



IS THE ROYAL FAMILY AN ANACHRONISM IN MODERN BRITAIN?

Presentation plan

What is anachronism?

What is the Royal family?

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How and when did the British royal family start?

How much power does the royal family have?

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Why do some people want to get rid of the Royal family?

Why has the British monarchy survived while others have failed?

Vocabulary list

- virtually - almost
- embody - to represent an idea or quality exactly
- align - give support to a person, organization
- exploit - make full use of smth and derive benefit from it in a way considered unfair

Key Terms and Notions

- Representative people's monarchy
- Houses of Commons and Lords
- Power
- Traditions

What is anachronism?

Someone or something placed in the wrong period in history, or something that belongs to the past rather than the present



What is the Royal family?

- The group of people closely related by birth or marriage to a monarch
- In Britain the term used to refer to the present Queen and her family: her husband, Prince Philip and their children, Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, together with their wives or husbands, children and [grandchildren](#)



Why does Britain have a royal family?

- For centuries, virtually every country in the western world had some sort of king and royal family.
- Some people in republics like France or the United States will say that clever people grew out of them. Monarchy lovers will respond that really clever countries kept their monarchies. They argue that royal families embody their country's human roots and identity. Brave kings and queens often become symbols of their nation's unity in times of war or crises.



How and when did the British royal family start?

- In 1215, the impoverished [King John](#) had to turn to his people for money. His Great Charter or '[Magna Carta](#)' was the start of the houses of Commons and Lords – the elected Parliament in Westminster
- The following centuries saw [the development of England's 'constitutional' monarchy](#), which came to include Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and – with the expansion of the British empire – countries as distant as Australia and New Zealand.

How much power does the royal family have?

- In a representative people's monarchy, the people have the power while the monarch has none.
- The British royal family are not supposed to express political opinions. When Elizabeth II reads out the policies of 'Her' government in the Queen's Speech at the Opening of Parliament, she represents the power of the people whose votes put the prime minister of the moment into office. She is a mouthpiece of that government but does not express her own opinions.

Why do people care about the royal family?

- People identify with people. While politicians come and go, the royal family creates a sense of human continuity at the centre of society.

Why do some people want to get rid of the Royal family?

- Critics say the institution of the monarchy is old-fashioned and artificially maintaining privileges of a bygone era.
- When the young royal joins the armed forces, they are automatically made officers, leading to inequality and hierarchy.
- Others complain that royals do insufficient work for the tax-payers money.
- Constitutionally, the splendour of the monarchy allows politicians to hide behind unearned 'palace prestige.'
- Atheists, agnostics, and free-thinkers condemn the royal family's endorsement of the Church of England.

Why has the British monarchy survived while others have failed?

- The British royal family survived by being more open and flexible than many others.
- The French monarchy was destroyed in a blood-bath in the 1790s because it aligned itself with an oppressive aristocratic upper class who exploited the people. In contrast, the British royal family kept company with merchants and entrepreneurs and was encouraging scientific research.
- **Generally, the British kings accepted the will of the people as expressed through parliament.**