The Labour Party, having lost the General Election in 1979 after the Winter of Discontent, descedned in to interna turmoil, ast he Left-dominated National Executive Committee (NEC) and conferences ouftr evengeo n the centre-right parliamentary Labour Party (PLP) for its alleged failures in government. In 1981, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) split from Labour, leaving the Labour Party facing possible electoral extinction. However, the trade unions - founders of the Labour Party - came to its rescue by a small group of dedicated generals ecretaries and staff, who set out to regaint he NEC for the moderatesa, ndt o return the Labour Partyt o what they termed "sanity" and electability, b y expellingM ilitant, safeguardingth e position of Deputy Leader D enis Healey M P whenc hallengedb y Tony Benn MP, andd eliveringf or Neil Kinnock MP (the Leader they helped install after the 1983 election) an NEC committed to supporting him in changing the party. The thesis documents the organisation of the Right within the PLP before 1981 (the Manifesto Group and Labour First). It then covers the internal party groupings which organised the Fightback of the party's traditional right (the St Ermins Group of trade union leaders, Labour Solidarity Campaign and Forward Labour). It details their role in the leadership and deputy leadership elections, in changing the NEC's political composition and its workings, in the expulsion of Militant, in campaigning for One Member One Vote, and in helping keep Moderate members within the party. Contrary to some academic writings, this thesis shows how this was initially undertaken without the support of the Leader, a nd it detailst he amounto f organisationawl ork needed to achievec hange a nd assisti n Labour's re-emergencea s an electablep arty. The researchd raws n extensivep rivatet apersa nd archives,t ogetherw ith 70 interviews with key players.

Authors
Hayter, Dianne

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The Labour Party actually started in Scotland, a part of the United Kingdom to be found north of Yorkshire and Lancashire, known for its clans, kilts and haggis. Scotland and her sister Wales have always figured in British history because the English were forced to build a line of castles in early medieval times on the borders, which were troublesome. From the more right-wing segment, a group of senior socialists broke away in the mid-1980s to form The Social Democratic Party. When the Tories defeated the Party again in 1987, new boss Neil Kinnock (leader 1983 – 92) embarked on a major policy review which encouraged more democratic processes, and a less purely ideological approach to foreign policy. It was no good, because the Party only won 34% of the vote in the general election of 1992. Valedictory Address to the Labour Party Conference. delivered 26 September 2006, Manchester, United Kingdom. Audio ARXE mp3 of Address. And I sat in the company of the most normal people I had met in the Labour Party. And they taught me that most of politics isn't about politics, in the sense of meetings, and resolutions, speeches, even parties sometimes. It starts with people. It's about friendship and art and culture and sport. Do this and we will have earned the right to be custodians of our public services for the next generation. But if we fail, and without change we will, then believe me change will still be done, but in a regressive way by a Conservative Party. I want change true to progressive values, done by a fourth term Labour Government.