

How the Third Way Affects Housing Development in the UK

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Abstract: The Third Way is a general term for a political and economic philosophy that walks the line between laissez-faire capitalism and traditional socialism. It is advocated by the centrists and is a school of social democracy. It is interlinked with traditional theory and is an extended-expression of traditional values. Social housing policy is an affirmation of the basic needs of the people, and the guarantee of their welfare plays a crucial role in the stability of society.

Keywords: "The Third Way"; "Housing"; "England"

Introduction

The Third Way is a political and economic philosophy that combines capitalism with traditional socialism (Boswell and Christina 2007). It is advocated by the centrists and belongs to a school of social democracy which the British Labour Party calls "modern social democracy". The Third Way is centred on the idea that society should neither be completely free market nor completely socialist, but that the best balance between the two should be found (Driver et al 2000).

During Tony Blair's reign, the welfare policy changed a lot, particularly in housing policy. At first around 1918, just after the First World War, it was urgent for the British government to address the problem of soldiers returning home from the war with no place to live (Giddens and Anthony 2013). Housing policy has become more refined after liberalism (Victorian era), state interventionism (post WWI), neoliberalism (post 1979) and the 'Third Way' (post 1997). The article focuses on the developments in the field of welfare policy for British housing under the ideology of the Third Way.

The Third Way - A History of Development and critical thinking

2.1 Historical review of the Third Way

The Third Way, a term first coined by Harold Macmillan in 1938 (Gonzalez and Francisico 1995; Harrison and Philip 2006). In his book, he argued that the state should advocate mutual understanding and compromise between capitalism and socialism, and this was the forerunner of what is now known as the Third Way.

The Third Way was also an ideology strongly supported by Tony Blair and then US President Bill Clinton (Haugh et al 2007). After the US presidential election, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown travelled to the US to meet Bill Clinton. They both realised that they had a lot in common, particularly John McMurray's philosophy, which was the Third Way of being, and Blair and the Labour Party studied the Australian government in the 1980s and used the Third Way Party approach to government (Hoefler and Carl 2007; Lewis et al 2004). The Third Way represents a modern social democracy. Because the Third Way influenced capitalists a lot, it is seen by members of the traditionalist faction as an evil that needs to be eliminated. In 2002 Anthony Giddens accused himself of not being able to adopt Labour's 'halfway house', which included the National Health Service, constitutional reform and so on (Powell and Martin 2000). In 2008 Charles Clarke, a senior Blairite politician in Britain, said that the dividing line technique with the Conservative Party should be abandoned (Rose and Nikolas 2000). "These lead us to simply follow the Tories' views as a way of reducing debate and eliminating points of conflict". Brown was already replaced by One Nation Labour in 2010, with democratic socialist Jeremy Corbyn becoming the new Labour leader in 2015. The Third Way under New Labour has been described by some as impure: a new

centre-right political and neo-liberal party.

2.2 Summary and analysis of The Third Way

2.2.1 Advantages

The Third Way is about change in five main areas: political values, the economy, government, the nation state and the welfare system (Ryner and Magnus 2003). The main elements of The Third Way can be summarized in four points: a new type of cooperative and inclusive social relationship; a Third Way that establishes a new center that can unite all political forces; a shift from management to governance in government; and a reform of the British welfare system. "The theory of the Third Way is a rich one, a collection of ideas from different political parties and governments, and many of the changes that have taken place in social democracy on the continent are directly related to the Third Way (Sevenhuijsen and Seima 2000; Wink and Walter 2003).

2.2.2 Disadvantages

Firstly, the Third Way does not have a good balance and is difficult to control and grasp in its practical application. Secondly, it does not maintain the proper perspective of the left because it accepts the framework of neo-liberalism, which was proposed by the Conservative Party of the right. Thirdly, it is not necessarily adapted to every society. Depending on the circumstances of each society, governments should adapt and improve their own ideological mentality rather than copying the ideological paths of other countries.

Blair's "Third Way" theory is an innovation, and it is only through conscious reflection and criticism that society can truly move forward. Therefore, we need to keep a clear head and a fair attitude towards the analysis of Blair's "Third Way" theory, so that we can promote its better development (Amin et al 2002; Gibbons et al 2006).

3. Key changes in housing under the Third Way and critical understanding

Prior to Blair's leadership of the Labour Party in 1997, he himself was aware of the problems in the housing sector and said: "The Conservative Party is not in touch with the insecure masses. Only the Labour Party can represent the people. As a party that advocates social housing as well as caring for private housing, local public housing authorities should be allowed to use funds to provide more new housing, improve existing properties and reduce homelessness." In 1997, Labour's new ideology of a Third Way was elected and although the first Minister for Public Health was appointed along with a Social Feedback Panel, the Labour Party in power did not reform accordingly (Stewart 2005). Between 1997 and 2002, house prices rose by an average of 18.5% per annum and the number of people living in temporary accommodation of all kinds almost doubled in five years, making the housing situation worse than it had been under the Conservatives.

From 2003, the Labour government stepped up its policy development and implementation efforts to strengthen the position of housing security (Kipfer et al 2009). The main element and form of housing security during this period was the construction of 'affordable housing'. In other words, below-market, publicly subsidized housing that is available to anyone who cannot afford to rent or buy a home in an open market environment (Anderson and Isobel 2004; Stewart 2005). In March 2004, the UK government announced a £3.5 billion plan to build more than 70, At the end of 2004, the government enacted the Housing Act, which sets out details of how to ensure that enough affordable social housing is built for people on low incomes and to create a fairer and better housing market.

In June 2010, the UK Government introduced changes to the housing benefit system (Pawson et al 2013). The housing benefit was refined to include 29 different benefit levels based on age, employment, family members and disability; a "cap" on the amount of housing benefit paid, and separate benefit limits for different housing types. At the same time, the amount of subsidy is adjusted according to income and savings (Clarke et al 2000).

Conclusion

The Third Way begins with maximizing the space for policy and rebuilding the policy objectives as the basis for the required policy shift (Flint and John 2006). This approach has gained the support of the public and met their needs. In practice, however, the

Third Way is again linked to traditional theoretical thinking. Blair, for example, made clear the shortcomings exhibited by traditional social welfare policies and acknowledged the significant limitations to social justice. However, Blair emphasized the need for individuals to actively give back to society by taking on obligations for society and others, thus achieving social justice in the modern sense. In other words, the Third Way was a modern addition to traditional values that appealed to social democrats and even the political left, who were facing an awkward position. This is what made the Third Way the dominant ideology of the Labour Party. It is also a major reason why Labour has been able to win three consecutive British general elections and has been in power since 1997.

Regarding society, housing security is a fundamental element of the modern social security system and is an independent social policy that requires the government to treat it with care and ensure its implementation. Housing security has an unshakeable and fundamental status and is the cornerstone of social stability and development. Food, clothing, shelter, and transport are the basic needs of human life. If problems arise in these areas, the survival and development of individuals and the stability of society will also be affected.

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