

Lecture 3

BRITISH MONARCHY



PLAN

- 1. British state system and its historical background*
- 2. British royal dynasties*
- 3. Succession and coronation.*



4. *Duties and powers of the monarch.*
5. *Royal Ceremonies.*
6. *Royal Finances.*



1. *British state system and its historical background .*





the UNITED KINGDOM

a democracy?

a constitutional

monarchy?

The people are ***subjects*** of the Crown, accepting the Queen as the head of the state.

But the Queen is not a true **sovereign** – she receives her authority from Parliament and her power is limited.

She *reigns*, but does not rule.

British *sovereignty* consists in
3 elements:

- **the Crown,**
- **Parliament's 2 chambers**
 - the House of Lords
 - the House of Commons.
- **Government**

- The monarchy is the oldest institution.
- **the 9th century - Saxon King Egbert: united all England under his sovereignty.**

1215 – 1st step toward
representative government,

a system in which the
legislature is at least partly
elected by the people.

Magna Carta (Great Charter)

● *Clause 8*

No widow is to be forced to marry while she wishes to live without a husband, as long as she promises that she will not marry without our consent.

Magna Carta (Great Charter)

- **Clause 39**

No free man is to be arrested, or imprisoned except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land.

- **Clause 40**

We will not sell, or deny, or delay right or justice to anyone.

1215 King John signed the Magna Carta (Great Charter) –

**the 1st document
that limited king's
power.**




The charter required King John to proclaim certain liberties to his subjects

e.g., no "freeman" (=non-serf) could be punished except through the law of the land.

This right still exists.





Magna Carta made the king
consult a group of
representatives called **Great
Council** over serious matters.

□ the **Parliament of England**.



Initially, parliaments were mostly summoned when the king needed to raise money through taxes.

This became an important privilege of the Parliament.



- One of the major instruments of parliamentary control over the king:

- the right to grant the king money (imposing new taxes) if he needed it.

17th century



King James I



King Charles I



King Charles I
dissolved and
recalled
Parliament
several times.

King Charles I

Parliament passed an **Act**:

- impossible to dissolve Parliament without its consent;
- ministers are subject to Parliament.



- **Civil War 1642–1651:**

**Royal army vs Parliamentary
army**

outcome of the war:

- the trial and execution of Charles I;
- the exile of his family.

1649

- The parliament abolished the institution of monarchy
- England was proclaimed a Commonwealth.

1653 Oliver Cromwell
became 'Lord
Protector of the Realm'
and England was
proclaimed
the Protectorate.



1658 he died without a deserving
successor.

A political crisis.



- the restoration of the monarchy:

Charles, the son of the beheaded king, was invited to return to Britain.

- **Charles II, King of England and Ireland on 23 April 1661.**

● **Charles II** died in 1685 and he was succeeded by his brother **James II**, an open Catholic.

● Parliament invited **William of Orange**, a protestant, married to James's daughter, **Mary**.

- William invaded England, James fled the country.
- **Glorious Revolution: Mary and William ruled together.**
- □ as a compromise Parliament got its **Bill of Rights** (1689).

1689, the English Bill of Rights

- the Crown continued to function but with certain limits and subject to Parliament's control.



2. British Royal Dynasties.

*No Plan Like Yours To Study
HISTORY Wisely!*

Norman (1066-),

Plantaganet (1154-),

Lancaster (1399-),

York (1461-),

Tudor (1485-),

Stuart (1603-),

Hanover (1714-1901),

Windsor(1901/1917-present)

- the 8th and 9th centuries - **Offa and Alfred the Great** - began to create centralised systems of government.
- The Middle Ages - fierce contests for the Crown, □ the **Hundred Years War**.
- advent of **the Tudors**

the Tudors

1485

Henry Tudor
became

Henry VII

– the 1st Tudor
king



the Tudors



Henry VIII



Edward VI

the Tudors



Mary I (Bloody)



Elizabeth I

- the death of the 'Virgin Queen' in 1603 brought about **the Union of the Crowns with Scotland.**

The Stuarts



James I



Charles I

The Stuarts



Charles II



James II

The Stuarts



William II

Mary II

The Stuarts



Anne

**the Act of
Settlement
(1701)**

only

**Protestants
could hold
the throne**

The Hanovers



George II



George IV



George III

The Hanovers



- Married to Prince Albert, son of Ernst, Duke of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha.

Queen Victoria

The Saxe-Coburg-Gotha



Edward VII

The Windsors



George V



Николай II

The Windsors



Edward VIII



George VI

The Windsors




- Queen Elizabeth II became monarch on 6 February 1952.

