

Tony Blair

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and President of the Council of the European Union

Born in 1953, Tony Blair was educated at Durham Choristers School, Fettes College, Edinburgh. He studied law at Oxford University and was called to the bar in 1976. He practised as a barrister until 1983, specializing in employment and industrial law.

Mr. Blair was elected the member of Parliament for his Sedgefield constituency in 1983 and was promoted to the Opposition front bench as a spokesman on treasury affairs in 1985. Two years later, he was made deputy spokesman on trade and industry, with special responsibility for consumer affairs and the city.

In 1988, Mr. Blair became the "shadow" secretary of state for energy. He was made shadow secretary of state for employment in 1989 and shadow secretary of state for home affairs in 1992.

Mr. Blair was elected to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party in 1992 and has chaired the party's Commission for Constitutional Reform. He was elected Leader of the Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition in 1994.

On May 1, 1997, Mr. Blair was elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and was sworn in the following day. In January 1998, Mr. Blair became President of the Council of the European Union.

Mr. Blair is married with two sons and a daughter.