

Building a 'New Jerusalem': The Postwar Attlee Government



I. THE 1945 ELECTION

**II. LABOUR CONSTRUCTS THE WELFARE
STATE**

**III. THE ECONOMIC REALITIES OF
POSTWAR BRITAIN**

IV. THE WIDER WORLD

V. THE END OF 'NEW JERUSALEM'

William Blake's 'Jerusalem'



And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the Countenance Divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold:
Bring me my arrows of desire:
Bring me my spear: O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

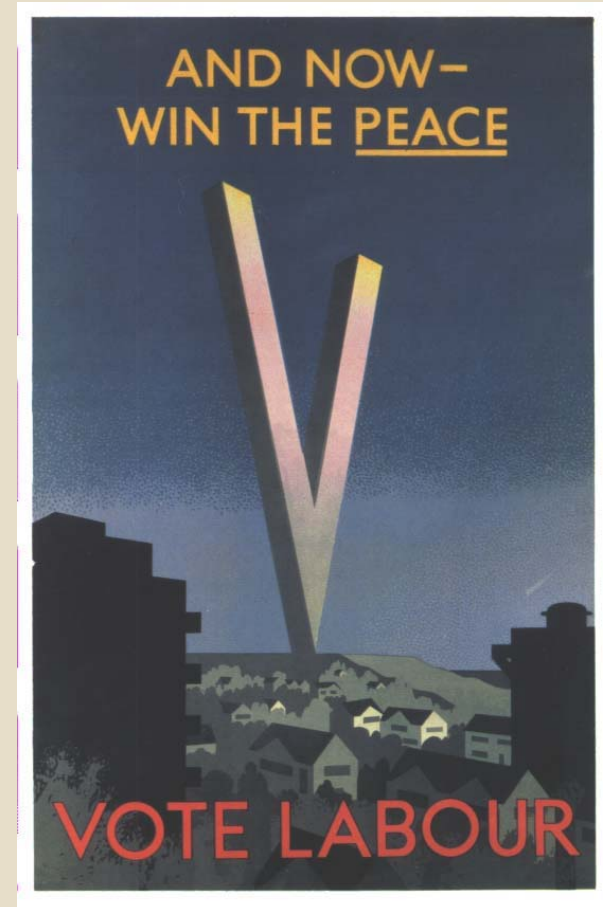
I. The 1945 Election



- Churchill the War Leader
 - Memories of the Interwar Years
- Labour Participation in the War Cabinet

Labour's Vision for Postwar Britain

- The Beveridge Report (1942)
- Cradle-to-Grave Welfare Provision
- Labour's Landslide
 - 146 seat majority in the Commons



Cartoon of Churchill's War Cabinet



- Note that the first three figures in the foreground are Labour leaders Clement Attlee, Ernest Bevin, and Herbert Morrison



II. Labour Constructs the Welfare State



A sign of the times.

- The Welfare State Proper
 - National Health Service (1946)
 - National Insurance Act (1946)
- The Provision of Housing (Council Houses)
- Nationalization of Industry
 - The 'Commanding Heights'
- The Mantra of Planning
- Keynesianism and Full Employment

III. The Economic Realities of Postwar Britain



- **A Nation Bankrupt**
 - The End of Lend-Lease
 - Overseas Commitments
 - The American Loan
- **Convertibility Crisis (1947)**
 - 'Austerity Britain'
- **Devaluation of Sterling (1949)**
 - \$4.03 to \$2.80 (30.8%)



IV. The Wider World



- **Losing an Empire**
 - 1947 -- British India (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma, Afghanistan) Broken Up
 - 1948 – Palestine Partitioned
 - Between 1945-70, most major colonies gain independence
- **Finding a Role (or Not)**
 - German Occupation
 - The British Nuke
 - Withdrawing from Greece
 - Formation of NATO

“There goes our power...”
Lord Mountbatten -- India’s Last Viceroy



V. The End of 'New Jerusalem'



- The Rejection of Controls
- The 1950 Election – Labour Holds On (Barely)
- Labour – Exhausted and Dying (Literally)
- Korea Explodes
- Staying out of Europe
- The 1951 Election – Winston's Back!