brit_week14outline.wpd

- 1. From Free Health Care to Free Sex, 1945-1965
 - a. Elections 1945
 - i. War coalition falls apart
 - (1) Churchill calls for new elections for July
 - ii. Labour wins
 - (1) Labour 393
 - (2) Conservatives 213
 - (3) Liberals 12
 - (4) Other 20
 - (a) 2 CPGB
 - iii. Why? Two-part answer
 - (1) What Churchill and the Conservatives represented
 - (2) What Attlee and Labour represented
 - b. Roots of Britain's Turn towards Socialism
 - i. Labour Party was committed to Socialism.
 - (1) Let Us Face the Future, Labour Party election platform (1945)
 - (2) The components of Socialism in practice?
 - ii. The British people experienced Socialism since 1909, especially during both World Wars; especially in the Second World War where a sort of "war socialism" developed.
 - (1) World War I
 - (2) After 1918 and during the 1920s and 1930s
 - (3) WW II
 - (4) Less obviously The Blitz = the "citizen's war"
 - iii. Beveridge Report, which was published during the war in 1942.
 - (1) War on 5 Giants: Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor, Idleness
 - (2) Sir William Beveridge's Report recommended a universal scheme of social insurance, and a national health service.
 - c. Labour's Socialist Agenda, 1945-1951

i.

- So, what did the British mean by Socialism in 1945?
 - (1) Nationalization
 - (a) 1946-1949, nationalized the Bank of England, coalmining, cable and wireless, railways, canals, road haulage, electricity, gas, and iron and steel industries.
 - (i) Only iron and steel aroused any controversy.
 - (b) What is nationalization?
 - (i) minister appointed by Government with Board
 - (c) Major industries be nationalized.
 - (i) How did they pay for this? Use £2.4 billion of Marshall Aid.
 - (2) Welfare state growth extensive and comprehensive.
 - (a) 1946, National Insurance Act and National Health Services Act
 (i) based on recommendations of the Beveridge Report.
 - (b) 1948, The National Health Service free hospitals opened.
 - (c) Cradle-to-grave health and welfare care, as well as unemployment coverage. Comprehensive, single insurance scheme for all.
 - (d) Welfare state in the long run expensive
 - (i) Labour increased tax rates, in part as a means of redistributing wealth.
 - (ii) Not expensive in short run because absence of unemployment through 1950s.
 - (3) Social Justice/Fairness? Redistributing wealth through tax.
 - (a) Labour's other attempts less successful.
 - (i) Some public housing provided, but massive housing shortage

after the war

- (ii) Little done to revamp or open up the educational system before the late 1960s.
- d. Did it work?: post-1951 and evaluating Socialism
 - i. What did Labour accomplish between 1945 and 1951?
 - (1) Churchill and the Conservatives came back to power in 1951.
 - (a) Denationalized/privatized the trucking, iron, and steel industries.
 - (b) Kept public ownership of all other industries nationalized
 - (c) Kept in place the entire welfare apparatus-benefits for interruption of earnings, free health service-initiated by Labour.
 - (d) New Socialist Consensus.
 - (2) Did it work?
 - (a) Unemployment insurance and National Health Service are still in place.
 - (b) The New Consensus, a Socialist Britain, dominant from 1945 to 1979.
 - (3) But what about the "British malaise" (Britain's industrial decline) contrasted with the "German miracle"?
 - (a) Britain's industrial decline started in 1870.
 - (b) Britain's post-war debt has to be ascribed in part to their expensive attempt to play an international role in politics and to preserve the Empire militarily.
 - (c) The "German miracle" occurred in large part because Germany spent little on defense or international policy.
- e. Britain and the World, post-1945
 - i. declining role in world as a military power since fall of Singapore 1942
 - ii. cost of Korean War, 1950, affected Labour's budget and divided Cabinet over proposed cuts in health budget (no more free dental)
 - iii. rise and fall of special relationship with USA
 - iv. "Winds of Change": decolonization and the retreat from Empire
 - (1) India: Labour committed to decolonizing Indian subcontinent.
 - (2) Ireland
 - (a) From enemy to work closely with Southern Ireland
 - (b) Northern Ireland still part of UK
 - (3) Africa: "Wind's of Change"
 - (a) Macmillan's speech in U of South Africa (1960)
 - (b) anti-apartheid, but also recognizing the large number of colonies which will achieve independence in rest of continent in the 1960s
 - (4) Overall, end of Empire:
 - (a) India, Pakistan, Burma, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka (1947-48)
 - (b) Egypt, Sudan (1956)
 - (c) Ghana (1957)
 - (d) Uganda, Nigeria (1960)
 - (e) South Africa, Sierra Leone (1961)
 - (f) Jamaica, Trinidad (1962)
 - (g) Kenya (1963)
 - (h) Zambia, Tanzania (1964)
 - (i) Rhodesia, Gambia (1965)
 - (j) Botswana (1966)
 - (k) retains bond of Commonwealth
- 2. Swinging Britain

i.

- "We've never had it so good" (Macmillan) to "We've never had it so often" Why?
 - (1) changing mores (paperbacks, etc.)

- (2) Youth as a market (music, from 1956, new consumerism; baby-boom from 1945; amphetamines on black market by 1961)
- (3) new cultures: West Indians in Britain (marijuana)
- Profumo Affair (Sec. of State for War lies to Parliament about his relationship with Christine Keeler, who had also had relationship with Capt. Yevgeny Ivanov, Asst. War Attache of Soviet Embassy)
- ii. Good-bye to All That.