New Zealand National Party, a political party founded in 1883 by a merger of non-Labour groups, was notably the United Party and the Reform Party, born parties that had been in coalition since 1869. It supports free-market economic policies and draws votes heavily from suburban and rural districts.

The Reform Party, the full name of which was the National Party (Political Reform League), was a conservative organization that held control of the national government from 1891 to 1928. The United Party, formed in 1927, was the successor to the Liberal Party, dating to the 1880s and formally established in 1893. The new United Party was surprisingly successful in the elections of 1929, becoming a government under Joseph Ward. A short-lived Reform coalition government was established in 1931 but to lose elections in 1935. Leaders of the right-wing parties decided that the only way to revive conservative hopes was to unite their various groups, which separately had been declining in strength. The New Zealand National Party was born in 1936. The road back was slow, and not until 1949 did it win back the government. For the next 35 years, however, it was New Zealand's dominant party, holding office for the periods 1938–57, 1966–72, and 1975–84.

In the mid-1980s the party suffered from internal divisions, which kept it out of office until 1990, when it returned to power under James Bolger. Though the party retained power until 1996, it split in 1993, when a former National Party minister formed the New Zealand First Party. In 1996 Bolger formed a coalition after the election of one of his party's ministers of Parliament in 1997 Bolger was replaced as prime minister and party leader by Jennifer Shipley, the country's first female prime minister. In 1999, the party was ousted from government by a Labour-led coalition. After the subsequent National leaders—Bill English (2001–03) and Don Brash (2003–05)—failed to return the party to power, John Key became leader of the party in 2008. Two years later he led the National Party to victory over Labour Party.
New Zealand Political Reform League

The New Zealand Political Reform League was a political party formed in 1912, following a general election in 1911, and held control of the government until 1928. The Reform Party first acted as an official party in 1911, but it was not formally constituted and remained only a loose alliance until 1928. Based primarily on urban business interests and the small farmers of the North Island dairy industry, the Reform Party led the 1911 Reform of a promise to transform agricultural household property into tenancy on being sold or mortgaged (1,000 of $20,000).

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