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Conservatism and Conservative Success

There is a body of beliefs or tenets that have been identified as constituting Conservatism or Conservative thought. The Conservative Party since its emergence in the 1830s as a successor to the Tory Party has established itself as the most successful mass-membership party in western Europe. It has more often than not been the 'in' party in British politics, in office for most of the 20th Century and now for most of the 21st. This address considers the relationship between the body of thought and Conservative electoral success. Is Conservatism necessary and sufficient to explain Conservative success? Is it necessary, but not sufficient? Or is the Conservative Party elected on grounds unrelated to the body of key tenets that form Conservatism?

Keywords: Conservative Party, Electoral Success, Conservative Thought