

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. 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.

A selection of key monarchs of the United Kingdom

Henry VIII

1509 - 1547



Charles I

1625 - 1649



Elizabeth II

1952 - 2022



Elizabeth I

1566 - 1603



Victoria

1837 - 1901



Charles III

2022 - present

Key words



crown



orb



sceptre



coat of arms



Royal portrait



coronation

Absolute Monarchy

The monarch rules and can change laws .

Constitutional Monarchy

The monarch is the 'head of state'. They share power with a government.

Began in the UK



King Charles III official residences



Palace at Holyrood House
Edinburgh



Buckingham Palace
London



Windsor Castle
Windsor

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.

Useful links

