



British Labour Party Papers, 1906-1969

Collection Summary

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BRITISH LABOUR PARTY PAPERS, 1906-1969

The **Labour Party** was founded in 1900 to represent the interests of trade unions and working-class voters. In political terms, it has often been characterised as a “broad church”, encompassing a range of left and centre-left viewpoints.

This collection contains **minutes and related records** compiled by the **Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP)** during the period **1906-1969**.

These records cover the party’s formative years, from its creation and early successes through the **governments of Ramsay MacDonald** and the **wartime coalition** to the **Atlee administration** and **Harold Wilson’s first premiership**.

The records provide an insight into the PLP’s often divided outlook on several important domestic and international political issues, including: the campaign for **women’s suffrage**; the **Great Depression**; the **first and second world wars**; the **Beveridge Report** and the emergence of the post-war **welfare state**; Britain’s **nuclear weapons** programme; imperialism and decolonisation; and Britain’s potential membership of the **European Economic Community (EEC)**.

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