

# The Executive



- I. Prime Minister**
- II. Cabinet**
- III. Civil Service**
- IV. The Monarchy**

# I. The Prime Minister

- Powers of the Prime Minister
  - Party Leader
  - Head of Government
    - Appoints Cabinet and Junior Ministers
    - Cabinet Reshuffles
    - Chairs the Cabinet and Key Cabinet Committees
  - Calls General Elections
  - Patronage (e.g., Peerages; Agency Appointments)
- Support Staff (Number 10 and Cabinet Office)
- Limitations on PM Powers
- H.H. Asquith: *“The office of the Prime Minister is what the holder chooses and is able to make of it.”*

# 10 Downing Street



Dave gets to walk right in...

...you don't get close.



Rear view of Number 10



# Recent Patterns of Executive Governance

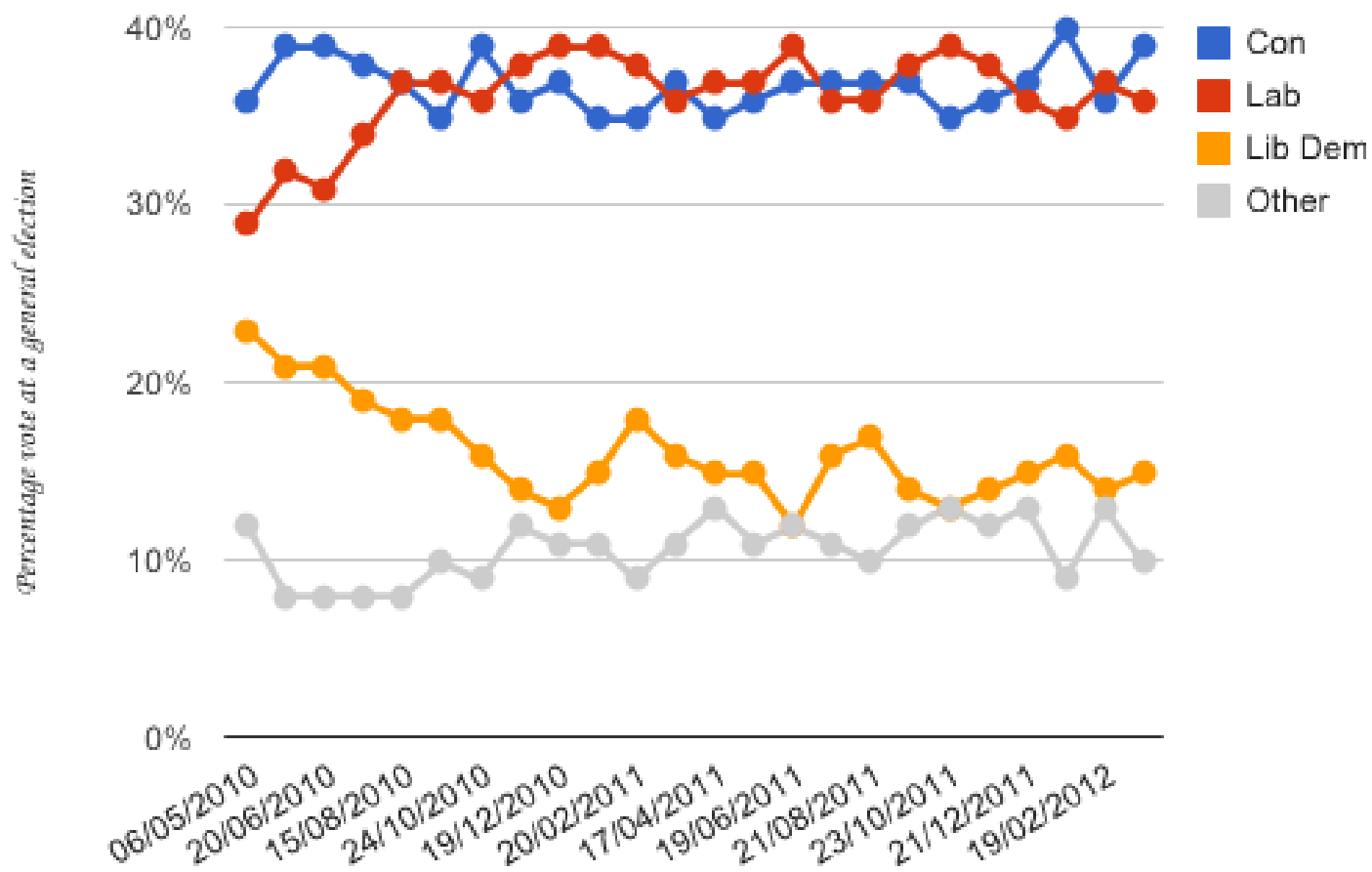
- The Blair Years
  - Centralization in Number 10
  - The ‘Tony and Gordon Show’
  - Decline of Cabinet and ‘sofa government’
- Brown as PM
  - Dithering and crisis
- Cameron and the Coalition
  - Decentralization in government
  - LibDem influence on policy?
  - Wider decentralization

“I like to govern  
from right here  
(just not with you)”



# The cost of coalition?

**Graph: State of the parties in the opinion polls**





# Cabinet

- Members of the Cabinet
- Principles Guiding Cabinet:
  - Collective Responsibility
  - Secrecy
- Ministers and Ministerial Responsibility
- Decline of Cabinet Government
- Rise of Cabinet Committees

A crowded table in the Coalition cabinet.



