POLITICAL PARTIES

I. Party Systems in the UK

II. Political Parties
   A. Labour
   B. Conservative
   C. Liberal Democrats
   D. Nationalist and Minor Parties
I. Party Systems in the UK

- Early Party Development
- Two and a Half Party System (1900-45)
  - Shifting support and coalitions
- Two-Party System (1945-74)
  - Postwar Consensus
- Two Party Dominant (1974-97)
  - Conflictual Politics
- Convergence Politics (1997- )
A. Labour Party

- Early years
- Socialism
  - From triumph to unelectability
  - Transformation of Party Structure
- Blair and ‘New Labour’
- The party post-Blair
  - Miliband v. Miliband
  - A viable alternative?

Ed’s on top, but did they pick the right Miliband?
B. Conservative Party (‘Tories’)

- ‘One Nation Tories’ (paternalistic)
- Thatcher and Neoliberalism
- Electoral Collapse
  - ‘Black Wednesday’ and Economic Competence
- Cameron and ‘Modernization’
- Austerity in Government

Margaret Thatcher – spiritual leader or crazy old aunt in the attic?
The Parade of Tory Leaders

- David Cameron (2005-Present)
The ‘Rebranding’ of the Conservatives

Dave cycles to work…

Dave cares about global warming…

…but now PM Dave is going to balance the budget….
…and people are not so happy about that...

Source: The Guardian /ICM (23 April 2012)
C. Liberal Democrats

- Liberal slide after WW I
- Social Democratic Party (SDP)
- Merger into Liberal Democrats
- Problem of the Electoral System
- Liberal Democrat principles
- The Pains of Governing
  - Policy disagreements
  - Failure of AV referendum
D. Nationalist and Minor Parties

- Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP)
- Welsh Nationalists (*Plaid Cymru – Party of Wales*)
- Northern Ireland Parties
- Minor Parties
  - Green Party (traditional green party)
  - UK Independence Party (UKIP – anti-EU)
  - British Nationalist Party (BNP – racist/anti-immigrant)
2010 UK Election Map