1. **Liberal Consensus Eroded**
   a. **Victorian Liberal Consensus**
      i. **Components**
         (1) free trade
         (2) government economizing
         (3) paternal interest in helping the deserving poor and linking with private charity
      ii. Liberals and Conservatives support (1840s-1890s)
   b. **Crisis, 1900-1914**
      i. Unionist, Union, and Suffragette violence
      ii. Reforming era of the Liberal Party

2. **Between Unionists...**
   a. **Cracks in Victorian Consensus appear in the Irish (and South Africa) problem**
      i. Question of Home Rule splits the Liberal Party
      ii. Conservatives (Unionists) rule 1895-1905
   b. **Return of Liberals in 1905 (but no longer the Victorian Liberals but closer to modern Liberals)**

3. **...And Unions**
   a. **Threat to Consensus from the Left**
      i. **Political parties**
         (1) Not yet the Labour Party
         (2) Not the Marxist fringe
            (a) Social Democratic Federation
            (b) Fabians
         (3) Importance of the T.U.C.
            (a) 114,000 (1868) \(\rightarrow\) 735,000 (1873) \(\rightarrow\) 750,000 (1887) \(\rightarrow\) 1,500,000 (1892)
         (4) L.R.C. becomes voice of working class after the Taff Vale judgement (1900-01)
   b. **Suffragettes**
      a. Private bills from 1900,
      b. 1908-1912, political squabbles
      c. Suffragette violence
         i. Hunger Strike
         ii. Cat and Mouse Act (1913)
         iii. Emily Davison (1913).
         iv. Pankhursts, 1914-18

4. **The Peoples’ Party (1900-1914) and the Peoples’ Budget (1909)**
   a. **reforming era of Liberal Party, 1905-1914 is peak and end of party (also the twilight of the power of the House of Lords)**
   b. **Unionists in power 1895-1905 brought down by the Boer War and the protectionism of a proposed Imperial Customs Union**
      i. 1905 Liberals brought into power; by 1908, Herbert Asquith is Prime Minister
      ii. Budget proposed in 1909
         (1) sharp break from laissez faire liberalism of 19th century
         (2) product of David Lloyd George, Chancellor of Exchequer

5. **The Liberals vs. the Lords**
   a. **Revolt by the “backwoodsman” (Lloyd George’s phrase)**
   b. **Lloyd George’s speeches attacking Lords in 1909 (Limehouse)**
   c. **Two New elections in 1910 lead to more votes for Conservatives/Unionists, but more seats to Liberals**
      i. power lies in hands of Irish Nationalists (Home Rule Party, 82) and Labour (40)
      ii. Budget passed
      iii. Liberals propose Parliament bill of 1911