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SOME USEFUL SOURCES

Some Useful Sources

Alessio D'Angelo[1], Zoë Irving[2] and Enrico Reuter[2]

[1]School of Humanities, Law and Creative Arts, University of Derby, UK and [2]School for Business and Society, University of York, UK
Corresponding author: Zoë Irving; Email: zoe.irving@york.ac.uk

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This contribution to the themed section on 'Labour in Government' provides annotated suggestions and some general guidance related to additional sources to support reading and research around the topic of the UK Labour Party and social policy. It gathers academic sources (books and journal articles) alongside those drawn from web accessible materials, both formal (government) and relevant grey literature.

Keywords: Labour Party sources; UK Labour Party; social policy

Academic sources on the UK Labour Party and Labour Party policy over time

Books

There is a wide body of literature on the history of the Labour Party and its development over time, ranging from technical, academic and historical accounts to biographical and page-turner exposés. These provide important context in the analysis of current policy. There is less material focused specifically on Labour's policy development, and the texts listed below therefore give a flavour, from a variety of analytical perspectives, of the forces that have shaped and continue to influence Labour's policy direction, as well as the exogenous factors that impact the development of the politics of the Left.

Allern, E. H. and Bale, T. (eds) (2017) *Left-of-centre parties and trade unions in the twenty-first century*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Batrouni, D. (2021) *The battle of ideas in the Labour party: from Attlee to Corbyn and Brexit,* Bristol: Bristol University Press.
Callaghan, J., Fielding, S. and Ludlam, S. (eds) (2003) *Interpreting the Labour Party*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.
Callaghan, J., Fishman, N., Jackson, B. and McIvor, M. (eds) (2009) *In search of social democracy: responses to crisis and modernisation*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.
Driver, S. and Martell, L. (2006) *New Labour*, Second Edition, Cambridge: Polity.
Hannah, S. (2022) *A party with socialists in it: a history of the labour left,* Second edition, London: Pluto Press.
Faucher-King, F. and Le Galès, P. (2010) *The New Labour Experiment, Change and Reform Under Blair and Brown*, Stanford: Stanford University Press.
Jones, O. (2020) *This land: The story of a movement.* London: Penguin Books.

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Manow, P., Palier, B. and Schwander, H. (2018) *Welfare democracies and party politics: Explaining electoral dynamics in times of changing welfare capitalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Page, R. (2007) *Revisiting the welfare state*, Maidenhead: Open University Press.
O'Grady, T. (2022) *The transformation of British welfare policy: Politics, discourse, and public opinion*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Powell, M. (ed) (1999) *New Labour, new welfare state? The 'third way' in British social policy*, Bristol: Policy Press.
Powell, M. (ed) (2008) *Modernising the welfare state, The Blair Legacy*, Bristol: Policy Press.
Rathgeb, P. (2024) *How the radical right has changed capitalism and welfare in Europe and the USA*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Articles

This selection of more recent articles mainly addresses the politics of the Labour Party and is mostly drawn from political science journals. The articles provide an analysis of the political and economic challenges, approaches, and directions that Labour has followed to date and give an indication of how these underpin social policy-making.

Ainsley, C. (2025). After Biden: Lessons for Labour and the Global Centre-Left from the United States. *The Political Quarterly,* 96(2), pp.264–269. doi:10.1111/1467-923X.13514
Beech, M., and Page, R. M. (2015). Blue and Purple Labour Challenges to the Welfare State: How should 'Statist' Social Democrats respond? *Social Policy and Society*, 14(3), 341–356
Diamond, P. (2021). New Jerusalems? The Labour's Party Economic Policy-Making in Hard Times. *The Political Quarterly,* 92(2), pp.264–273. doi:10.1111/1467-923X.12988
Goes, E. (2025). The Labour party under Keir Starmer and the limits of the politics of performative competence. *British Politics*, 20(3), pp.400–417. doi:10.1057/s41293-025-00279-4
Hill, S. T., Modood, T. and Denham, J. (2025). Multicultural Nationalism: Saving the White Working Class from Blue Labour? *The Political Quarterly*, 96(3), 561–569. doi:10.1111/1467-923X.13552
Piazzo, R. (2025). The Labour Left from Benn to Momentum: continuity and change in strategy and tactics. *British Politics*, 20(2), 135–157. doi:10.1057/s41293-024-00269-y
Schulman, J. (2019). Next Labour? Changes in British Union-Labour Party Relations since the Election of Tony Blair. *Employee Responsibilities and Rights Journal*, 31(2), pp.115–130. doi:10.1007/s10672-019-09331-0
Sloman, P. (2024). Labour, more or less? Policy reasoning in a fiscal register. *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 26(1), pp. 22–38. doi:10.1177/13691481231208149

Labour Party policy information

Labour's 2024 Manifesto https://labour.org.uk/change/mission-driven-government/

The party's public-facing, in-government version of its manifesto sets out 'first steps for change' and its 'five key missions'. The full 2024 Manifesto is available at: https://labour.org.uk/change/. The party's Annual National Policy Forum report for 2025 is available for download at https://nationalpolicyforum.labour.org.uk where public consultation submissions by individuals and organisations for the next cycle can also be made.

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Labour Party policy 'influencers' with an interest in social policy and formal publications

Think tanks

Many of these 'think tanks' would probably like, or like to claim, more direct policy influence than they have in reality. However, their work is significant in contributing to policy ideas, policy feedback, and policy discourse in the UK. There are many others, but these are most aligned with traditional labour values and contemporary social and environmental challenges.

Compass https://www.compassonline.org.uk
DEMOS https://demos.co.uk
Fabian Society https://fabians.org.uk
Institute for Fiscal Studies https://ifs.org.uk
Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) https://www.ippr.org
New Economics Foundation (NEF) https://www.neweconomics.org
Resolution Foundation https://www.resolutionfoundation.org

Party-based groups

Blue Labour https://www.bluelabour.org
Labour Together https://www.labourtogether.uk

Policy organisations providing analysis and tracking of government policy

Full Fact government tracker [https://fullfact.org/government-tracker/]

Full Fact is an independent charitable organisation (which declares funding received, including from big tech) set up to monitor and challenge misinformation. Alongside its core interests, it does provide a 'government tracker' to assess whether manifesto pledges are becoming or have become policy reality. Currently tracking 86 pledges, the website provides commentary on the assessment of achievement with embedded links to other sources. Useful for quick checks and prompts for further information sources/avenues for investigation.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) [https://www.jrf.org.uk]

The JRF is a historically long-established charitable organisation challenging poverty and unjust societal conditions. On its website, there are many downloadable research reports focused on government policy and its progress, for example, *Economic security as Labour's electoral foundation* (2025), authored by the Nuffield Politics Research Centre. The JRF also produces a survey-based 'Cost of Living Tracker' [https://www.jrf.org.uk/cost-of-living], used to report and comment on social policy developments.

General online resources

UK Parliament House of Commons Library [https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk]

The House of Commons Library is a public organisation providing research, data analysis, and general information for parliamentarians and their staff. While not all services and information are publicly accessible, there is a wealth of research briefings and reports dealing with current and future policy, and an easily searchable archive. There is a social policy-specific section on the website [https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/social-policy/] organised by policy domain.

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Policy papers and consultations [https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations?order=updated-newest]

In the 'Government Activity' section of the Gov.UK website, the 'policy papers and consultations' database can be found. It contains over 24,000 items from the late 1960s to the current day that can be searched by, for example, topic or document type. Documents ranging from committee terms of reference to full government response reports are downloadable and are useful for progress tracking summaries and policy development details.

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