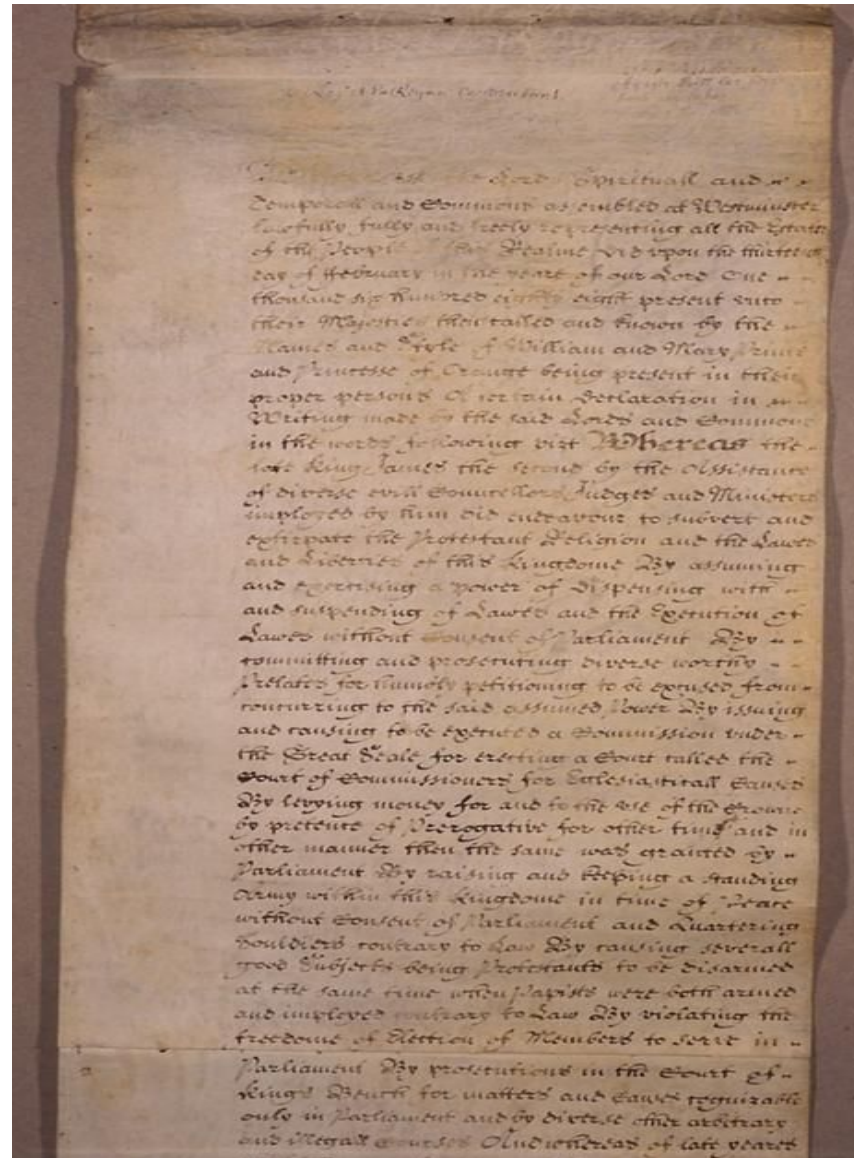


THE MONARCHY



THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

- Britain's monarchy – different historically from Europe's absolute monarchies > greater role of the Parliament
- 1649 – Charles I beheaded for absolutist tendencies
- 1688 – Glorious Revolution
 - The key document: **The Bill of Rights** > marks the beginning of the constitutional monarchy



NOTABLE DYNASTIES

- Tudors 1485 – 1603
- Stuarts 1603 – 1714
- Hanoverians 1714 – 1901
- Windsors: 1910 –



OFFICIAL POWER

- Theoretically, the Queen appears to have a great deal of power
 - The British Government = “Her Majesty's Government“ (contrast with the American “government of the people for the people by the people“)
 - She can choose anybody to become Prime Minister and other govt members (so-called “royal patronage“)
 - She summons and dissolves Parliament
 - Her assent is necessary for all laws passed by Parliament
 - She embodies law (the Crown; Her Majesty's prisons)
 - British people – are “subjects“ of the Queen
 - According to the English common law > the monarch “can do no wrong“ > s/he is above the law
 - She is the head of the Church of England



REAL POWER

- The practice (based on custom and tradition) > very different from theory
 - The Prime Minister chosen = always the leader of the winning party > he in turn chooses his Government
 - The dissolution of the Parliament > requested by the Prime Minister
 - Refusing royal assent to a law > has not happened since 1708 > Queen gives it automatically
 - Her speech opening the Parliament (“Queen's speech“) > written for her
- Victorian constitutionalist *Walter Bagehot* defined the Queen's rights as, the right ***‘to be consulted, to encourage and to warn’***



HIDDEN POWER

- The Royal Family – a substantial landowner (together with Britain's aristocracy)
 - land still means power in the UK
- Royal family members – part of a network of wealthy and powerful elite > they can have a behind-the-scenes influence on what happens in Britain
- The absence of a written Constitution – makes the real power of the monarch hard to define



SOFT POWER OF THE MONARCHY

- = ability to “attract and co-opt rather than by coercion (hard power), using force or giving money as a means of persuasion. Soft power is the ability to shape the preferences of others through appeal and attraction. A defining feature of soft power is that it is noncoercive; the currency of soft power is culture, political values, and foreign policies. Recently, the term has also been used in changing and influencing social and public opinion through relatively less transparent channels and lobbying through powerful political and non-political organizations.”

