

Abstract

In this thesis the author is concerned with relationship between trade unions and the Edward Heath government from 1970 to 1974. This thesis will be also concerned with period of time before the Edward Heath government. It will be describing the development of relationship between post-war governments and trade unions. The author will be describing the Labour party government (1945-51), Conservative party government (1951-64) and again the Labour party government (1964-70). We can divide the period of Conservative party government into two parts. During the first one, which is set between 1970 to 1972, the government was trying to change the post-war consensus and undermine the influence of trade unions. During this period the main part of legislation was introduced, which was aimed to improve the relationship with trade unions and limit its influence. Then the thesis will be concerned with miners strike in 1972, which led to the change of governments policy. It will be also describing the last years of the government. During these years the government was not able to challenge the demands of trade unions, as well, the bad economic situation. The most important event of this period was again miners strike in 1974, which led to the fall of Conservative party government. The aim of this thesis will be analyse the reasons of unsuccess of the Edward Heaths government to limit the influence of trade unions.