

# THE BRITISH MONARCHY TODAY



# The British Monarchy and...

- its most important members
- the Queen
- the Sovereign's successor and her grandchild



I'm Prince Philip.  
The Duke of  
Edinburgh. I was  
born in Corfu on  
10 June 1921.



I'm Prince Edward.  
The Earl of Wessex.  
I was born on 10  
March 1964 and I'm  
the youngest child of  
the Queen.



I'm Prince  
William. I was  
born on June  
21, 1982 in  
London and  
I'm the second  
heir to the  
throne



And  
I'm...



I'm Princess  
Anne. I was born  
on 15 Aug. 1950.  
I'm the second  
child of the  
Queen.



I'm Prince  
Charles. The Prince  
of Wales. I was born  
on 14 Nov. 1948 at  
Buckingham Palace.  
I'm the eldest son of  
the Queen and I'm  
the heir to the  
throne.



I'm Prince  
Andrew. The Duke  
of York. I was born  
on  
19 Feb. 1960. I am  
the first child to be  
born to a reigning  
monarch for 103  
years

# ....the Queen



- I was born in London on 21 April 1926.
- My parents are:  
The Duke and Duchess of York,  
subsequently King George VI  
and Queen Elizabeth I
- I was christened Elizabeth  
Alexandra Mary
- I was proclaimed Queen  
Elizabeth II at the age of 25 when  
my father King George VI died  
aged 56 on Feb. 6, 1952
- My Coronation was in  
Westminster Abbey on June 2,  
1953

# Her son.....



- Prince Charles Philip Arthur George
- Duke of Cornwall and Prince of Wales (the Queen invested him on July 1, 1969)
- at the age of 3 he became heir apparent

# Her grandchild.....



- (HRH) Prince William Arthur Philip Windsor
- born: 21.June 1982 9:03pm at St. Mary's Hospital Paddington (London)
- Christened by the Archbishop of Canterbury

# Britain's Political System ...

- The British Monarchy itself
- Its Sovereign...her functions...and her powers
- The Government
- Parliament:
  - The House of Commons
  - The House of Lords
- Royal finances
- Advantages and Disadvantages of the system

# The British Monarchy

- The Monarchy is the oldest institution of government in the United Kingdom
- The Monarchy began to exist in the 9th century
- The United Kingdom is one of six hereditary constitutional monarchies within the European Community



# The Queen and her functions...



- Mostly representative functions
- Signs bills passed by Parliament into law
- head of state and on the basis of law the head of the executive,
- head of the judicature,
- chief over the kings forces and head of the Anglican church

# ...and her power



- recalls, adjures and dissolves the parliament
- gives agreement to billfolds, which have been passed in both chambers
- appoints the prime minister, government ministers, judges, officers, forces, diplomats and bishops
- Bestows honour titles and pricings
- The monarch has to be independent

# The Government

- **The Prime Minister**

- (Tony Blair)
- He is the head of the Government
- The Government's power is concentrated in the hand of the Prime Minister
- He appears not to have much power but in reality he has a very great deal indeed
- He is the leader of his party

- **The Cabinet**

- Started in the eighteenth century
- The members of the Cabinet are chosen by the PM and may or may not have a government department under them
- The Cabinet meets once a week and takes decisions about e.g. new policies ...

# The House of Commons

- The members of the H.o.C. are elected by geographical constituencies
- 651 members
- The H.o.C. works on laws and the members agree to the laws or not



# The House of Lords

- it has two parts: the church and the world part with lords as members
  - ca. 1.100 members but 400 of them take part in meetings
  - has a lot of power in politics, it acts in an advisory capacity
  - If there is a new law in the H.o.C., it goes to an advisory in the H.o.L.
  - in 1999 there was a reform
    - no hereditary peers anymore, only life peers
- ⇒ since 1949 bills can't be blocked by the H.o.L:
- = the H.o.L can only stop new laws for max. one year



# Royal Finances

## *Civil List*

- is provided by Parliament to meet the official expense of the Queen as Head of State.
- about 70% of Civil List expenditure goes to pay the salaries of staff working directly for the Queen ( dealing with State papers .....)
- the Queen's Civil List has been fixed at 7.9 million per annum until 2011.

## *Grand- in- Aid*

- The state has met the cost of maintaining Royal residences since 1697, providing the monarch with an annual sum known as grand-in-Aid to keep the buildings in good repair.
- Each year the Royal family carries out about 2.600 official engagements in the United Kingdom and overseas.

## *Privy Purse*

- the principal responsibility of the Privy Purse office is to manage the sovereign's private income from the Duchy of Lancaster.
- multimillion – dollar jewelery collection.
- she owns Balmoral Castle, Sandringham castle, Buckingham and Kensington Palaces, Windsor castle and Clarence house.



## *Private income-*

- taxpayer funded the royal family to the tune about \$ 51 million in 2000-01.
- the tourism – industry fuels the state with \$ 93 billion a year.

# The Monarchy

## Advantages

- the Sovereign is always aware of her constitutional position and the need to remain politically neutral.
- the government must not bring the Royal Family into party politics.
- The monarch is a sharp observer of the political scene
- The country has a sense of stability and a guarantee of continuity an elected head of state could never give

## Disadvantages

- The British monarchy is considered to be a very costly business and an anachronistic and undemocratic institution
- marital difficulties have subjected the Queen's children to severe media pressure





# William and the media

- The Prince of Wales has asked the media to respect his son's privacy, to allow him to lead a normal school life
- William's attitude to the media attention (statement when he was at Eton):  
“I don't like the attention. I feel uncomfortable with it. I like it to be alone at Eton which allows me to concentrate on my school work and enjoy being with my friends without being followed by cameras.”



# What does the British population think about the monarchy??

“William should be the new king.”

“Monarchy is a British tradition.”

“I like the Queen and her benefit work”



“ This system of a monarchy is too old-fashioned.”

“ The monarchy is too expensive for the British taxpayers.”

# Message from the Queen to those deployed in the Gulf

- At this difficult moment in our nation's history, I would like to express my pride in you, the British service and civilian personnel deployed in the Gulf and in the vital supporting roles in this country and further afield.
- I have every confidence in your professionalism and commitment as you face the challenges before you. Especially for those of you now waiting to go into action, may your mission be swift and decisive, your courage steady and true, and your conduct in the highest traditions of your service both in waging war and bringing peace.
- My thoughts are with you all, and with your families and friends who wait at home for news and pray for your safe return.
- **Queen ELIZABETH (April, 2003)**