



Ed Miliband
Labour Leader 2010 - current

Ed Miliband was born on 24th December 1969, the son of a Marxist radical who fled to the UK during the Second World War. He was educated at Haverstock Comprehensive before obtaining a degree from Oxford and Masters from the London School of Economics.

Following a brief time as a journalist, he became an advisor to Harriet Harman in 1993 then a year later to Gordon Brown. In 2005 he resigned from his position to stand for the safe Labour seat of Doncaster North.

Unsurprisingly he won the seat easily and it was not long – 2006 – before he was on the first rung of Blair's Government as Secretary to the Cabinet Office.

When Brown became Leader in 2007 he appointed his former advisor as Minister for the Cabinet Office and a member of the Cabinet – where his brother David was already a member. He continued his rise in Government, becoming Secretary of State for Climate Change in 2008 until the 2010 General Election.

The resignation of Gordon Brown after the election defeat resulted in a contest for leader, where Ed would stand with his brother David in competition for the post. Eventually there were 5 candidates (Abbot, Balls, Burnham and the 2 Miliband's). As the results were announced on 25th September 2010 his brother David was in front until the final round, where Ed was declared winner with a slimmest majority of votes.

During his initial period as leader he spoke at a large rally in 2011 for an alternative to the coalition austerity cuts, called for an inquiry into the cause of riots later that year, and stated he would tackle vested interests (specifically the energy companies), but was never able to lift the accusation from left opponents that he was still part of the establishment.

By 2013 Labour were comfortably ahead in polls and a more confident Miliband was on display leading to the most embarrassing moment for then Prime Minister after Miliband rallied MP's against military action in Syria. This was followed by the seeming popular policy proposal to freeze energy bills for the first 20 months of a Labour Government.

During 2014 the Scottish referendum Miliband, faced with a threat of a Yes vote, jointly signed a guarantee of greater powers (with the coalition government leaders) if people voted against independence. The result of the referendum was for Scotland to remain part of the Union, but was later used by the SNP as a further example of Labour being part of the establishment, with use of the derogatory term "red Labour" against the party.

At the beginning of 2015 the Labour Party lead in the polls had evaporated and expectations were of another hung parliament. The campaign was dogged over arguments about who should take part in televised debates and in the last few days whether Miliband would enter into a coalition with the Scottish Nationalists, this latter point possibly impacting on the final result.

On the night of the election the majority of pollsters were still predicting a hung parliament, with Miliband most likely to become the next Prime Minister. However, as results began to come through it became clear this was not going to be the case. Although increasing the number of seats in England, the party suffered a crushing defeat in Scotland. Crucially though it took seats from the LibDems they failed to make inroads into key marginal Tory seats, resulting in a majority government for David Cameron.

Having lost the election Miliband was swift in resigning as Leader of the Labour Party the day after the election to allow for an early leadership election.

Ed Miliband remains a member of parliament, married to Justine Thornton and they have two sons, Daniel, born 2009, and Samuel, born 2010.