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soft_power



INTRODUCING ELIZABETH II

- Queen of the UK since 1952
- Born on 21 April 1926 in London, the first daughter of Albert, Duke of York (later George VI), and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (later Queen Mother)
- During WWII – joined the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service (WATS)
- 1947 - married her distant cousin, Philip Mountbatten (Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark), later Duke of Edinburgh; the marriage produced four children
- One of her earliest (and permanent) projects as Queen > developing relations among Commonwealth countries > frequent touring of its countries; she earned the nickname “Mother of the Commonwealth“
- unlike her children – she has maintained a peaceful private life; keeping her emotions and personal views to herself and wholly devoted to her royal duties > perceived as a symbol of stability and continuity



THE QUEEN SPEAKING

- The Queen's Christmas message:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4ObGQLjfCo>



Opening of the Parliament:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMHseSSRxgQ&feature=related>



THEN AND NOW



QUEEN'S ENGLISH OR RP

- **Received Pronunciation (RP)** > otherwise called the Queen's (or King's) English, Oxford English or BBC English
 - a prestigious accent of Standard English
 - associated with those possessing with power, money and influence
 - traditionally, an accent used in the media; however, recently there has been a tendency to use regional accents on TV and the radio
 - It has class implications > can be viewed with negativity in some contexts > an increasing number of upper-class people choose Estuary English as their default accent (a mixture of RP and Cockney) to hide their “posh“ background



ADVISORY VOICE - MEETING PRIME MINISTERS



1992 – ANNUS HORRIBILIS

- “ *1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure. In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to be an Annus Horribilis.* ” - Queen Elizabeth
- March 1992 – separation announced between Prince Andrew (Queen's second son) and his wife Sarah Ferguson (Fergie); later that year, scandalous photos of Fergie and her lover leaked into the tabloids
- April – Queen's daughter Princess Anne went through a divorce
- June – publication of the book *Diana, Her True Story*, with Diana's private problems revealed
- November - Windsor Castle, caught fire, resulting in serious damage; to pay for the damage, the Queen had to open some of the royal residences to tourists
- In December - the separation of Prince Charles and his wife Diana was announced



THE QUEEN VS. THE PEOPLE'S PRINCESS

- The Queen's stoical and detached manner of presentation > clashes with the emotionally charged, media-friendly conduct of Lady Diana – a generational as well as personal gulf between them
- Tony Blair - senses and exploits public sympathies for Diana's style > indirectly attacks the Queen by proclaiming Diana a national icon in his mourning speech after her death in 1997

“People everywhere, not just here in Britain kept faith with Princess Diana. They liked her, they loved her, they regarded her as one of the people. She was – the People's Princess and that is how she will stay, how she will remain in our hearts and our memories for ever.”



quoted in Andrew Marr: History of Modern Britain, p. 518



How did Lady Diana change the monarchy?

- 1) She made it more personal and more in touch with ordinary people
- 2) She made it more communicative and media friendly (unlike the Queen, she gave interviews and shared details of her private life)
- 3) She made the monarchy more activist and political (became involved in issues such as homelessness, AIDS or campaigns against landmines) > on occasions, she clashed with the establishment, fuelling later conspiracy theories about her death



EMOTIONAL RESPONSE OF THE PUBLIC

- *“The Queen had been brought up in a land of buttoned lips, stoicism and private grieving. She now reigned over a country which expected and almost required exhibitionism. To let it all loll out had become a guarantee of authenticity. In the run-up to Diana's funeral parts of central London seemed Mediterranean in their public grieving. There were vast mounds of flowers, people sleeping out, holding placards, weeping in the streets. Strangers hugged strangers. If Blair's words in Trimdon suggested Diana was a living saint, a sub-religious hysteria responded to the thought.”* Andrew Marr: History of Modern Britain, p. 519
- Despite facing temporary criticism for her “cold“ attitude to the Diana crisis, the Queen later regained much of her original public esteem



THE CONS AND PROS OF MONARCHY

- The world of inherited privilege is in sharp contrast with the modern idea of meritocracy, as well as with ordinary reality
- In a democratic society, accountability is prioritized; the monarch is not accountable to anyone
- Given its lack of political power, monarchy is disproportionately costly
- Democratic society demands transparency; no-one knows what the Queen really thinks; she rarely voices her opinions
- Contrary to the obsession with transparency and accountability, the monarchy can offer an attractive *myth*, a representation of the spirit and unity of the nation
- By being impartial, the Queen is a figure above all of the political turmoil and corruption > can be respected in a way a British President never would be
- The Queen remains still a final check on democracy; she can still **use** those powers she theoretically possesses if necessary (threat of dictatorship etc)



