

The Blitz

- **The Blitz** was a German bombing campaign against the UK, in 1940 and 1941.
- 40,000 civilians were killed around the UK during the bombing raids
- Over 2 million houses were destroyed.

Why did Britain want Change after WWII?

- Women had worked in factories during the war, doing similar jobs to men. They felt they should be treated equally.
- Everyone had experienced rationing of food and fuel—they didn't want to go back to the rich having more because of money.
- Britain owed over £300 million in war debt and needed to reconstruct Britain's infrastructure e.g. housing and roads due to bombing.

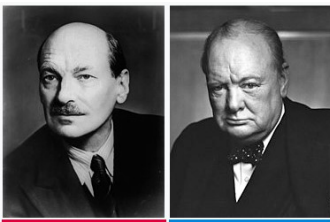
1945 General Election

People voted on the 5th July 1945

- Conservative Candidate = Winston Churchill
- Labour Candidate = Clement Atlee

Labour won the election in a landslide, winning over **393 seats in the House of Commons.**

- Labour promised to promote the Welfare State and re-build over 3 million houses.



Beveridge and the Welfare State

- William Beveridge wrote **the "Beveridge Report" in 1942** which outlined Britain's vision for the Welfare State and the a possible National Health Service (NHS).
- Beveridge talked of destroying the **5 Giants of Want, Ignorance, Squalor, Disease, Idleness.**
- Labour Health Minister Nye Bevan wanted everyone to have access to free healthcare.
- **5th July 1948 = The NHS** is created giving everyone in the UK access to healthcare. Free at the point of use,



Immigration and the Windrush Generation

- **The ship Empire Windrush** arrived from the Caribbean in Tilbury, UK, **in June 1948.** It contained over 1000 people hoping to immigrate to the UK.
- Many people from the Commonwealth wanted to immigrate to the UK for some of the following reasons:
 1. UK was seen as the "Motherland"
 2. Ex-soldiers and RAF men wanted to live in the UK again and would bring their families
 3. Unemployment in the Caribbean was widespread and the UK had better jobs and better pay

Were Immigrants treated fairly?

- Immigrants were often treated unfairly based on the colour of their skin. **The Colour Bar** would prevent people of colour from getting particular jobs or housing.
- In **1958 in Notting Hill, Race Riots** took place. 300 to 400 white people were seen on Bramley Road attacking the houses of West Indian residents and violence erupted over the next 3 days.
- **MPs such as Peter Griffith's** ran for election in Smethwick in 1964 based on racist slogans.
- However, there were positive developments for some and celebrations of greater diversity, **such as the Notting Hill Carnival 1964.**



Women in the 1960s and 1970s

- In the 1950s, many women were expected to get married and have children, their job being a housewife.
- Only 1/5 women were in the workplace in the 1950s.
- By the 1960s, women did have greater access to things which made their lives more free, such as:
 1. **The Contraceptive Pill** for Married Women (1961) and for Single Women (1967)
 2. **No Fault Divorce (1969)** Women and men could get a divorce if there were "irreconcilable" differences.
 3. **Abortion Act (1967)** Women were legally allowed to access abortions. Up to 15 weeks.

Women in the 1970s

- **1970—Equal Pay Act.** Women and Men were expected to be paid the same amount for the same job
- **1975—Equal Opportunities Commission** was set up to check that businesses were sticking to the 1970 Equal Pay Act. It only investigated 9 cases in 8 years.
- **1975—Sexual Discrimination Act.** Protected men and women from discrimination based on sex or marital status.

