

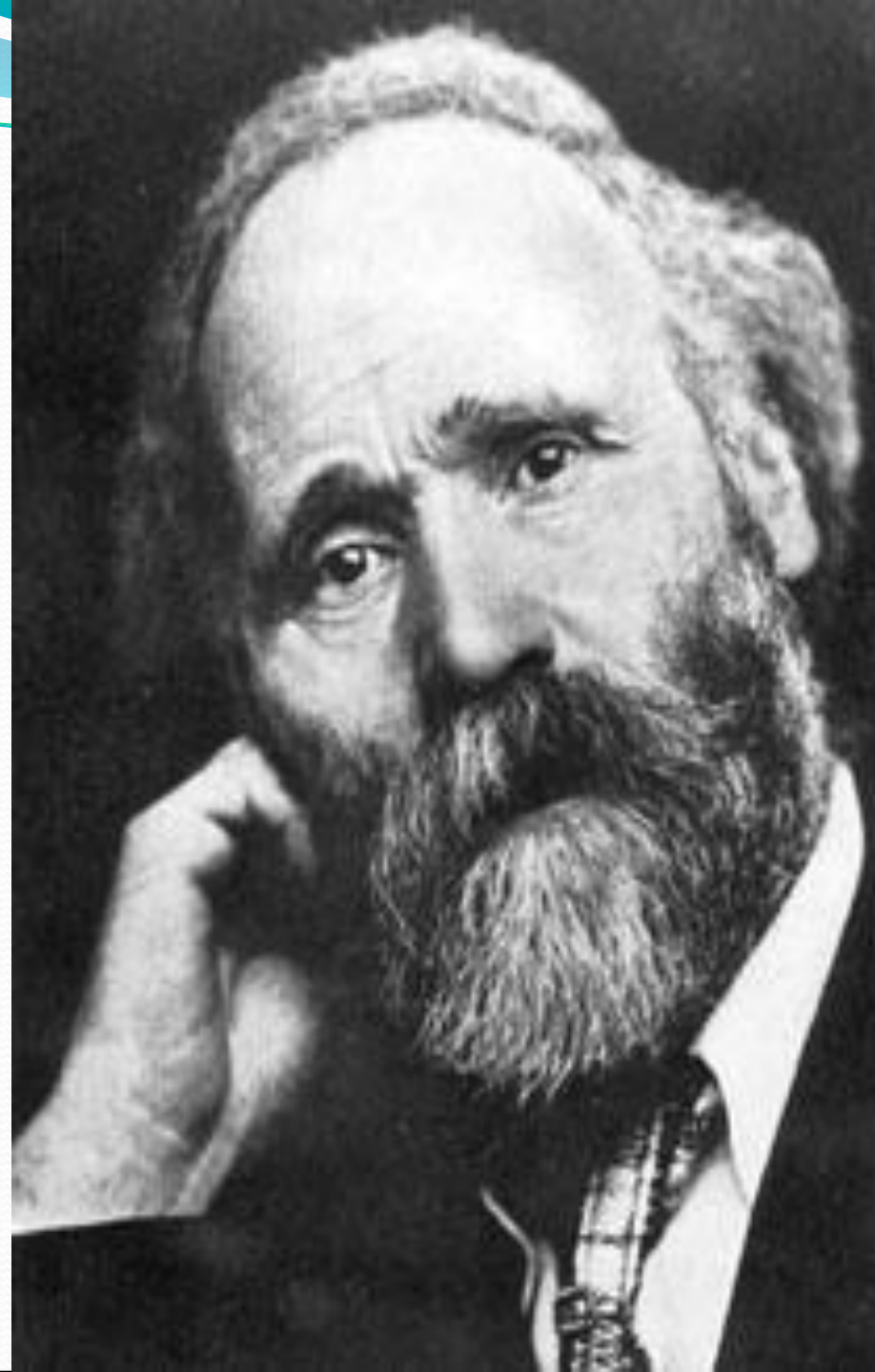
# The Labour Party



# Formation of the Labour Party

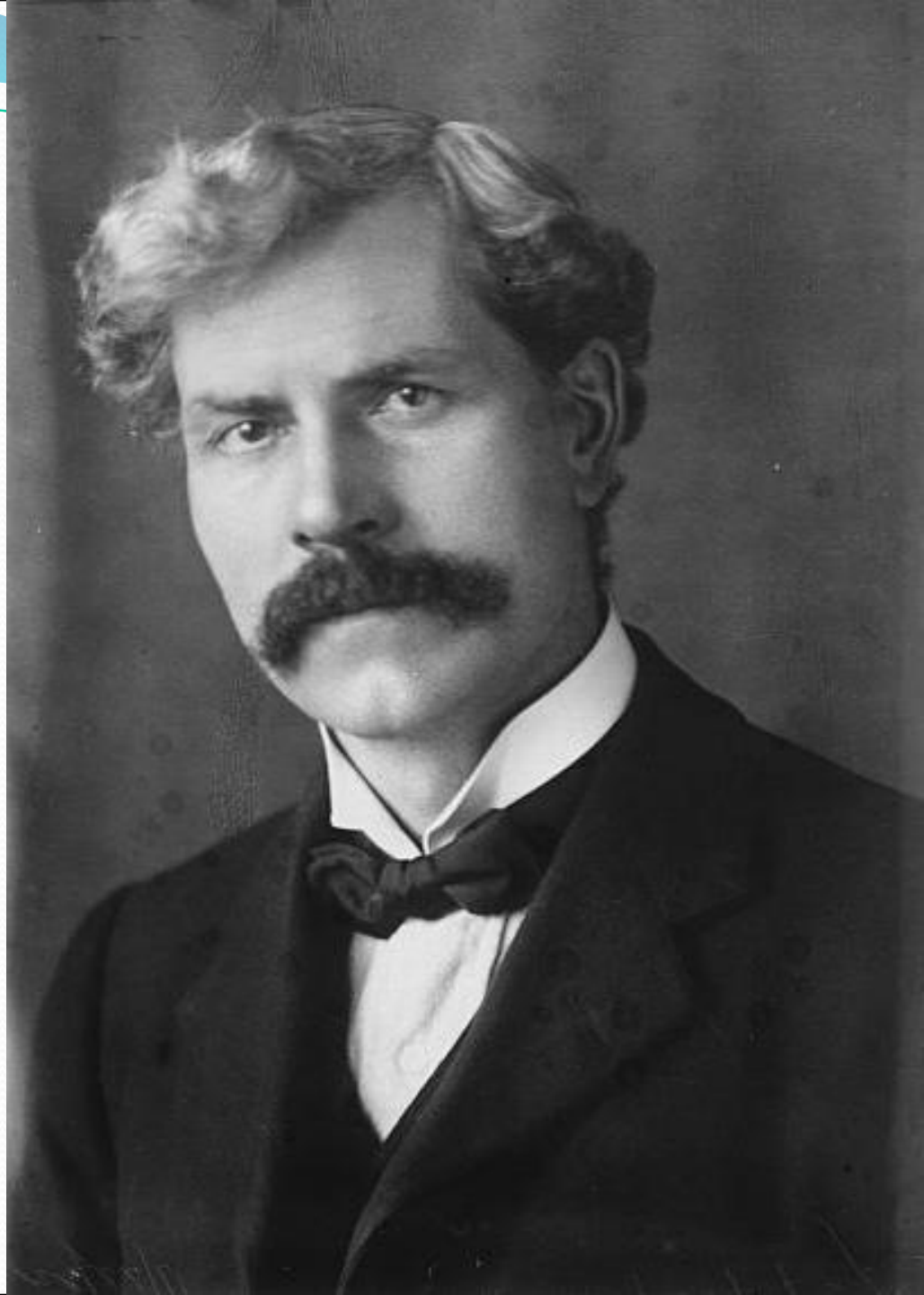
- 19th century – strong trade unions in the UK
- Labour Party was formed in 1900
  - Response to legal attacks on unions
  - Dominated by unions – hence, ‘Labour’ Party
    - Party of the organised working class
  - Socialist societies (e.g. Fabians)
- Extension of suffrage 1918
  - Overtook Liberals 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, turned slightly to his left, with his mouth open as if he is speaking. He has short, light brown hair and is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt and a red patterned tie. The background is out of focus, showing a large Union Jack flag on the left and a circular architectural detail on the right.

TONY  
BLAIR





Edward Samuel Miliband