

democratic world started in the United Kingdom: nationalization. The Labour Party landslide victory in the general election of 1945 was more than just a change of government. First time in history Labour Party came to power with a majority in the House of Commons. As a result of these processes the Labour ministers launched nationalization programme. However, these processes have deeper roots. Nationalization without protests was possible after many years of changes within the British population. The perception of property rights, freedom and role of a state was different than twenty years ago.

We have to go back to a period of the Great War, when Great Britain started with reforms of a state that were inspired by Germany. Functions of the state were reorganized along German lines. Paradoxically, "German's success" in the World War was a main reason for it. Furthermore, Labour Party had strongly believed in nationalization from the times of Karl Marx. For Labour Party nationalisation had been a necessary condition for a socialistic society. The dangerest attack on the freedom and property rights came from the middle way activists, economists and politicians like J.M. Keynes, W. Beveridge and others. These people, as well as the Second World War, convinced people and elites in the Great Britain, that nationalization was a condition for prosperity and equality. It led to a wave of nationalization during years 1945-1950. It resulted in huge losses of big state companies and bad services for people. The leader of the Labour Party in the 1950s Hugh Gaitskell tried to reassess the Labour policy of nationalization. Unfortunately, he lost. The nation lost too. He had to subsidize nationalized industries until privatization in the 1980s.