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/](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/](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/](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Strange-Eventful-History-Democratic-Socialism/dp/0006530567/)
• 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_apa_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/B006WAYV6/
2010–

- Protest and Power – The Battle for the Labour Party – David Kogan
  [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Protest-Power-Battle-Labour-Party/dp/1448217288](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/](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](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/](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](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](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](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](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](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ernest-Bevin-Alan-Bullock/dp/1902301854)
- Herbert Morrison – Portrait of a Politician – Bernard Donoughue and GW Jones
  [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Herbert-Morrison-Portrait-Politician-paperback/dp/1842124412](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
• Who goes home? Scenes from a Political Life – Roy Hattersley
• 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/057190804
• 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  

• 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 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

• 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
• A Theory of Justice - John Rawls
• 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 Mulhern
  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/