3. Succession and coronation



*Elizabeth the Second, by the
Grace of God, of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland and of Her
other Realms and Territories
Queen, Head of the
Commonwealth, Defender of
the Faith*

- Succession to the throne is hereditary.
- the oldest males offspring of the monarch.
- now - the oldest child irrespective of the sex becomes the heir to the crown.
- The heir has the title of **the Prince of Wales**

- 
- **The Act of Settlement** (1701) was passed to make sure that only Protestant heirs could inherit the crown.

● Queen Regnant

● Prince Consort



Queen Elizabeth II and
Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh



Queen Victoria and Prince Albert



King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

- The coronation service is conducted by the senior priest in the Anglican Church, the **Archbishop of Canterbury**.
- held at **Westminster Abbey**
- in the presence of the representatives of Parliament, Prime Minister and leading citizens.

● The sovereign is presented to the people.

□ swears an oath to uphold the law and the Church.

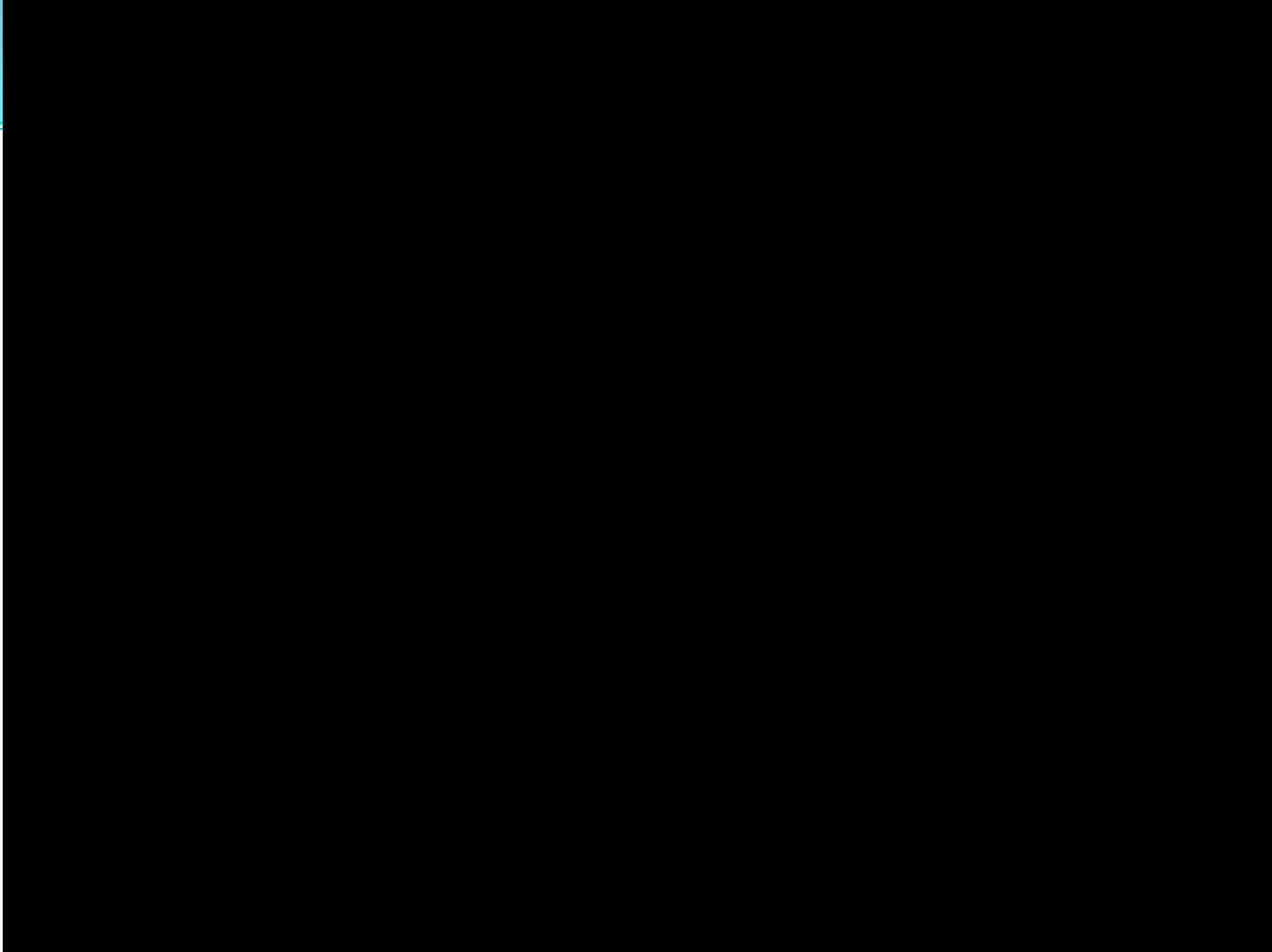
□ is anointed with oil, crowned, and invested with the regalia,

□ receives the homage of his or her subjects.



