



British Prime Ministers

History Study Guide Version 3.1

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Prime ministers of the UK through 2019, listed roughly chronologically.

Politician	Years	Details
Robert <u>Walpole</u>	1721-1742	Whig; served under George I and George II; first prime minister ; came to power after the collapse of the South Sea Bubble ; removed from power over the War of Jenkins' Ear
William <u>Pitt the Elder</u>	1766-1768	Whig; served under George III; prime minister during the Seven Years' War ; father of Pitt the Younger
William <u>Pitt the Younger</u>	1801 and 1804-1806	Tory; served under George III; prime minister during the French Revolution and at the start of the Napoleonic Wars ; son of Pitt the Elder
Arthur <u>Wellesley</u> , Duke of <u>Wellington</u>	1828-1830 and 1834	Tory; served under George IV and William IV; served concurrently as prime minister and commander of the British Army, in which post he led Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo and defeated the Maratha Confederacy at Assaye; oversaw the Catholic Relief Act
Robert <u>Peel</u>	1834-1835 and 1841-1846	Conservative; served under Victoria; repealed Corn Laws ; founded the London Metropolitan Police
Benjamin <u>Disraeli</u>	1868 and 1874-1880	Conservative; served under Victoria; only Jewish-born prime minister of the UK; targeted in the Midlothian Campaign by his rival, Gladstone; used the Royal Titles Act to name Victoria " Empress of India ;" prime minister during Zulu War
William <u>Gladstone</u>	1868-1894 (intermittent)	Liberal; served under Victoria; gave the Midlothian Campaign speeches against his rival, Disraeli; established the use of secret ballots ; tried and failed to establish Irish Home Rule ; signed the Kilmainham treaty with Irish politician Charles Parnell
David <u>Lloyd George</u>	1916-1922	Liberal; served under George V; prime minister at the end of World War I ; represented the UK as one of the Big Four at the the Paris Peace Conference and negotiated the Treaty of Versailles ; passed the People's Budget
Neville <u>Chamberlain</u>	1937-1940	Conservative; served under George VI; declared he was seeking " peace in our time " with his policy of appeasement when ceding the Sudetenland to Hitler in the Munich Agreement
Clement <u>Attlee</u>	1945-1951	Labour; served under George VI; attended the Potsdam Conference ; followed recommendations in the Beveridge Report when establishing the National Health Service
Winston <u>Churchill</u>	1940-1945 and 1951-1955	Conservative (briefly Liberal); served under George VI and Elizabeth II; prime minister during World War II; gave speeches in which he said "an iron curtain has descended across the Continent" and " we shall fight them on the beaches ;" attended the Yalta Conference with Stalin and Roosevelt
Margaret <u>Thatcher</u>	1979-1990	Conservative; served under Elizabeth II; first female prime minister ; nicknamed the " Iron Lady " and " Milk Snatcher " for abolishing a free school milk program; prime minister during the Falklands War ; replaced by John Major after supporting a poll tax called the Community Charge
Tony <u>Blair</u>	1997-2007	Labour; served under Elizabeth II; allied with George W. Bush to take the UK into the Iraq War
Theresa <u>May</u>	2016-2019	Conservative; served under Elizabeth II; initiated Brexit process in 2017