

Britain's Economy and Political Structure

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There is no escaping how economic affects the local, national, or even the global significance of how it affects each and every citizen living in a city-state structure. From the United States, to countries like Britain, economics shape societies in the most profound of ways. Speaking about Britain, in the current news article *Britain's 'Triple Dip' Recession Perilously Close As Economy Shrinks*, by David Milliken and Olesya Dmitracova, Britain's poor economy and multiple recessions are up for review. The article paints a pretty grim picture of Britain's economic woes. But, to begin with, who sets economic policy in Britain? What exactly does the political structure look like? Can Britain's government implement policy that could shift a sagging economy, back into a profitable one? Who are the political players? And, how do they come together to create, review, and implement such economic policies? All of these are relevant questions that we will elaborate further on in this brief political article. But before we move forward, let us identify our political players as the Queen, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Cabinet.

Firstly, what type of political system does Britain have? Britain's political system is a perfect example of a parliamentary system. In a parliamentary system, a monarch (which is the Queen in Britain) appoints the leader from the largest party, from the House of Commons, as a prime minister. Once there, the prime minister creates a cabinet of twenty-one ministers, one that he recommends to the Queen as Deputy Prime Minister, and selects ninety-nine subcabinet members; thus, establishing a government from members of Parliament ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)). Something important to note, is that the members are both legislators and executives, with years of experience in politics. Let us examine each of our political players roles in government, and if they

can or cannot affect economic policies.

Starting with the Queen, Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, how exactly does she affect economic policy? Can the Queen save Britain's economy? The Queen does not make the day to day decisions. What the Queen does is appoint a Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister, along with the rest of Parliament, run the country on a day to day basis. Of course there is still a Monarch, meaning the Queen could possibly veto a law, if she thought it went against all the people's wishes, but she mostly just signs off on the laws that she receives from Parliament. Since the Queen does not generally deal in policy making, she most likely could not save or assist in Britain's economic recovery.

The Prime Minister is our second political player within Britain's political structure. The Prime Minister is definitely an important political figure as he is the head of the government. The current Prime Minister of Britain is David Cameron. How exactly does a prime minister affect economic policy? It is the Prime Minister's responsibility to not only run the government, but also the economy, subordinates, and policies; he is meant to deliver economic growth, keep unemployment low, and government benefits high (Cord, Medeiros, Roskin, & Jones, 2010). The Prime Minister also oversees the Civil Service, government agencies, and appoints members of government ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)). The Prime Minister can definitely affect economic policy by either submitting laws for review, or swaying members in his Cabinet to submit laws for review. Why is this important to economic policy? Because, not only can the Prime Minister create a policy for evaluation, he can also influence its acceptance. Something else that the Prime Minister does that can directly impact economic policy (especially foreign economic policy), is he builds relationships around the world; forging alliances

with other countries can definitely have a positive impact on creating and implementing successful economic policies.

Our third political player is the Deputy Prime Minister. The Deputy Prime Minister is very important because he is responsible for political and constitutional reform. The current Deputy Prime Minister is Nick Clegg. The Deputy Prime Minister's job is to personally manage the government's ability to create a balanced economy, build relationships, and work on social mobility. All of these are extremely important in building or rebuilding a broken economy. Something else that is important to note, the Deputy Prime Minister usually supports the Prime Minister on most policy initiatives.

Our fourth key political player is the Cabinet. The Cabinet consists of twenty-one senior members of Parliament; known simply as ministers. The first minister is the Deputy Prime Minister, who is at the right hand of the Prime Minister. Each of the other cabinet members fills important roles usually as heads of state departments; for example, Secretary of State for Justice, or Secretary of State for Transport ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)). The Cabinet is a highly important political team of political players as they bring the greatest amount of experience to the table. Each and every one of them can also deliver new policy for review; this would also include economic policy.

Now that the political players have been clearly defined, how do they, or can they, all come together to overcome the economic troubles as described in the article *Britain's 'Triple Dip' Recession Perilously Close As Economy Shrinks?* The article points out that Britain's economy will be in stagnation for the next couple of quarters (Milliken & Dmitracova, 2013). Stagnation is defined as a prolonged period of no economic growth, or very little growth ([investopedia](http://investopedia)). To tackle such an immense problem, economic concern must drive policy from within

Parliament. All branches of the political structure must come together and create new policies that could possibly pull the country out recession. It starts with the Prime Minister. Since the Prime Minister is ultimately responsible for a failed economy, he must relay to his Deputy Prime Minister, and other ministers, the importance of assessing potential solutions, creating, and then implementing economic policies; perhaps even introducing policy of his own. It is not only his job though. The Deputy Prime Minister must but be an advocate for the Prime Minister's policies as well as act as an agent of reform. There is also the Cabinet; the heads of state departments will have to work together in deciding what policies will work, and which ones will not work. The policies can come from anywhere within Parliament, but the House of Commons seems to maintain the most control and responsibility. Draft policies are created and submitted for debate to Parliament. The House of Commons (to a greater extent) and the House of Lords (to a lesser extent) must agree on the policy. The Queen signs off on the policies once the laws have been decided upon by a Parliament majority. Thus, the whole political system has worked positively and efficiently to pass working economic policies.

In assessing the two articles that were chosen, the first article that was selected was *Britain's 'Triple Dip' Recession Perilously Close As Economy Shrinks*. This was chosen to be used as the starting points for the main topic, which were Britain's economic issues and some of the people involved. The article was quite informative about Britain's current economic state of affairs, as well as named several names for those that were responsible; for example the Prime Minister's name, David Cameron, came up several times. I would say this article is moderately reliable as the data that was mentioned in the article is public knowledge (Britain's recessions and the key players) that has been fully research by Reuters (a business and finance website). The second article that was selected was "How government works." This article was utilized

as a supplemental reference to the book. The article provided basic information about how the British government works, current names of the leaders, as well as just general information of each official. The credibility has been marked as high due to its origination from the [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) website; [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) is an official Britain government website.

Political structures matter, as they influence how the people and the government interact with one another. In our review of *Britain's 'Triple Dip' Recession Perilously Close As Economy Shrinks*, we realize that political systems, economics, policies, and political players can all be variables in the equation for a successful, or failing economy. But going beyond the article, Britain's parliamentary system has the necessary tools to overcome the wide spread economic problems. What tools are these? The tools are the leaders, the policy makers, and a political system that has been tried and tested to work for the people. It all starts with the Queen who appoints a Prime Minister that will be the leader of government. And then, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Cabinet, and other ministers, must all come together to create economic policies that will resolve their economic difficulties. In the end, I see a Britain that will overcome a downturned economy by using legislative arm of Parliament.

## References

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