

With almost all of us stuck at home due to the Coronavirus lockdown, we have compiled a political education list of our recommendations of books you can read and videos you can watch to help pass the time by improving your knowledge of the Labour Party and its history. This second version of the list includes extra suggestions that our supporters have sent to us in response to the initial list.

We aren't suggesting anyone will be able to read everything in the list, more that you will dip in and find something of interest. Please note that prices of some of the out of print books vary *wildly* on Amazon. Try searching for the titles that you want on websites of local bookshops in your area that do delivery as well.

Please do [send us your recommendations](#) for other books or videos to add to the list, particularly about non-UK subjects as this is very much focused on the UK and Labour so far.

Unfortunately, there's a lack of diversity in both the subjects and authors of the historical books I've listed, for the sad reason that until All Women Shortlists were brought in for parliamentary selections in the 1990s, Labour's structures were dominated by white men – Nan Sloane has addressed the previously often unrecorded role of women in the party's history in "The Women in the Room: Labour's Forgotten History" - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Women-Room-Labours-Forgotten-History-ebook/dp/B07MX8THJT/>

## History

### General History of the Labour Party

- Old Labour to New - The Dreams That Inspired, the Battles That Divided – Greg Rosen  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Old-Labour-New-Inspired-Battles/dp/1842750453/>
- A Strange Eventful History – Democratic Socialism in Britain - Edmund Dell  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Strange-Eventful-History-Democratic-Socialism/dp/0006530567/>
- Dictionary of Labour Biography – Greg Rosen  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dictionary-Labour-Biography-Greg-Rosen/dp/1902301188>

- Leading the Left – Peter Shore  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Leading-Left-Peter-Shore/dp/0297810960>
- A Short History of the Labour Party – Henry Pelling  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Short-History-Labour-Party/dp/1403993130>
- Labour People – Hardie to Kinnock - Kenneth O Morgan  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Labour-People-Leaders-Lieutenants-Kinnock/dp/0571259618>
- The Progressive Dilemma – From Lloyd George to Blair – David Marquand  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Progressive-Dilemma-Lloyd-George-Blair/dp/0753807068>
- British Labour Leaders – Charles Clarke  
[https://smile.amazon.co.uk/dp/1849548161/ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_cp\\_ap\\_a\\_i - ghFEbHGGX8VX](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/dp/1849548161/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ap_a_i - ghFEbHGGX8VX)
- The Labour Party and the World: Labour's Foreign Policy – Rhiannon Vickers – 2 volumes  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0719067456/>  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B07WHSPCGC>

## Pre 1945

- The Rise of the Labour Party 1880-1945 – Paul Adelman  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Labour-1880-1945-Seminar-Studies-History/dp/0582292107>
- Labour Inside the Gate – A History of the British Labour Party between the Wars – Matthew Worley  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Labour-Inside-Gate-International-Political/dp/1845113322>

## 1945-1951

- The Tortoise and the Hares – Attlee, Bevin, Cripps, Dalton, Morrison – Giles Radice  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Tortoise-Hares-Attlee-Cripps-Morrison/dp/1842752235>

## 1951-1964

- The Road to Brighton Pier – Leslie Hunter  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/road-Brighton-Pier-Leslie-Hunter/dp/B0000CK9QW> (story of the infighting between the Bevanites and the moderates)

## 1964-1979

- The Heat of the Kitchen – Bernard Donoughue  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Heat-Kitchen-Bernard-Donoughue/dp/1842750518> (autobiography of Wilson's head of policy – his Downing Street Diaries are also excellent)
- Friends & Rivals – Crosland, Jenkins and Healey – Giles Radice  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Friends-Rivals-Crosland-Jenkins-Healey/dp/0349117349>

## 1979-1997

- Hammer of the Left - John Golding  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hammer-Left-John-Golding/dp/1785900269/>
- Fightback!: Labour's Traditional Right in the 1970s and 1980s - Dianne Hayter  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Fightback-Labours-Traditional-Critical-Movement/dp/0719072719>
- Faces of Labour – Andy McSmith  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Faces-Labour-Inside-Andy-McSmith/dp/1859840930>
- Four Years in the Death of the Labour Party – Austin Mitchell  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Four-Years-Death-Labour-Party/dp/0413545504>

## 1997-2010

- The Blair Supremacy – A study in the politics of Labour's Party management – Lewis Minkin  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Blair-Supremacy-Politics-Labours-Management/dp/0719073790>
- Trio - Inside the Blair, Brown, Mandelson Project – Giles Radice  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Trio-Inside-Blair-Mandelson-Project/dp/1848854455>
- Servants of the People – The Inside Story of New Labour – Andrew Rawnsley  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Servants-People-Inside-Story-Labour/dp/0140278508>
- The End of the Party – The Rise and Fall of New Labour – Andrew Rawnsley  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/End-Party-Andrew-Rawnsley/dp/0141046147>
- Brown at 10 – Anthony Seldon and Guy Lodge  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Brown-at-10-Anthony-Seldon-ebook/dp/B006WAYVV6/>

