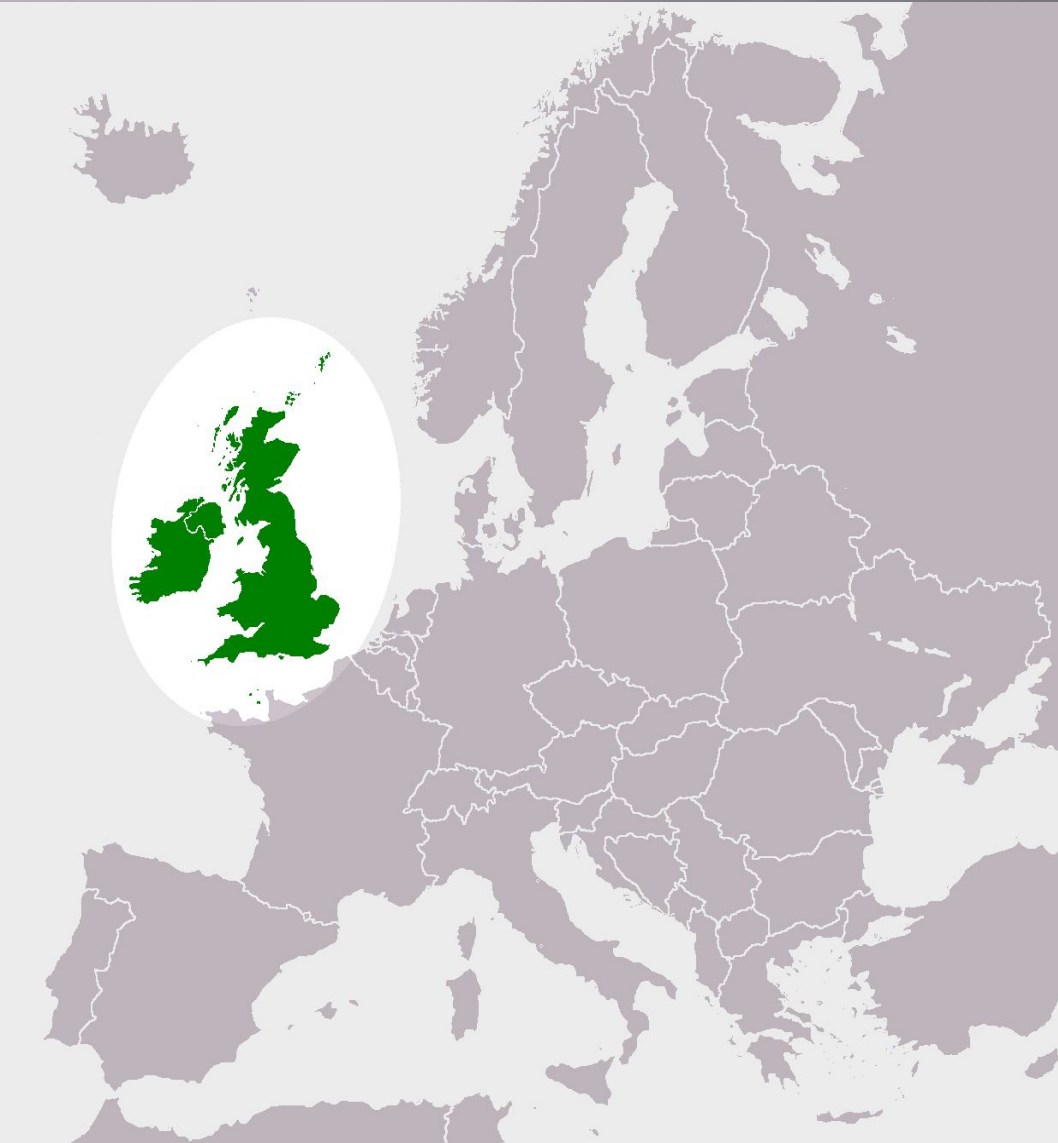


The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland











(commonly known as the **United Kingdom**, the **UK**, **Great Britain** or **Britain**) is a sovereign state located off the north-western coast of continental Europe.

The country includes the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern part of the island of Ireland and many smaller islands. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK that shares a land border with another sovereign state – the Republic of Ireland. Apart from this land border the UK is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the English Channel and the Irish Sea.