● Queen Elizabeth II
6 February 1952







Royal Standard





● The Imperial State Crown



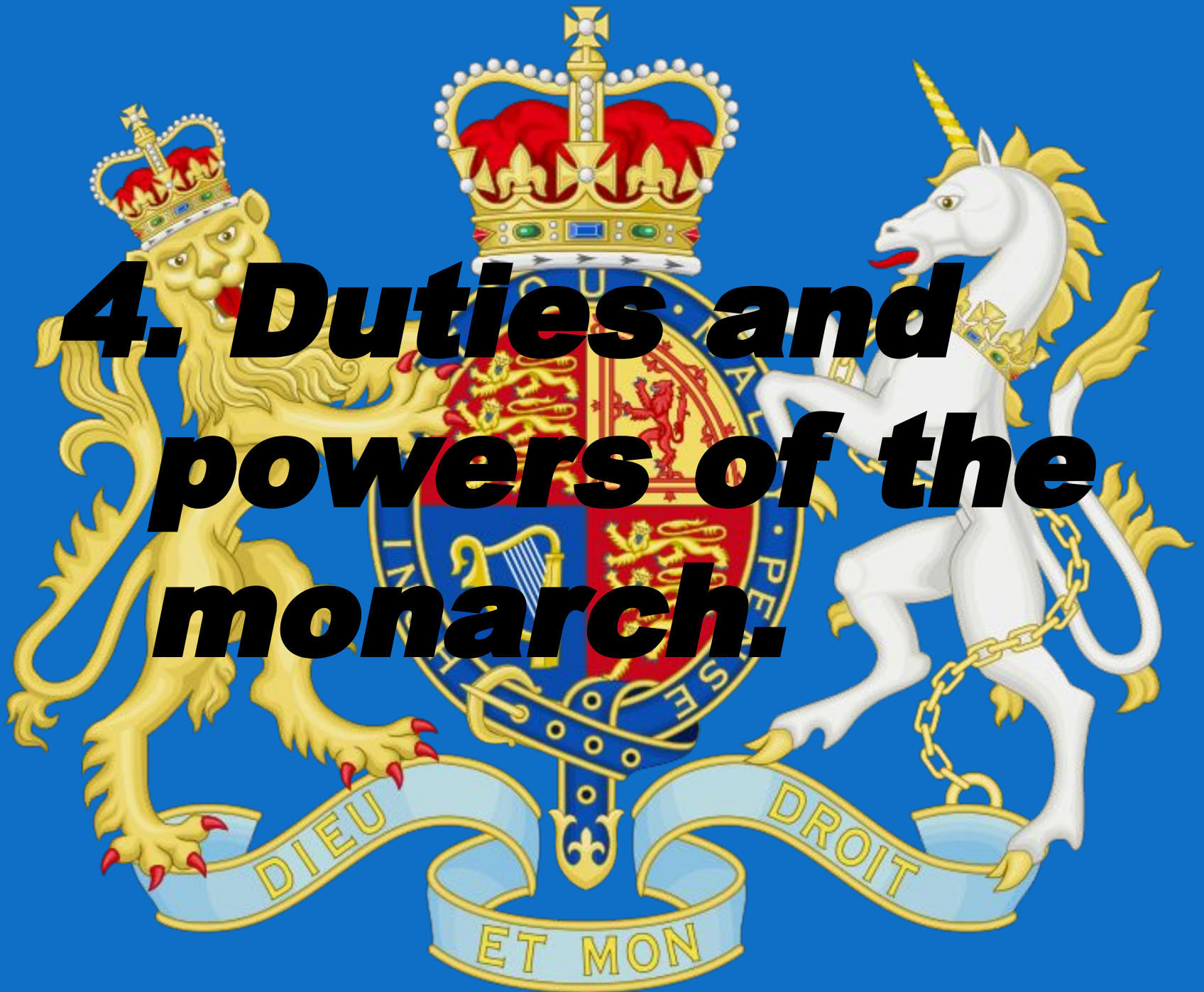
● Sceptre



● The Or



4. Duties and powers of the monarch.





The reigning monarch is not only the head of the state but also a symbol of the unity of the nation.