## 2010-

- Protest and Power – The Battle for the Labour Party – David Kogan  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Protest-Power-Battle-Labour-Party/dp/1448217288>
- Comrade Corbyn - Rosa Prince  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Comrade-Corbyn-Updated-Rosa-Prince/dp/1785903837/>

# Understanding Labour Party Conference

- The Labour Party Conference – A study in the Politics of Intra-Party Democracy – Lewis Minkin  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Labour-Party-Conference-Intra-party-Democracy/dp/0713906227>

# Trade Union Link

- The Contentious Alliance – Trade Unions and the Labour Party – Lewis Minkin  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Contentious-Alliance-Trade-Unions-Labour/dp/0748604049/>

# Biographies and Autobiographies

- Ramsay MacDonald – David Marquand  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ramsay-Macdonald-Biography-David-Marquand/dp/1860661130>
- JR Clynes – A Political Life – Tony Judge  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/J-R-Clynes-Political-Tony-Judge/dp/1518761984>
- Citizen Clem - John Bew  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Citizen-Clem-Biography-Attlee-Winner/dp/178087992X>
- Clement Attlee: The Inevitable Prime Minister – Michael Jago  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Clement-Attlee-Inevitable-Prime-Minister/dp/1785902369>
- Ernest Bevin – Alan Bullock  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ernest-Bevin-Alan-Bullock/dp/1902301854>
- Herbert Morrison – Portrait of a Politician – Bernard Donoghue and GW Jones  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Herbert-Morrison-Portrait-Politician-paperback/dp/1842124412>

- Hugh Dalton – A Life – Ben Pimlott  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hugh-Dalton-Life-Ben-Pimlott/dp/000638417X>
- Aneurin Bevan – Michael Foot  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Aneurin-Bevan-Biography-Michael-Foot/dp/0689105878> (link is to the abridged single volume version – the full version is two volumes)
- Hugh Gaitskell – The First Moderniser – Brian Brivati  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hugh-Gaitskell-Moderniser-Brian-Brivati/dp/1843580993>
- Wilson – Philip Ziegler  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Wilson-Authorised-Life-Philip-Ziegler/dp/0297812769>
- Tired and Emotional – The Life of Lord George Brown - Peter Paterson  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Tired-Emotional-Life-George-Brown/dp/0701139765>
- Alice in Westminster: The Political Life of Alice Bacon – Rachel Reeves  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Alice-Westminster-Political-Life-Bacon/dp/1784537683>
- Time & Chance – James Callaghan  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Time-Chance-James-Callaghan/dp/1842751808>
- The Time of My Life – Denis Healey  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Time-My-Life-Denis-Healey/dp/0413777960>
- Red Queen: The Authorised Biography of Barbara Castle – Anne Perkins  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Red-Queen-Authorised-Biography-Barbara/dp/0333905113/>
- Fighting All the Way - Barbara Castle  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Fighting-All-Way-Barbara-Castle/dp/0333590317>
- The Castle Diaries 1964-1976 - Barbara Castle  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Castle-Diaries-1964-1976-Barbara/dp/0333499492/>
- Who goes home? Scenes from a Political Life – Roy Hattersley  
<https://www.amazon.com/Who-Goes-Home-Roy-Hattersley/dp/034911692X>
- Witchfinder General: A Political Odyssey – Joyce Gould  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Witchfinder-General-Political-Joyce-Gould/dp/1849549753>
- How to be a Minister – Gerald Kaufman  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/How-be-Minister-Gerald-Kaufman/dp/0571190804>
- Neil Kinnock – Martin Westlake  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Kinnock-Authorised-Biography-Martin-Westlake/dp/0316848719>
- Kinnock – George Drower  
<https://www.amazon.com/Kinnock-Biography-George-Drower/dp/1897780419>

- John Smith: A Life, 1938-1994 – Andy McSmith  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/John-Smith-1938-1994-Andy-McSmith/dp/074939675X>
- Momentum – Mo Mowlam  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Momentum-Struggle-Peace-Politics-People/dp/0340793953>
- The Autobiography – Betty Boothroyd  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Betty-Boothroyd-Autobiography/dp/0099427044/>
- A Journey – Tony Blair  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Journey-Tony-Blair/dp/0099525097>
- Blair – Anthony Seldon  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Blair-Anthony-Seldon/dp/0743232127>
- The Third Man – Peter Mandelson  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Third-Man-Life-Heart-Labour/dp/0007395302>
- The Unfinished Revolution: How New Labour Changed British Politics Forever – Philip Gould  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0349138575>
- My Life, Our Times – Gordon Brown  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Life-Our-Times-Gordon-Brown/dp/1847924972>
- Speaking Out: Lessons in Life and Politics – Ed Balls  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Speaking-Out-Lessons-Life-Politics/dp/1786330393>
- Women of Westminster: The MPs Who Changed Politics – Rachel Reeves  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1788312201>

