

**THE RATIONALE FOR THE  
PUBLIC SECTOR AND THE  
EFFECTS OF SOCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC CHANGES IN  
SOCIETIES**

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Public Sector policy rationale: not only economic considerations, but mixture of economic resource considerations and social factors

2 political/ideological views: (i) centre right/right  
(ii) centre left/left

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(i) centre right/right ('free market' liberals)

- development of large (too large) Public Sector counterproductive = a constraint on the functioning of the free-market ('crowds out' Private Sector investment and enterprise)
- plus = growth of large state bureaucracy, the cost of which raises levels of taxation on individuals and businesses

(ii) from the centre left/left' of the political spectrum – social democrats

- Public Sector is a positive and necessary development as it is needed socially to protect the most vulnerable citizens in society from the worst excesses of the 'free-market'
- plus, it also has economic gains for the market as it assists in the production of highly skilled, well-trained, well educated, healthier, workforce

## *1. THE PROBLEMS*

*– social and economic changes*

## *2. THE REMEDIES?*

*– two governmental approaches to tackling the problems*

## *3. THE PHILOSOPHICAL PRINCIPLES AND PROBLEMS*

*– theoretical principles and issues in defining social justice within the public sector*

## THE PROBLEMS

*- A European 'social and economic' revolution*

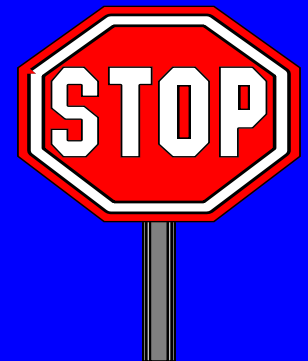
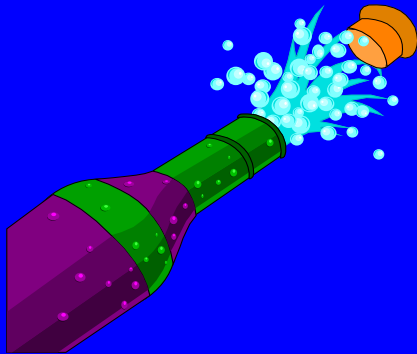
- *a revolution of a change in family structures*
  - *change in the pattern and make up of families*
- *a revolution of a change in demography*
  - *change in the age make up of societies*
- *a revolution of change in women's lives*
  - *changes in societies which most affect women*

## BRITAIN'S 'SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION'

- **1949** *1 out of 3 British workers was a woman*
- **2008** *1 out of 2 British workers was a woman*
- **1950s** *women 10 years out of employment on birth of first child (on average)*
- **2008** *women 9 months out of employment on birth of first child (on average – those that return to work)*

# BRITAIN'S 'SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION'

- *by 2009 Britain had highest divorce rate in EU (with Finland) – increased by 400% 1950 to 1990 (highest divorce rates among people under 25)*
- *Single person households UK:  
1971 6%      2006 13%  
2021 35% (government estimate)*



## BRITAIN'S 'SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION'

- in 1971 in Britain 8 per cent of children brought up by a single parent
- by 2009 in Britain 24 per cent of children brought up by a single parent (3 million children, average age of single parent = 36.9 years)



## BRITAIN'S 'SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION'

- 30 per cent of all babies in UK were born outside marriage (to unmarried mothers) in 1994 (including babies born to couples living together but not married)
- 44.4 per cent in 2007

# BRITAIN'S 'SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION'

## *Demographic changes*

	<i><u>% population 65 and over</u></i>	<i><u>% population under 16</u></i>
<i>1984</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>2009</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>19%</i>
<i>2034 (estimate)</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>18%</i>

*By 2026 estimated number of people aged over 65 will outnumber 16 to 24 year olds by 2 to 1*

*Average age UK: 1984 35 years, 2009 39 years*

# BRITAIN'S 'SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION'

## *Demographic changes*

- *in 1961 one million people in Britain were over 80 years old*
- *by 2009 2.5 million people in Britain were over 80 years old*

*Average number of years people living beyond 65:*

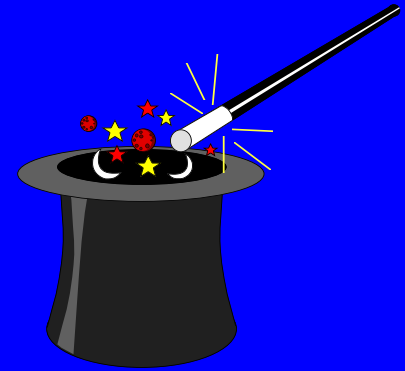
<u>1978</u>	15	<u>2004</u>	18	<u>2030</u>	21
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*(estimate)*

## BRITAIN'S 'SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION'

- *in 1950 in Britain 20 per cent of health care resources spent on people over 65*
- *By 2009 in Britain 50 per cent of health care resources spent on people over 65*
- *2009 National Health Service clients aged 65 and over = 75 per cent*

# THE REMEDIES?



## *1. The Thatcher approach*

*- based on the ideas of the libertarian right*

## *2. The Blair approach*

*- based on ideas and theories of social justice*

# THE REMEDIES?

## 1. The Thatcher approach

- *only one way of judging what was a 'just' outcome*
- *it should be the product of a free market*

# THE REMEDIES?

## 1. The Blair approach

- *the equal worth of every citizen*
- *meeting basic needs*
- *equality of opportunity*
- *equality of 'life chances' (personal freedom and autonomy)*
- *the principle of fair reward (removal of disadvantage and discrimination)*
- *rights (for citizens) and responsibilities (of citizens)*

# THE PHILOSOPHICAL PRINCIPLES AND PROBLEMS

- *to each according to his or her rights*
  - *legal, institutional and moral rights*
- *to each according to his or her deserts*
  - *those with greater skills and talents deserve more*
- *to each according to his or her needs*
  - *the need of the basic requirements of life*



# FOUR PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

- the foundation of a free society is the equal worth of all citizens
- everyone is entitled, as a right of citizenship, to be able to meet their basic needs
- the right to self-respect and personal autonomy demands the widest possible spread of opportunities
- unjust inequalities should be reduced and, where possible, eliminated