)
  - Foundation hospitals; university top-up fees
- Blair & Brown – conflicts over reforms

A close-up photograph of Tony Blair, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He has a slight smile and is looking off-camera to the left. In the background, a large Union Jack flag is visible, slightly out of focus. The lighting is bright, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor event.

**TONY  
BLAIR**





Edward Samuel Miliband