

## From National Crisis to National Government British Politics, Economy and Society, 1914 – 1939

Dr Chris Godden

### Course Outline

*From National Crisis to National Government* explores the trajectory of Britain's political, economic, and social development during the First World War and the inter-war period. While the general expectation of the early 1920s was that pre-war conditions in Britain would be quickly re-establish, the reality was very much different. Britain found herself facing severe challenges, including prolonged unemployment, industrial conflicts, and the impact of a cataclysmic global slump. This course explores why these events happened, as well as examining various aspects of their economic, social, and political consequences.

The focus of the module is quite broad, and addresses topics ranging from the economic and social impact of industrialised mass warfare, industrial conflicts and civil liberties, the political and financial crisis of 1931, the social and cultural impact of mass unemployment associated with the onset of industrial decline, and the rise of political extremism.

This module will appeal to students who are interested in twentieth century economic, social, and political history, as well as those who wish to explore ideas and topics connected with the broad themes of historical political economy.

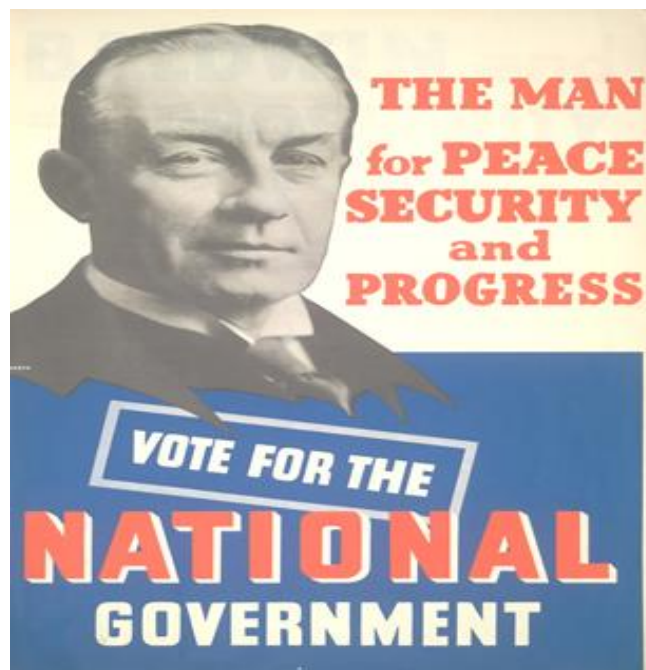
### Method of Assessment

The assessment for this module is 100% coursework. This is structured as follows:

- 1 x encyclopaedia entry (40% of final mark)
- 1 x essay (60% of final mark)

**Drop-In Zoom Office Hour**  
**11.00 – 12.00, Tuesday 13 June 2023**

**<https://zoom.us/j/94814294062>**



Provisional workshop topics for the academic year 2023/24 include:

- Arming the Western Front: Business and the State in Britain during the First World War
- Walking the Fiscal Tightrope: The Political Economy of War Finance, 1914 – 1924
- The Conquest of \$4.86: Keynes, Churchill, and the Restoration of the Gold Standard
- The State, Labour Conflicts, and Civil Liberties, 1919 – 1926
- The Intractable Million: The Social and Cultural Dimensions of Mass Unemployment
- The Death of Capitalism: Ideology and the Market in the 1930s
- Democracy and Political Extremism in Inter-War Britain



### **Indicative Reading**

There is no one text that deals satisfactorily with all the themes covered in this module. The following will give you a good starting point in thinking about some of the topics:

Roger Backhouse & Bradley Bateman, *Capitalist Revolutionary: John Maynard Keynes* (Harvard University Press, 2011).

Nigel Copsey & Andrzej Olechnowicz (eds.) *Varieties of Anti-Fascism: Britain in the Inter-War Period* (Palgrave, 2010).

David Howell, *MacDonald's Party: Labour Identities and Crisis, 1922 – 1931* (Oxford University Press, 2002).

Susan Kingsley Kent, *Aftershocks: Politics and Trauma in Britain, 1918 – 1931* (Palgrave, 2009).

Roger Lloyd-Jones & M.J. Lewis, *Arming the Western Front: War, Business and the State, 1900 – 1920* (Routledge, 2016).

Richard Overy, *The Morbid Age: Britain Between the Wars* (London, 2009).

Hew Strachan (ed.) *The British Home Front and the First World War* (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

### **Contact Information**

If you have any questions about the module, please get in touch.

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