

1. Liberal Consensus Eroded
  - a. Victorian Liberal Consensus
    - i. Components
      - (1) free trade
      - (2) government economizing
      - (3) paternal interest in helping the deserving poor and linking with private charity
    - ii. Liberals and Conservatives support (1840s-1890s)
  - b. Crisis, 1900-1914
    - i. Unionist, Union, and Suffragette violence
    - ii. Reforming era of the Liberal Party
2. Between Unionists...
  - a. Cracks in Victorian Consensus appear in the Irish (and South Africa) problem
    - i. Question of Home Rule splits the Liberal Party
    - ii. Conservatives (Unionists) rule 1895-1905
  - b. Return of Liberals in 1905 (but no longer the Victorian Liberals but closer to modern Liberals)
3. ...And Unions
  - a. Threat to Consensus from the Left
    - i. Political parties
      - (1) Not yet the Labour Party
      - (2) Not the Marxist fringe
        - (a) Social Democratic Federation
        - (b) Fabians
      - (3) Importance of the T.U.C.
        - (a) 114,000 (1868) → 735,000 (1873) → 750,000 (1887) → 1,500,000 (1892)
      - (4) L.R.C. becomes voice of working class after the Taff Vale judgement (1900-01)
4. Suffragettes
  - a. Private bills from 1900,
  - b. 1908-1912, political squabbles
  - c. Suffragette violence
    - i. Hunger Strike
    - ii. Cat and Mouse Act (1913)
    - iii. Emily Davison (1913).
    - iv. Pankhursts, 1914-18
5. The Peoples' Party (1900-1914) and the Peoples' Budget (1909)
  - a. reforming era of Liberal Party, 1905-1914 is peak and end of party (also the twilight of the power of the House of Lords)
  - b. Unionists in power 1895-1905 brought down by the Boer War and the protectionism of a proposed Imperial Customs Union
    - i. 1905 Liberals brought into power; by 1908, Herbert Asquith is Prime Minister
    - ii. Budget proposed in 1909
      - (1) sharp break from laissez faire liberalism of 19<sup>th</sup> century
      - (2) product of David Lloyd George, Chancellor of Exchequer
6. The Liberals vs. the Lords
  - a. Revolt by the "backwoodsman" (Lloyd George's phrase)
  - b. Lloyd George's speeches attacking Lords in 1909 (Limehouse)
  - c. Two New elections in 1910 lead to more votes for Conservatives/Unionists, but more seats to Liberals
    - i. power lies in hands of Irish Nationalists (Home Rule Party, 82) and Labour (40)
    - ii. Budget passed
    - iii. Liberals propose Parliament bill of 1911