Setback 2: Oct 1973 oil crisis
- Yom Kippur War triggered - prompted OPEC to declare oil embargo.
- Exports stopped suddenly + price x4 usual levels.

Setback 3: miners’ strike 1974
- Dockers strike / large pay settlement - dustmen / postal workers strike / ‘Go-slow’ power workers = power cuts.
  - Set up Industrial Relations Act:
    - IR Court.
    - Provided strike ballots.
    - ‘cooling off period’ before strike could begin.
  - Abolished National Board for Prices and Incomes.
  - Both TUC + CBI opposed it.
- 1972 major strikes - highest number of days lost in strikes since General Strike 1926 - 23.9m.
  - Harsh winter weather.
  - Flying pickets esp Yorkshire miners (led by Scargill).
  - Virtually stopped movement of coal around Britain.
  - Feb - government declared State of Emergency - schools closed / 1.2m workers laid off.
- Jan 1974 - general strike.
  - 3-day week imposed - fuel rationed - 50mph limit on roads - TV off at 10.30pm.
  - But neither productivity nor wages declined very much.
  - Shortage of coal - rising oil prices led to balance of payments crisis.

Feb 1974 General Election: ‘who governs Britain?’
- For most of campaign opinion polls favoured Conservatives.
- Labour = 5 seats more.
- Labour = 37.1% of vote v Conservatives = 37.9% of vote.
- Hung parliament - formed minority government.
- Indirectly miners’ strike brought down government.

Troubles in Northern Ireland
- 1970 explosion of sectarian violence.
  - British army struggled to keep peace.
  - Political situation in Belfast was close to complete breakdown.
- Different paramilitary organisations emerged:
  - IRA split between Official + Provisional IRA 1970.
  - Ulster Defence Association - (Loyalist).
  - Ulster Volunteer Force - (Loyalist).
- Political parties also split on sectarian lines:
  - UUP - ruled Northern Ireland 1921-1972.
  - Strongly linked to Conservatives - Heath supported leader Brian Faulkner-introduced internment/night curfews in attempt to restore law + order.
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