

## **SUMMARY**

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### **War and Reconstruction Planning: Employers' Organisations, Organised Labour and Government in Britain during the Second World War**

The subject of this paper is the relations between employers' organisations and trade unions in Britain during the Second World War. The focus of discussion is the Federation of British Industries (established in 1916), the British Employers' Confederation (established as the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations in 1919; the name was changed in 1940) and the Trades Union Congress (established in 1868). The increase in the number of trade unionists, in the power of trade unions and in the popularity of the Labour Party, the wartime role of the International Labour Organisation, and the discussions with trade unions and the government on postwar reconstruction, forced employers' organisations to re-examine their strategies and structures. The debate produced several important reconsiderations on the part of employers' organisations, particularly the attempts to create a grand organisation in order to negotiate effectively with the Trades Unions Congress. The paper provides a summary of the main reasons for the failure of these attempts.