## Understanding the Hard and Far Left

- Militant - Michael Crick  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Militant-Michael-Crick/dp/1785900293>
- As soon as this pub closes ... - Chus Aguirre & Mo Klonsky  
<https://www.marxists.org/history/etol/critiques/sullivan/As-soon-as-this-pub-closes.pdf>
- Defeat from the Jaws of Victory – Richard Heffernan and Mike Marqusee -  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Defeat-Jaws-Victory-Inside-Kinnocks/dp/0860915611> (attack on Kinnock years by the Hard Left)
- Labour and the Benn Factor – Michael Cocks  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Labour-Benn-Factor-Michael-Cocks/dp/0356186547>
- Tony Benn's diaries – multiple volumes

- Party Animals – My Family and other Communists – David Aaronovitch  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Party-Animals-Family-Other-Communists/dp/0099478978>
- The far left: An exposé of the extreme left in Britain – Blake Baker  
<https://www.amazon.com/far-left-expose%CC%81-extreme-Britain/dp/0297780336>

## Understanding Left Wing Antisemitism

- The Left's Jewish Problem – Jeremy Corbyn, Israel and Anti-semitism – Dave Rich  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Lefts-Jewish-Problem-Jeremy-Anti-Semitism/dp/1785901206>
- Institutionally Antisemitic: Contemporary Left Antisemitism and the Crisis in the British Labour Party – Prof Alan Johnson  
<https://fathomjournal.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Institutionally-Antisemitic-Report-FINAL-6.pdf>
- Contemporary Left Antisemitism – David Hirsh  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Contemporary-Left-Antisemitism-David-Hirsh/dp/113823530X>

## Theory

- The Future of Socialism - Tony Crosland  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Future-Socialism-Changed-British-Politics/dp/1845294858>
- Choose Freedom: The Future for Democratic Socialism – Roy Hattersley  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Choose-Freedom-Future-Democratic-Socialism/dp/0140104941>
- New Labour's Old Roots: Revisionist Thinkers in Labour's History 1930-1997 – Patrick Diamond  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Labours-Old-Roots-Revisionist/dp/0907845894/>
- Crosland and New Labour – Edited by Dick Leonard  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Crosland-New-Labour-Dick-Leonard/dp/0333739906>

- A Theory of Justice - John Rawls  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Theory-Justice-John-Rawls/dp/0674000781>
- The Blair Revolution – Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Blair-Revolution-Can-Labour-Deliver/dp/0571178189>
- Corbynism: A Critical Approach – Matt Bolton and Frederick Harry Pitts  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Corbynism-Critical-SocietyNow-Matt-Bolton/dp/1787543722> (Marxist critique of Corbynism’s conspiratorial analysis of capitalism)
- Rebuilding Social Democracy – Core Principles for the Centre Left – Edited by Kevin Hickson  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Rebuilding-Social-Democracy-Principles-Centre/dp/1447333179>
- Remaking the Labour Party – From Gaitskell to Blair – Tudor Jones  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Remaking-Labour-Party-Gaitskell-Blair/dp/0415125502>
- The Third Way: The Renewal of Social Democracy – Anthony Giddens  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Third-Way-Renewal-Social-Democracy/dp/0745622674>
- New Labour - Stephen Driver and Luke Martell  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Labour-Revised-Updated-Stephen-Driver/dp/0745633315>
- Talking to a Brick Wall: How New Labour stopped listening to the voter and why we need a new politics  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Talking-Brick-Wall-listening-politics/dp/184954056X>

## Film and Podcasts

- Labour - The Wilderness Years  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XrO72C1WQ0&list=PLBD1ADBFF6B7FD052>
- Debate - John Spellar, Austin Mitchell, Peter Taffe & Tony Mulhearn  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOAJ9G4iytU>
- The Deal  
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-deal/on-demand/36432-001>
- Corbynism: The Post-Mortem - Oz Katerji  
<https://audioboom.com/channels/5016299>
- Thames TV archive of 1981 Deputy Leadership election  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/ThamesTv/search?query=tony+benn>



# US Politics

- The Years of Lyndon Johnson – Robert Caro – 4 volumes so far and another on the way
- My Life – Bill Clinton  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Life-President-Bill-Clinton/dp/0099441357>
- What Happened – Hilary Clinton  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/What-Happened-Hillary-Rodham-Clinton/dp/1471166945>
- The Browns of California: The Family Dynasty that Transformed a State and Shaped a Nation – Miriam Pawel  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Browns-California-Family-Dynasty-Transformed-ebook/dp/B07FQSS5WY/>
- Believer : My Forty Years in Politics – David Axelrod  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Believer-My-Forty-Years-Politics/dp/0143128353/>

# Free Content

## A selection of websites with free articles on Labour, Trade Unions and Socialism

- Progress archive site  
<http://archive.progressonline.org.uk/>
- The Fabian Society  
<https://fabians.org.uk/publications/>
- Tides of History  
<https://tidesofhistory.wordpress.com/>
- The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)  
<https://www.ippr.org/research/publications>
- Policy Network  
<https://policynetwork.org/>
- Unions 21  
<https://unions21.org.uk/ideas/publications>
- New Local Government Network  
<http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/section/publications/>
- Luke's back catalogue on Labourlist  
<https://labourlist.org/author/luke-akehurst/>
- The Social Review  
<https://www.thesocialreview.co.uk/>