# UK Cabinet System

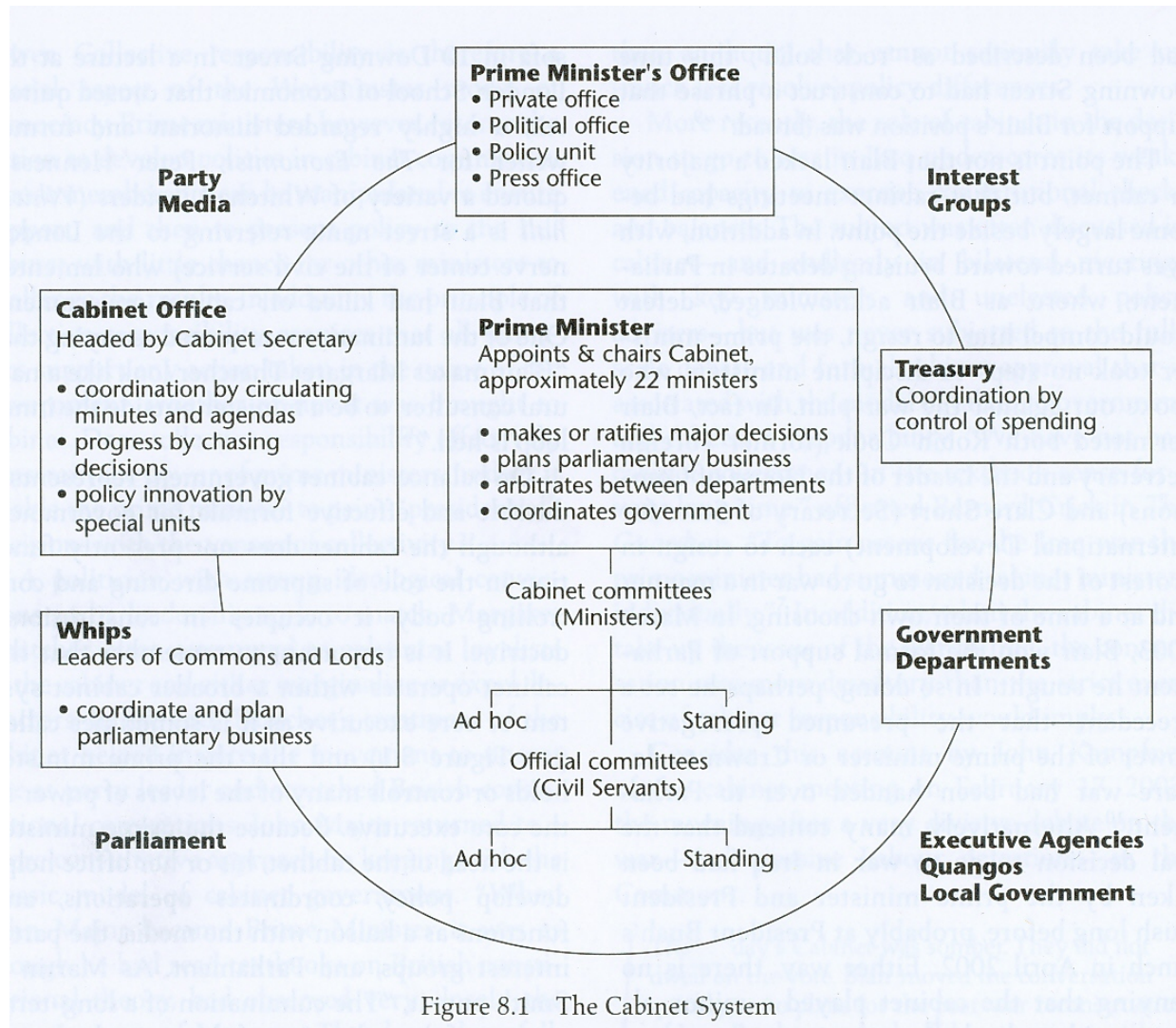


Figure 8.1 The Cabinet System

# Civil Service

- ‘Permanent Secretary’: Civil Service chief of the department alongside (but subordinate to) the Secretary of State
- Three Principles Guide Civil Service
  - Permanency
  - Neutrality
  - Ministerial Responsibility

Sir Humphrey Appleby gives advice in the BBC's *Yes, Minister*





# The Monarchy

- Queen as ‘Head of State’
  - Represent the ‘unity of the nation’
  - Symbolic and ceremonial duties
  - Carry out certain political functions on advice from Ministers -- prerogative powers
- Monarch as ‘politically neutral’
- Scenarios for political involvement
- The future of the monarchy



