

Nationalisation is a bad idea

There are several strong arguments against the nationalised model for providing commercial services like phones, water, electricity and gas as we used to suffer.

1. These services never had sufficient priority in public spending to access sufficient capital to modernise and expand.
2. As monopolies not facing daily competitive pressure they put up prices too much and tolerated poor service.
3. As monopolies they often made bad decisions about investment that then cursed the whole service. BT for example when under state control spent a lot on rolling out outmoded electro mechanical switching when the US was well advanced with superior electronic. The UK's supply industry was unable to sell the UK spec products for export as they were out of date. The electricity industry stuck with new coal power stations, only opting for cleaner cheaper more fuel efficient gas after privatisation.
4. These businesses were overmanned with low productivity. This led to getting rid of staff and charging too much.
5. The losses on nationalised industries exposed to international competition like steel and coal were huge. The railways also ran up huge losses. Taxpayers had to pick up the bills.

When making the case against nationalisation I was able to demonstrate nationalised industries were bad for customers, charging too much, bad for taxpayers, costing too much, and bad for employees, getting rid of so many.