WALTER BAGEHOT'S FAMOUS WORDS ON MONARCHY

- “When there is a select committee on the Queen, the charm of royalty will be gone. Its mystery is in its life. We must not let in daylight upon magic.”
- (quoted in Anthony Sampson: *Who Runs This Place?*, p. 35)



Walter Bagehot

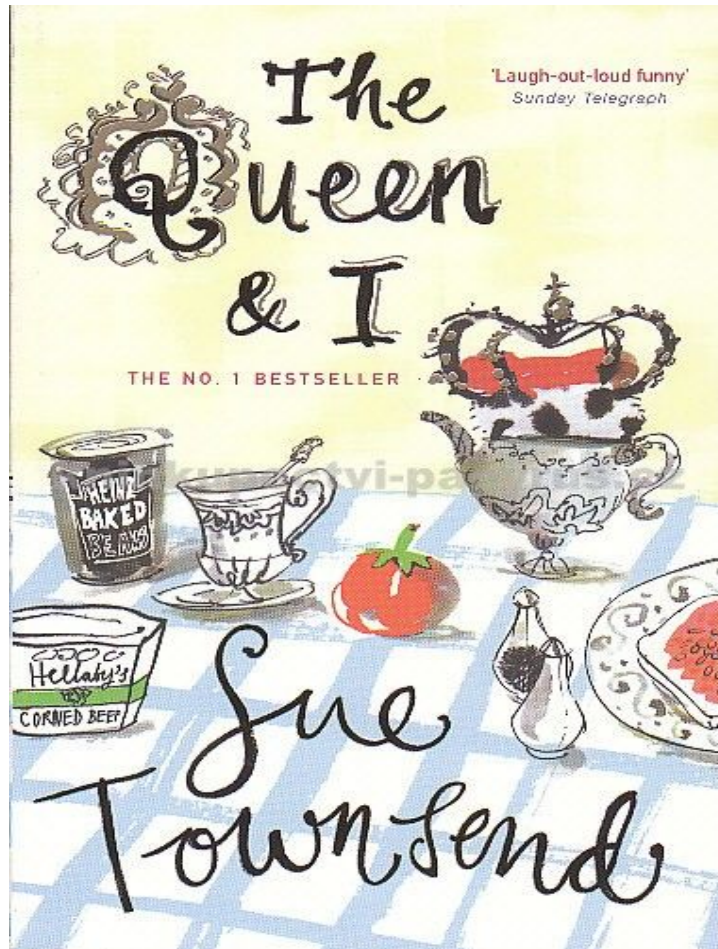


MONARCHY AT THE TIME OF AUSTERITY

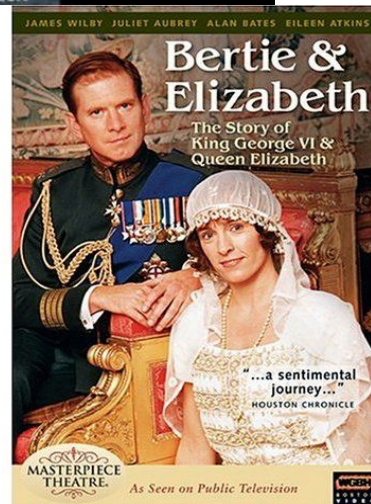
- At the time of government cuts, rising poverty, food banks and homelessness, the position of an institution based on privilege and inherited wealth looks increasingly problematic > rise in republican sentiments



DEPICTIONS OF THE QUEEN I – SUE TOWNSEND, LUCIAN FREUD



MONARCHY IN THE MOVIES




PRINCE CHARLES

- born 14 November 1948
- similar destiny to Edward VII > decades of waiting to replace his long-reigning mother
- unlike Elizabeth II > he is quite vocal about his opinions and does not pretend to be impartial > an active campaigner in a number of causes



MAVERICK HEIR

- Anthony Sampson on Charles: *“He was most at home in rural surroundings, as a landowner, organic farmer and gardener, and he disliked modern city life ... He was quite courageous in his determination to be politically incorrect, defending alternative values which were at odds with those of townsmen and politicians, and supporting underdogs. When Margaret Thatcher was prime minister he warned against the 'desperate plight of the inner cities' and was quoted as saying that he would be 'inheriting a divided nation' – which led Thatcher to ring up Buckingham Palace in fury.”* (Who Runs This Place?, p. 36)
 - Some of other Charles' other interests:
 - Conservation of nature as well as historical monuments
 - Urban planning and revival of inner cities
 - Climate change
 - Religious tolerance
 - Alternative medicine and Eastern philosophy
 - Controversies:
 - Relationship and marriage to Camilla Parker-Bowles
 - Many of his views, though well-meant, are removed from everyday reality
 - Too “nerdy“ to be a generally accepted successor to his mother
 - Poking his nose into politics, lobbying politicians, involved in arms sales to the Saudis, etc.
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MONARCHY'S FUTURE

