Labour Party factions

Since Jeremy Corbyn became leader of the Labour Party in 2015 the party has become more divided than ever. Jon Cruddas, the party’s former policy chief, who has produced a report titled ‘Why Labour lost in 2015 and how it can win again’, has accused the party of ‘becoming dangerously out of touch with the electorate and unwilling to acknowledge this’. Factions, old and new, continue to divide the party and its supporters. What are the main factions?

Momentum

- Grassroots group set up in the wake of Jeremy Corbyn’s election as Labour leader and a key player in the campaign for him to be re-elected
- Founded by the left-winger John Laxman in 2015, 4 weeks after Corbyn’s successful campaign to become leader of the Labour Party
- Seeks the election of a progressive-left Labour Party at every level and to transform Labour into a more open, member-led party, with socialist policies
- Has about 100,000 supporters
- Organises through social media and local groups
- David Blunkett has called it a ‘text-a-mob’ and ‘fringe’ organisation that should create its own far-left party
- Is this group committed to grassroots power and participatory democracy, or is it a threat to the mainstream Labour Party, or both?

Labour for the Common Good

- A parliamentary group set up during the 2015 Labour leadership election by Chuka Umunna and Tristram Hunt
- A moderate group which aims to bring together Blairites and Brownites to counter the Corbynite wing and regain Labour’s political and intellectual edge

Consensus

- Launched in April 2016 to combat factionalism in the party
- Aims to bring all wings of the party together to build a consensus on key policy issues
- Key people include Stephen Kinnock, Angela Eagle and Seema Malhotra

Progress

- An independent group of Labour Party members
- Founded in 1996 by Peter Mandelson as a Blairite pressure group
- Committed to the New Labour agenda
- Backed the neo-Blairite Liz Kendall in the 2015 leadership election
- Currently aims to promote radical and progressive policies recognising that the centre of the party has shifted in recent years

Labour First

- A right-wing Labour group founded in 1988
- Supported Yvette Cooper in the 2015 leadership election

Socialist Workers Party

- A revolutionary Trotskyite socialist party committed to transforming Parliament and the country
- Congratulated Corbyn on his election as leader, urging him to pursue a far-left agenda
- Backed Sadiq Khan in the London mayoral election as it saw it as a referendum on Corbyn’s leadership

Stop the War coalition

- Founded in 2001 in response to George W. Bush’s ‘war on terror’ after 9/11
- In February 2003 organised a demonstration against the Iraq War
- In August 2013 mobilised opposition to military action in Syria — Parliament voted 285–272 against military action
- Campaigned against military action in Syria after MPs authorised action against ISIL in Syria in December 2015
- Corbyn was chairman until he became Labour leader

Labour Together

- Set up in 2015 as an anti-Corbynite reaction to Momentum
- Aims to bring different wings of the party together
- Members include Chuka Umunna, Tristram Hunt and John Cruddas

Open Labour

- Launched in 2015 by 50 Labour activists as an alternative to Momentum
- Exclusively Labour and left-wing in the tradition of the Tribune Group
- Supports ideas of Ed Miliband’s 2010 leadership campaign
- Blends principles with electability

Labour for the Good

- Group which spearheaded the challenge to Corbyn’s leadership of the Labour Party in 2016
- Aims to replace Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party because ‘he has alienated almost all his colleagues in Parliament, has failed to set any kind of policy agenda and cannot meet the profound challenges of the future’
- Consists of a group of ‘concerned voters, loyal Labour members and trade unionists looking for strong leadership in uncertain times. Leaving the EU was a taste of things to come’
- Argues that new fresh leadership is required ‘to hold the Tory government to account and be ready to form a radical alternative government’
- Seeks to ‘build a party that truly works for the national interest’. Britain, it states, needs a strong Labour Party to represent the many

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Saving Labour

- A group which set up in the wake of Jeremy Corbyn’s election as Labour leader
- Aims to replace Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party because ‘he has alienated almost all his colleagues in Parliament, has failed to set any kind of policy agenda and cannot meet the profound challenges of the future’
- Composed of a group of ‘concerned voters, loyal Labour members and trade unionists looking for strong leadership in uncertain times. Leaving the EU was a taste of things to come’
- Seeks to ‘build a party that truly works for the national interest’. Britain, it states, needs a strong Labour Party to represent the many