



CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN UK

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Introduction:

- It is the oldest party and the successor to the Tories of the 18th century.
- It is a national party which stands for the whole nation emphasizing unity.
- The party stands for a change at a very slow rate.
- It is the party consisting of wealthy, aristocratic and upper classes, drawing support from graduates, working class patriots & the middle class.
- It is primarily an organization of businessmen yet supported from all classes.

Organization:

- Its organization is much simpler than the Labor party.
- The party claimed to be more democratic in its organization.
- Geographically speaking the South of England inclined towards Conservative party.
- At the top of the party organization is the NUCUA(the National Union of Conservatives & Unionist Association). It is the federation of the constituency party units.

NUCUA:

- Its purposes are to promote party organizations and further the principles and aims of the party and to be a centre of united action.
- It has a central council and an executive committee.
- The Executive Committee meets once in a month.
- The Central Council consists of 15 categories of members such as university graduates, constituency Associations, Central Associations, etc.
- At every annual meeting it elects a president, a chairman and an Executive committee which meets once in a month.
- The executive committee is only an advisory body.

The Central Office:

- The administrative and disciplinary work of the party is taken up by the central office of the party headed by the chairman of the party.
- The chairman is nominated by the party leader.
- The party candidates are nominated by the central office.
- The financial affairs of the party are also managed by the central office and I also assist the local organs of the party.

The Party Leader:

- The party leader exercises the real authority within the party.
- He is not elected every year but holds office for life.
- He himself nominates his successor and the entire party follow his orders.
- He is the leader of his party in the House of Commons.
- He is responsible for the elaborate statement of the party policy.
- The central office conveys to him the feelings of the voters in the constituencies.

The Parliamentary Party Body:

- The Parliamentary party body is the real policy making body of the party constituted of MPs belonging to the party.
- The Parliamentary board of the party selects its own leader.
- If the party gets a clear majority the leader becomes the PM otherwise the opposition leader.
- It is the leader who appoints the party whips.

Constituency level party organs:

- The party outside the Parliament is organized on a constituency level.
- The constituency association is a loosely organized unit of individual members residing in the constituency.
- Each such association is guided by the Central Head quarters.
- In each constituency, there is always a conservative organization for youth and women.
- Each constituency is divided into Wards.
- Above the constituency association there are provincial Area organizations.
- Each such organizations has a chairman, a area council, an executive committee and a range of advisory committees.

Policies and programmes of the party:

- Party has the following programmes & policies –
- The basic philosophy of the party is that of **Edmund Burke, Hume & Adam Smith.**
 - I. It supports the institution of **Kingship, Church & Property.**
- It does not want to diminish the influence & prerogatives of the King.
- It lays emphasis on peoples loyalty to the King.

Policies & programmes

2. It supported the established Church of England.
3. It also favored **the retention of the House of Lords** & upholder of the interests of peerage.
 - Thus, it values traditions and precedents.
 - In matters of foreign policy, the party has been traditionally **imperialist & colonialist**.
 - It supported the idea of **Commonwealth**.

Policies & programmes

- It supported the entry of England in the European Common Market.
- In **social matters**, throughout the 19th century, they were the bitter opponents of political rights and education of the lower middle and working classes and also supported education through the church schools.
- But now-a-days, it supports social welfare programmes to safeguard the less privileged sections of the community, to protect them from exploitation & to provide them social security.

Policies & programmes

- Its **economic policies** were greatly influenced by capitalism and private enterprises.
- It believes in liberalism and rejects socialism and planning.
- Up to the First World War, they were opposed to nationalizations.
- It demands that the basic features of the British economic & social life must be retained and preserved.
- Its sense of nationality is very strong and it believes in the **superiority of the British race**.
- It emphasized national unity and denounces class-struggle and stresses the need for capital-labor cooperation.