



Emma Fullarton (amended by  
BPI)

# Introduction

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- Welfare state was created; there are five factors that should be considered when investigating why it was created;
- Beveridge report
- WW2
- Continuation of work started by others
- Failure of previous governments
- Labour party belief.

# Topic sentence

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- Titmus argues that Britain pre-1945 saw social reformers that “*Were in no way a Welfare State.*” So why, after years of the Laissez-faire policy, did Labour create a Welfare State in 1945?

# Historian debate!

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- Addison credits the influence of what had been established previously (status-quo), whereas Fraser argues that the Beveridge Report was the most influential factor.

*“Labour’s achievement  
was one more of  
modernizing than creating  
an entirely new edifice.”*

*PEARCE*

# Primary Quote!

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*a roof over his head, the chance to marry and bring up his children safe from the fears of unemployment, sickness and worry.”*

Emma Fullarton

# Labour Party belief

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- FOR

- Labour's slogan 'LET US FACE THE FUTURE TOGETHER' ; manifesto of 1945
- Clause iv outlined socialist aims of the labour party
- The labour party was going to make the NHS the best; there shall be health centres where people can get the best treatment that modern science can develop.
- Conservatives did not want to implement the Welfare state
- 'Labour will put the Acts not merely into legal force but practical effect
- Nationalised key industries (can be link to next paragraph; WW2)
- Wished to withdraw from the coalition gov and fight independently
- First party to represent Workers
- They elected representatives from trade unions.

# Labour Party belief

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*“ e are the masters at the moment, not only for a moment but for a very long time.”*



*“ e are convinced that the great majority of labour voters elected the government to get things done.”*



*“ .shall not have won the election...until chance to marry and bring up his children safe from the fears of unemployment, sickness and worry.”*

# Labour Party belief

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## ■ Against

- Labour focused on home affairs in 1945 as Churchill was working on war affairs.
- Labour and conservatives had similar manifestos, promising health, education, etc.
- Impact of WW2: nationalisation of key industries as well as water-, gas and electricity boards; everyone was happy; why did they not continue?
- Labour only got into power through the coalition Government. As the seats were based on previous reforms (proportional representation) this is when Labour had 30% of votes this then gave them 30% of the seats in the coalition government.

# Labour Party belief

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*“the  
on house building does not compare well with  
the pre-war levels or with the achievements of  
the conservatives in late s.”*

*“he labour victory was a product of the  
movement of the ritish opinion and  
expectations from the war.”*



# WW2

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- *“ . think the food authorities did a wonderful job. here is really no shortage anywhere of essentials.”*

# WW2

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*“Damage to home and injuries to persons were not less likely amounting the rich than the poor.... the assistance provided by the government...was offered to all groups in the community.”*



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displaying their medals on the street corners, with unemployment in the s, that made us all say we are not going back there.”



*“verybody felt they should do what they could for someone else if they were bombed out the nearest families would take them in.”*



*“the pooling of national resources and the sharing of risks...were the guiding principles.”*

# WW2

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- *“vacation in war time worked in the opposite direction of unity.”*

# Continuation of previous reforms

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# Continuation of earlier reforms

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- \_\_\_\_\_, “Labour’s achievement was more one of modernising than creating an entirely new edifice.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ “substantially this starting the reforms were an important link between the post-war system.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ “the major achievements of the Labour party after \_\_\_\_\_ was to complete and consolidate the work of war time coalition”

# Continuation of previous reforms

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- The desultory attitude towards the everidge  
report by hurchill shows the onservatives'

# Continuation of previous reforms

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## ■ Historiography

- Morrison, *“The state began to take control and responsibility for the welfare of the people from the 1870s and onwards.”*
- D. Fraser, *“The decisive event in the evolution of the Welfare state was seen as the second world war”*

# Failure of Previous Governments

- FOR
- Pre-war medical help remain to exclude 1/2 the population
- Severe for the woman in particular
- No specialist care; eye/dental
- Doctor fees were high
- 1000 hospitals were voluntary, depending on fund raising & contributions from patients. (first developed by Poor Law Guardians)
- 1930 Britain; devaluation of the pound by 30%; benefits were cut by 10% and 60% of food relied on imports, but 1 in 4 ships were being bombed in WW2
- British wanted a Welfare state like Nazi Germany & USA; Roosevelt's new deal.
- Government failed to buy themselves out of the recession; this resulted in Labour's victory in 1945
- People seen Labour as the future that would protect tariffs and them.
- Policy of State intervention
- Liberals failed to deliver their to build a '*Land fit for heroes.*'
- They cut benefits and delivered no jobs instead.

# Failure of Previous Governments

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*“the mobilisation of manpower should spell out the mass unemployment.”*



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# Beveridge

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# Beveridge

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Labour Minister gave Beveridge the task of leading a committee to study insurance; resulting ideas all Beveridge's.

# Beveridge

- The **Welfare State** of Britain was the result of the William Beveridge Report in 1942, which identified five "Giant Evils" in society: squalor, ignorance, want, idleness and disease.

A series of changes was put in place to deal with these "Giant Evils" after the Second World War. The changes meant that the government recognized the responsibility to care for the people of Britain "from the cradle to the grave".

- The Welfare State was a commitment to health (in 1948 the National Health Service was created), education, employment and social security.

The classic Welfare State period lasted from approximately 1945 to the 1970s, although many features of it remain today. The British Welfare State is unique in that everyone has free access to a family doctor and most people get free medical prescriptions and treatment.

Since the 1980s the government has begun to reduce some provisions: for example, free eye tests for all have now been stopped and prescription charges for drugs have constantly risen since they were first introduced in 1951.

- Providing a Welfare State is still a basic principle of government policy in Britain today

# Beveridge

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- Quotations

- James Griffiths ;Labour MP

- *“We are convinced that the nation wants this plan and this nation ought to get it”*

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- Against

- Beveridge was criticised by the private insurance companies as they felt the report would take away their business

- The Daily Mail of the time suggested:

Daily mail

private insurance Co.

*“The author is an economist turned spend thrift, destroying every vestige of self-reliance and self help.”*

*“Too much has been made of the Beveridge Report. It is no revolutionary document. Mainly it is co-ordination of existing services with certain modest additions there to. It is a beginning , not an end and it must not be confused with reconstruction in the large sense.”*