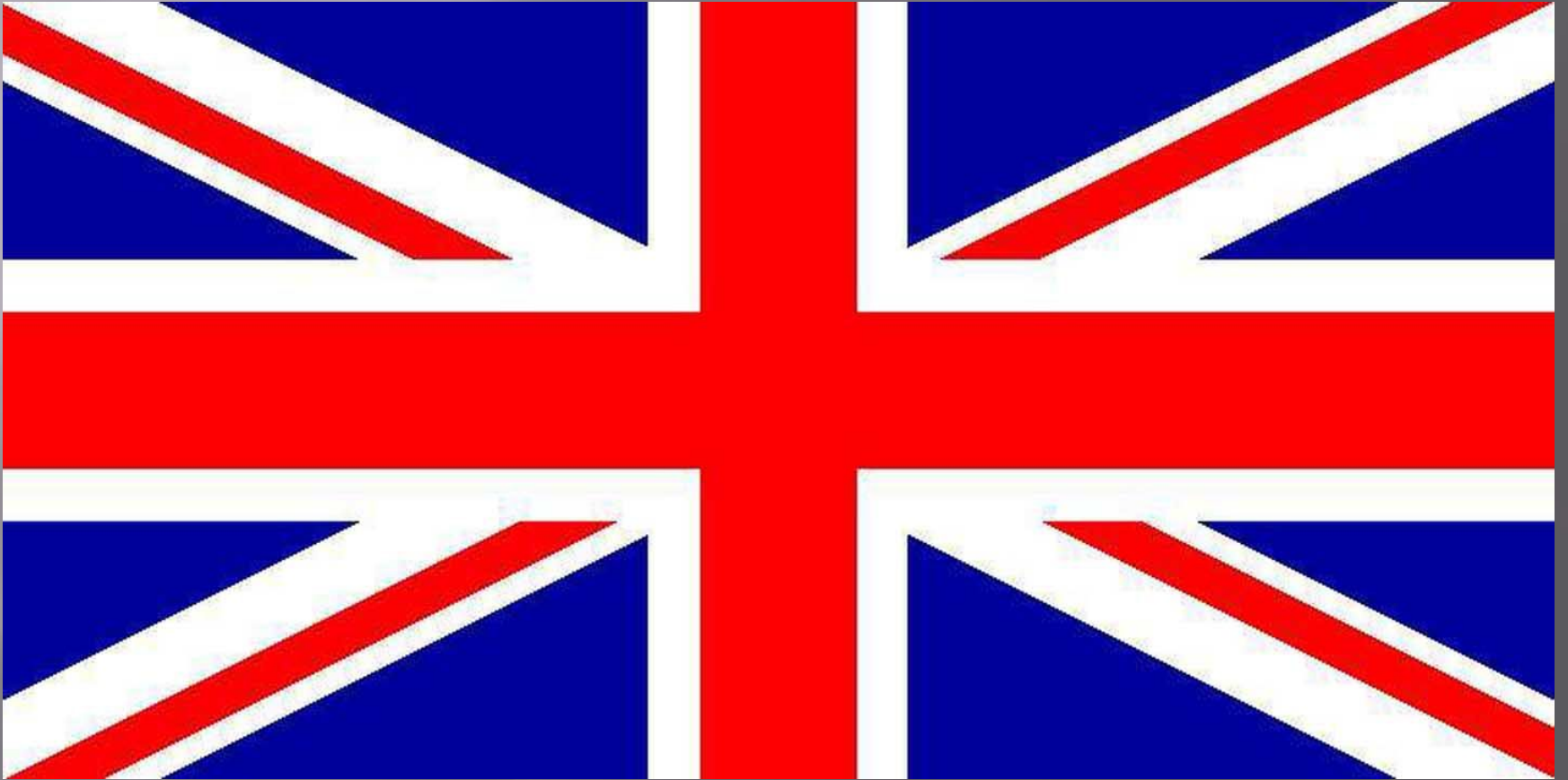




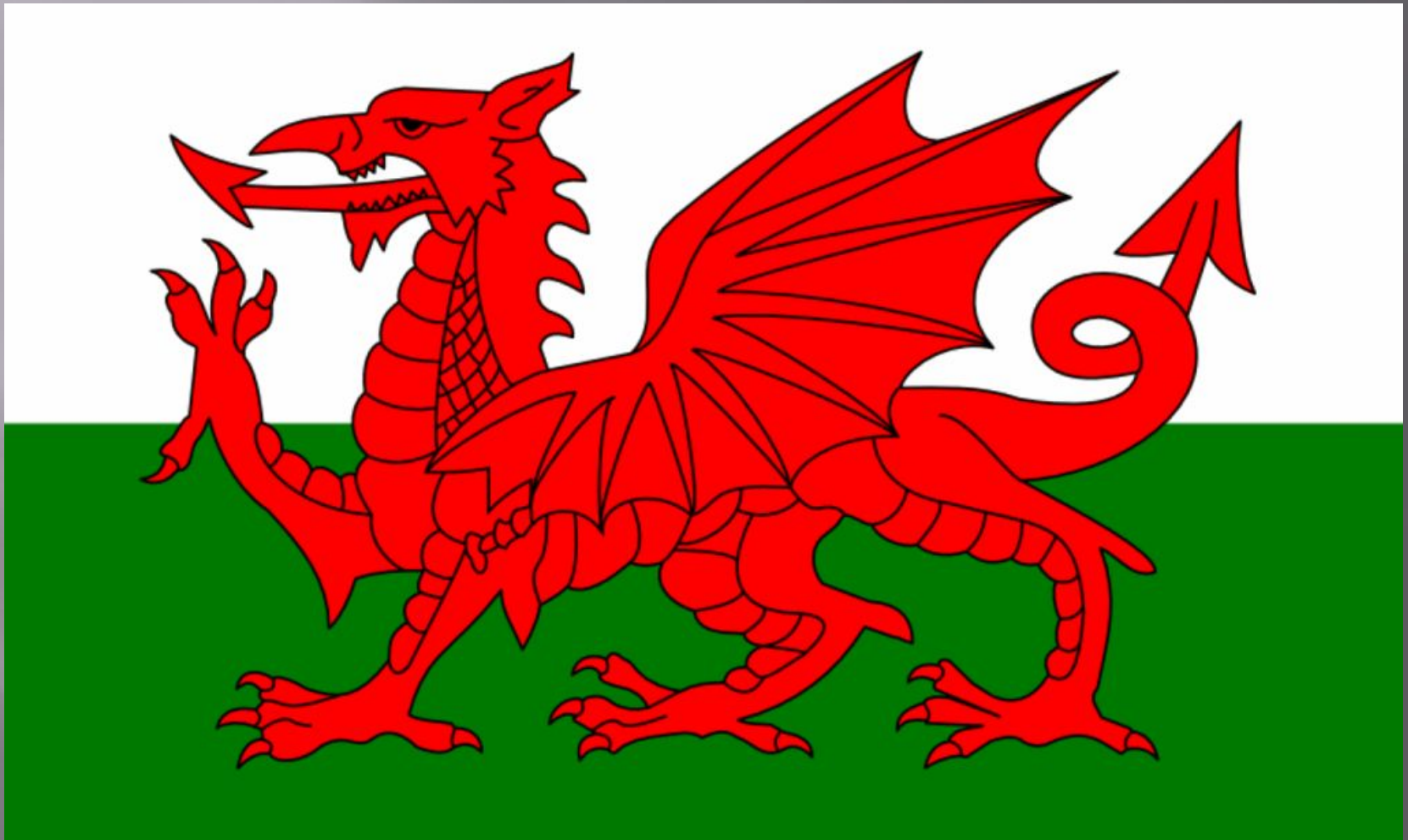
The United Kingdom is a unitary state governed under a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary system, with its seat of government in the capital city of London. It is a country in its own right and consists of four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. There are three devolved national administrations, each with varying powers, situated in Belfast, Cardiff, and Edinburgh; the capitals of Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland respectively.

