



# 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"

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## 1. 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.

## 2. 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 Francisco 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 (Ryder 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).

### 3. 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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# Research Explosion Protection in Chemical Instrument Design

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**Abstract:** At present, the national industry has made great progress and great development. In order to achieve safe and effective production in actual production, it is of great significance to accurately understand and master chemical equipment, including its operating parameters and internal basic conditions. Especially when dealing with the design of chemical instruments, we must adhere to scientific and reasonable concepts, prevent risks, ensure the safety of chemical instruments, and ensure control quality. Therefore, it is particularly important to study the explosion-proof problem in the design of chemical instruments, analyze the principle of its area division and explosion-proof, clarify the existing problems, and seek countermeasures.

**Keywords:** Chemical Instrument; Explosion-Proof Problem; Explosion-Proof Measures

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## 1. Chemical Instrument Explosive Area Division

### 1.1 Explosive area planning

GB50058-1992-Specification for design of electrical installations in explosion and fire hazardous environments points out, there are roughly two types of explosive areas, which are explosive hazardous gas areas and dust hazardous areas. From the standard we know that the way it is displayed is identified by numbers for simple legibility and understanding. Under the standard of explosive hazardous gas area, there are multiple numbers, such as 0, 1, 2, 10, etc. The larger the number, the less dangerous it is. Generally speaking, the more dangerous it is, the easier it is to explode.

### 1.2 Explosion-proof instrument division

In the chemical and chemical industry standards and specifications, there is a special introduction to chemical instruments, which effectively classify instruments, mainly explosion-proof chemical instruments, non-sparking chemical instruments, positive pressure chemical instruments and so on. Among them, there is a special classification of explosion-proof substances for explosion-proof chemical instruments. Because the chemical and chemical industry is a very dangerous industry, there are strict classification standards<sup>[1]</sup>. According to the relevant standards and requirements, explosive substances are divided into three categories, they are first, second and third categories. For example, we refer to mine methane as Class I, and explosive gases as Class II. Among them, the second type of explosive gas is divided into the second type A, the second type B and the second type C.

## 2. The principle of explosion-proof of chemical instruments

### 2.1 Control explosive gases

Generally speaking, three conditions are required to generate an explosion, so one or two or even all of the conditions can be changed manually, such as eliminating dangerous gases, and then adding chemical instruments to this space. How to

eliminate and explosive dangerous gas, the general method is to extract the unstable gas, and backfill inert gas or clean gas. This will make the high pressure in the space (relative to outside the space) suitable for arranging chemical instruments. In general, the explosion-proof method of online analysis can be used, that is, the situation of positive pressure explosion-proof instrument cabinets can be determined by instruments. At the same time, grasp the situation of chemical instruments for the first time, discover their possible risks in time, and prevent explosions<sup>[2]</sup>.

## **2.2 Control detonation source**

Zero tolerance for danger, we must curb the occurrence of danger from the beginning, grasp the source, and prevent and reduce the possibility of explosion. For example, the explosion that may be caused by sparks is managed and controlled manually; or when the outside temperature of chemical instruments exceeds the safe temperature, manual intervention and control are also selected. Generally speaking, the safety barrier technology is applied to cut off or limit the chemical instrument that may fail to ensure that it cannot cause sparks. In addition, it is repeatedly confirmed that the temperature outside the chemical instrument is within the safety limit.

## **3. Problems Existing in the Design Process of Chemical Instrumentation**

### **3.1 Unscientific design**

The design of chemical instruments must be based on the nature of its work and the external environmental conditions of the work, and cannot be designed according to the drawings and divorced from reality. However, in actual operation, most chemical design field surveys lack scientific rationality, resulting in the existence of unscientific and unreasonable design schemes, which greatly affects the realization of its explosion-proof function and early warning function. In addition, due to the lack of actual and specific experience, the designed instruments can not meet the different needs and production requirements of enterprises, so that the instruments cannot guarantee normal operation, which undoubtedly causes the safety hazard for the explosion of chemical instruments<sup>[3]</sup>.

