















Political Parties of Great Britain



The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK) occupies most of the territory of the British Isles. It consists of four main parts: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. London is the capital of England, Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, Cardiff— of Wales and Belfast — of Northern Ireland. The UK is a small country. It occupies only 0.2 per cent of the world's land surface. The highest mountain is Ben Nevis in Scotland, 4,406 feet high. The longest river is the Severn in England. The population of the United Kingdom is over 57 million people.

The official language of the United Kingdom is English. But in western Scotland some people still speak Gaelic and in northern and central parts of Wales people often speak Welsh. The UK is a highly developed industrial country. It is known as one of the worlds largest producers and exporters of machinery, electronics aircraft, and navigation equipment. One of the chief industries of the country is shipbuilding.

In practice, the country is ruled by the elected government with the Prime Minister at the head. The British Parliament consists of two chambers: the House of Lords and the House of Commons.





The flag of the United Kingdom, known as the Union Jack, is made up of three crosses. The big red cross is the cross of Saint George, the patron saint of England. The white cross is the cross of Saint Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. The red diagonal cross is the cross of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.