Name	Flag	Area km ²	Popula tion ml	Devol ved legislat ure	Plant	Patron saint	Saint's day
United Kingdom		243,789	61.6				
England		130,395	51.6	No	Tudor rose		St. George 23 April
Scotland		78,772	5.3	Yes	thistle		St. Andrew 30 November
Wales		20,779	3.2	Yes	daffodil/ leek		St. David 1 March
Northern Ireland	No flag	13,843	1.8	Yes	shamrock		St. Patrick 17 March

The Union Jack



The Red Dragon of Cadwallander



The Union Jack



AFP / GETTY IMAGES

The Flag of the European Union



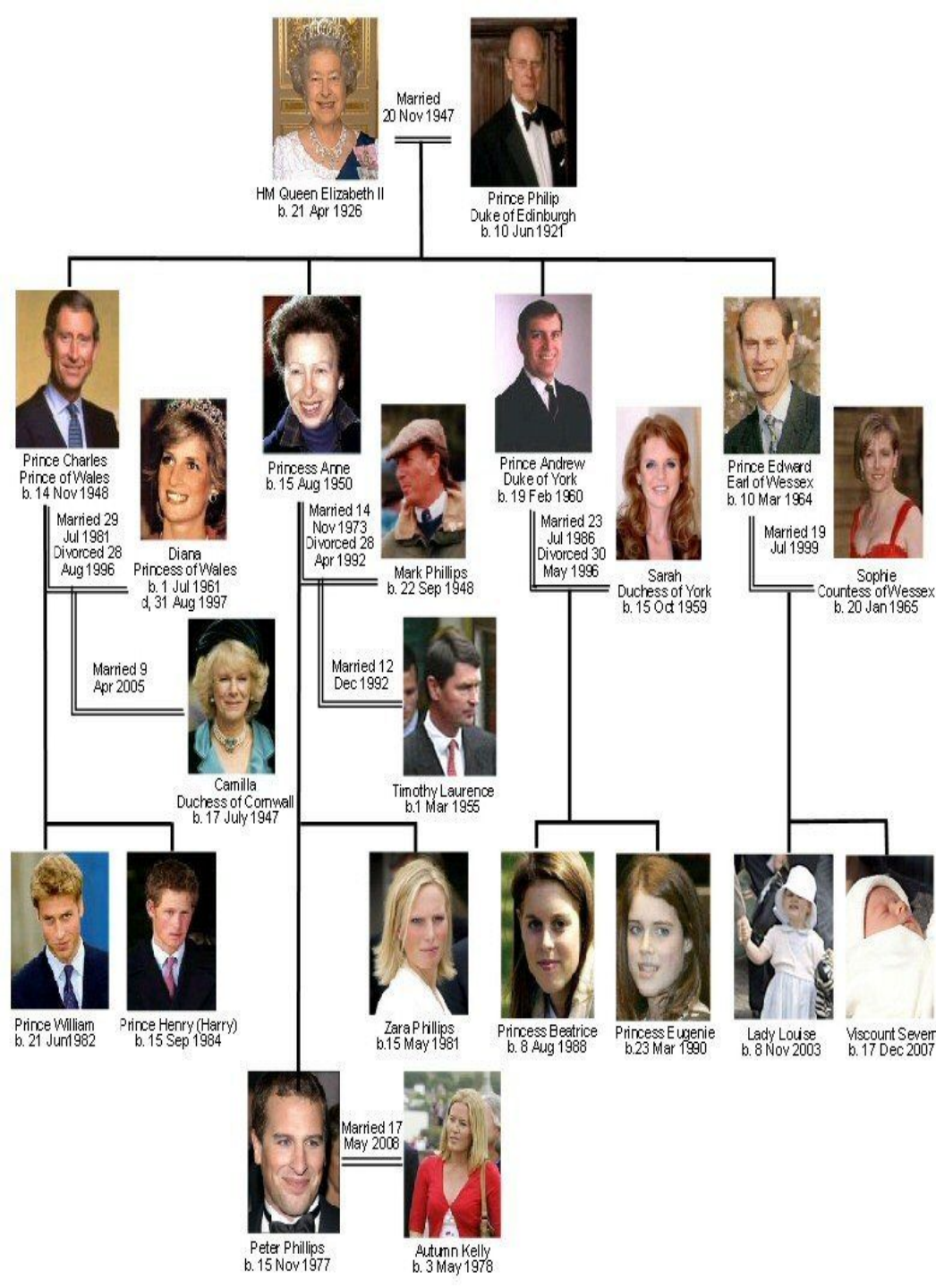
The Royal Coat of Arms



“The National Anthem God Save the King”



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The End