### **3.2 Poor quality of designers**

Although China's chemical industry has made great progress and development, there are still obvious weaknesses in the field of chemical instrument design. For example, the production and design processes are not transparent and open, which leads some speculators to use staff who lack professional skills for design and production, resulting in the greater danger of the designed instruments. Once these instruments that are not designed according to professional standards complain about actual work, they will not only lose the early warning and explosion-proof functions of the instruments themselves, but also cause loss of life and property to society and the country. If things go on like this, it will also cause a vicious circle and damage the progress and development of my country's chemical instrument design.

### **3.3 Relevant institutional system is not perfect**

The system is to ensure that the work runs according to the specified requirements, but the construction and supervision of the relevant system in the design of chemical instruments are imperfect and lacking. This leads to companies and individuals who are pursuing interests breaking the rules during design and acceptance. At the same time, the relevant units do not pay attention to the explosion-proof work of chemical instruments, and still use the old system in terms of system construction, and have not formed a complete system. This also hinders the design of chemical instruments in my country, which in turn affects the progress and development of the entire industry<sup>[4]</sup>.

## **4. Methods to improve the explosion-proof level of chemical instruments**

### **4.1 Improve the chemical explosion-proof design level**

With the development of modern science and technology, the advancement of technology in the chemical industry has been promoted, and the level of production and preparation has gradually improved. The development of chemical automation has promoted the completeness of chemical instrument performance. On the other hand, the design of modern instruments will be more sophisticated and complex. The complex design of the instrument means that there are more components, so the probability of heat failure and explosion in the event of a component accident increases. Therefore, it is necessary to adhere to scientific and reasonable design, make scientific plans, and achieve precise control. The explosion-proof design can timely and accurately collect the actual changes of the components, such as temperature, flow and pressure, and the scientific and reasonable design can realize the transmission of real-time information to the terminal. This allows staff to rush to maintenance and management before danger occurs. Therefore, improving the explosion-proof design of chemical instruments is also a guarantee of their quality.

## **4.2 Define blast area and instrument demarcation**

An obvious attribute of the chemical industry is danger. The reason is that raw materials with extremely unstable properties are used in production. Explosiveness is the most likely to occur and the most destructive point. Therefore, it is necessary to strictly divide the explosion area. Implement the GB50058-1992-Specification for design of electrical installations in explosion and fire hazardous environments, strictly implement safe production, and strictly regulate the implementation, and at the same time take active, scientific and reasonable measures to prevent possible explosions. Therefore, in the operation and work of chemical instruments, relevant personnel must make explosion-proof signs. Generally speaking, marking is done on the shell or other surfaces of explosion-proof instruments, which is also conducive to the operation and maintenance of management personnel, and improves the safety of operators and chemical instrumentation equipment. In addition, it is necessary to design and implement scientific and reasonable countermeasures according to the specific explosion-proof type that needs to be faced, including the explosion area, danger and other aspects. At the same time, the design of the instrument must be based on the corresponding rules and regulations and specifications, and the safety of chemical production must be guaranteed<sup>[5]</sup>.

## **3.3 Explosion-proof measures**

In the process of chemical instrument design, explosion-proof instruments should be selected, which have good performance and help to improve safety, thereby effectively reducing safety problems in production. To avoid the explosion of chemical instruments, scientific and effective design methods should be adopted, combined with advanced design concepts, and reasonable explosion-proof maintenance equipment should be adopted to comprehensively improve the safety of chemical instruments. In the design phase, the design should be carried out according to the actual production situation and process requirements. During the application of explosion-proof chemical instruments, the safety of the instruments can be improved from the inside out. The explosion-proof casing can ensure the safe operation of the instrument and effectively reduce the probability of explosion. In the process of use, do a good job in the configuration of various instruments and equipment, and it is easy to cause sparks to be placed in the explosion-proof light. Even in the event of an explosion, the explosion-proof enclosure reduces damage and ensures that individual equipment can continue to operate.

## **Conclusion**

We should adhere to the requirements of scientific and reasonable and advancing with the time to design reasonable and scientific chemical instrument design, improve the explosion-proof level and quality of chemical instruments, find and solve problems. At the same time, we should also promote the research and application of explosion-proof problems in the design of chemical instruments in my country, which is conducive to promoting the healthy development of the chemical industry in my country.

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