**An Inspector Calls Context**

1. J. B. Priestley **wrote An Inspector Calls in 1945** (just after the end of the Second World War) but **set the play in 1912** (the Edwardian era).
2. In 1912 there was **no Welfare State** and, therefore, **no safety net** to catch the most vulnerable members of society when they were most in need.
3. In Edwardian Britain there was a **great divide between the social classes** and little opportunity to move between them.
4. During the period when the play was set, **labour was cheap and workers had few rights**, so they were at the **mercy of employers** who treated them badly.
5. Priestley himself was a well-known **supporter of Socialism** and voted for the Labour party in the General Election of 1945 (Clement Attlee won a landslide victory).
6. In 1912 **women did not have the right to vote** and were expected to conform to patriarchal expectations.