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# Revisionists and Fundamentalists: the Labour Party and Economic Policy during the Second World War<sup>1</sup>

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## Extract

'Labour Comes of Age', Kingsley Martin observed a few days after the party's electoral landslide of 1945. This might have been more precise if a chorus had added, *sotto voce*, '...And Comes Into an Inheritance', for since the publication of Paul Addison's *The road to 1945* (1975), the history of the Labour party during and after the war has been dominated by the notion of a political consensus forged during the Churchill coalition and left as a legacy to the Attlee government. According to Addison, it was the consensus of Keynes and Beveridge that shaped post-war politics rather than any distinctive contribution from Labour.

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