

MONARCHY



OVERVIEW

A monarchy is a form of government that has a single person known as a monarch at its head. Monarchs use such titles as king, queen, emperor, or empress. Monarchies were once common throughout the world, but now they are rare. In the United Kingdom there have been over 60 monarchs since Alfred the Great in AD 871. King Charles III is the current sovereign. He will have his coronation ceremony in June 2023.

The power of the monarchy has changed over time. In the past, some monarchs had absolute power. This meant that they could do whatever they wanted. Today, there is a constitutional monarchy. This means that the monarch is controlled by parliament and the government.

ROYAL RESIDENCES

Royal residences include palaces, castles and stately homes. Some of them are used for official royal business and some are used as holiday or private homes.



Buckingham Palace



Balmoral Castle



Windsor Castle

SYMBOLS OF ROYALTY



crown



orb



sceptre



coat of arms

ROYAL PORTRAITS

Royal portraits show a monarch in the way that they wish to be seen. The pose, objects, background, clothes and facial expression give messages to the viewer about the monarch's power and personality.



Elizabeth I's direct stare and straight back show her strength and confidence. The orb, sceptre and crown show her authority. The Tudor roses on her dress show that she is a Tudor monarch.



Charles I is holding a baton while riding a horse. He is not wearing his helmet. This shows that he is a brave warrior. There are grand pillars and an archway in the background, which show his pride.



George III's crown shows his authority and his robes display his wealth. The pillar represents strong leadership. He is staring into the distance, showing that he is quiet and thoughtful.

USEFUL LINKS



GLOSSARY

absolute power	Complete control over someone or something especially of a monarch or government over their people.
ceremonial	a set of formalities performed on certain occasions
coronation	The ceremony at which the King or Queen is crowned.
dynasty	A series of rulers of a country who all belong to the same family
feudal system	A hierarchy where people are put into different groups based on their class and roles.
government	A group of people who control a country and make laws or important decisions.
head of state	The public representative of a country, such as a president or monarch.
hierarchy	The order of people or things from most important to least important.
majesty	grand, splendid, noble
monarch	A king or queen who rules a kingdom.
parliament	A group of people who make the laws for a country.
reign	The period of time that a king or queen rules over a country.
sovereign	A king or queen.
tyrannical	Severe or unfair towards the people.