In law the monarch is

- 1) head of the executive and of the judiciary;
- 2) head of the Church of England;
- 3) commander-in chief of the armed forces.



But in fact the monarch can

- summon, suspend and dissolve Parliament;
- give royal assent to laws passed by Parliament;
- appoint ministers, judges, officers, governors, diplomats and bishops of the Church;



- confer honours, such as peerages and knighthoods;
- remit sentences passed on convicted criminals;
- declare war or to make peace.



- the Crown is only sovereign by the will of Parliament.
- The country is actually governed by Her Majesty's Government.
- the Queen has to act on the advice of her ministers.

- to appoint Prime Minister,
 - the leader of the party which have won the majority in the House of Commons
- But if no party has a majority or if the winning party has not leader, the Queen's duty is to select a prime minister.

- The Queen sees Prime Minister weekly (every Tuesday evening),
 - discusses urgent matters
 - sees all the cabinet papers and correspondence.
- She is the second after the Prime Minister best informed person in the UK.

The Queen and Prime Minister David Cameron



The Queen is to use Prime Minister's advice in cases like **dissolving Parliament, appointing and dismissing ministers.**

the Queen is the only permanent member of the Cabinet.



5. Royal Ceremonies.



Spring

The Royal Maundy

- on Maundy Thursday (the day before Good Friday at Easter)
- the Queen gives out Maundy coins to old people at one of the country's cathedrals.
- She gives out as many coins as her age plus one.



Summer

Trooping the Colour on Horse Guide Parade

- on the Sovereign's Official Birthday (1 or 2 Saturday of June).
- Trooping the Colour = the Queen's Birthday Parade.
- the 18th c.: salute the colours (flag) as symbol of military spirit, by carrying it before the ranks (troops).



JUST
JARED

Royal Garden Parties

3 – at Buckingham palace,

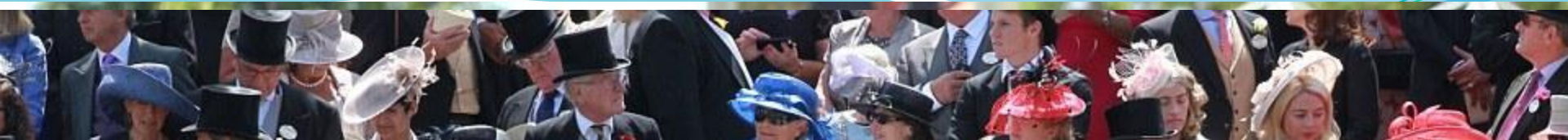
1 – at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.

the Queen distributes the awards granted to both civilians and the military.



Royal Ascot

- English racecourse, located in the village of Ascot, Berkshire.
- founded by Queen Anne in 1711
- the Royal Procession - the arrival of The Queen and the Royal party in horse-drawn landaus.



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Autumn

The State Opening of Parliament

- the first day of a new parliamentary session or shortly after a general election.
- The State Opening of Parliament for the 2014-15 session took place on Wednesday 4 June 2014.

The Queen arrives to the House of Parliament in her carriage wearing the Imperial State Crown and the Robe of State.





The Queen
delivers her
Speech from
the Throne
in the
House of
Lords.

The Remembrance Sunday (=Poppy Day)



- The second Sunday in November.
- A day "to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts".





Winter

The Queen's Christmas Speech

Radio and television broadcast in which the Queen addresses her subjects and speaks about the past and coming year.

Doesn't use official 'we', □ 'I', 'my husband and I'.


Other ceremonies:

- royal weddings and funerals,
- official state visits overseas,
- meeting and entertaining heads of other states.



Charity



- 
- The Queen - one of the wealthiest people in the world,
 - her wealth is free of tax
 - she pays them voluntary now

● The Royal Family is the largest landowner in Britain.

- + several castles, official residences and country houses (**Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace in London, Windsor Castle, Regent's Park, etc**),
- + finest art and jewelry collection,
- + racing horses.

BUT!!! most of the royal income and expenditures are mostly paid for from public money.

The Queen's allowance - about £2 mln a year

+ allowances for the members of the Royal Family (=Civil List).

- the Royal yacht 'Britannia',
- a Royal train,
- 2 helicopters
- 3 planes.

Against:

- anachronistic, non-democratic, too expensive, too closely associated with class distinctions;
 - its functions are merely ceremonial.
- Should be abolished.



For:

- symbol of tradition and unity;

- has some glamour,

- good for tourism,

BUT! It should be subjected to alterations.