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**The British Royal Family and its role in the 21th century**  
**Role britské královské rodiny ve 21. století**  
Bakalářská práce

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## Zadání bakalářské práce

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### **Cíl, metody, literatura, předpoklady:**

Práce zmapuje propojení mezi britskou monarchií a britskou společností. Autor v práci popíše vývoj britské monarchie do současného stavu, život a tradice britské královské rodiny a na základě dostupných zdrojů se zamyslí nad současným postavením a rolí monarchie v moderní Británii. Jedním z postupů může být komparace s dalšími monarchiemi světa. Součástí práce bude i praktická část obsahující dotazníkové šetření. Práce bude psána anglicky.

Boyce, P. J. *The Queen's other realms: the Crown and its legacy in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand*. Sydney; Federation Press, 2008. Bricard, Isabelle: *Monarchie moderní Evropy: Lexikon panovnických rodů*. Praha; Brána, 2002. Filip, Jan. *Soudobé ústavní systémy*. Brno; Masarykova univerzita, 2001. Haseler, Stephen. *The grand delusion: Britain after sixty years of Elizabeth II*. London; I.B. Tauris, 2012. Hlaváček, Pavel, Jurek, Petr a kol.: *Politické systémy anglosaských zemí*. Praha; Dokořán s.r.o., 2014. Lupták, Jan, Pána, Lubomír: *Francouzská republika, Spojené království Velké Británie a Severního Irsku, České Budějovice; Vysoká škola evropských a regionálních studií; 2008*. Marr, Andrew: *A History of Modern Britain*. Londýn; Pan Macmillan, 2007. Rovná, Lenka A.: *Kdo vládne Británii?* Praha; Sociologické nakladatelství, 2004. Říchová, Blanka. *Západoevropské politické systémy: komparace politických systémů*. Praha; Nakladatelství Oeconomica, 2009. Wasson, Ellis Archer. *Dějiny moderní Británie: od roku 1714 po dnešek*. Praha; Grada, 2010. Williams, Andy: *UK Government and Politics*. Oxford; Heinemann Education Publishers, 1998.

### **Anotace:**

Bakalářská práce je tematicky zaměřena na Spojené království a jeho státní zřízení - konstituční monarchii. Práce mapuje propojení mezi britskou monarchií a britskou společností. Autorka v práci dále popisuje vývoj britské monarchie do současného stavu, život a financování královské rodiny, a na základě dostupných zdrojů se zamýšlí nad postavením a rolí monarchie v moderní Británii. Praktická část je věnována dotazníkovému šetření a rozboru reakcí v různých britských novinách v otázce vnímání monarchie rodilými Brity.

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## **Prohlášení**

Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně (pod vedením Mgr. Michala Pištory) a v seznamu literatury jsem uvedla všechny použité literární a internetové zdroje.

V Hradci Králové dne 3. 6. 2016

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Tereza Pivničková

## **Poděkování**

Děkuji vedoucímu mé bakalářské práce panu Mgr. Michalu Pištorovi za odborné vedení práce, vstřícnost při konzultacích, dobré rady a věcné připomínky.

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Bakalářská práce je tematicky zaměřena na Spojené království a jeho státní zřízení – konstituční monarchii. Práce mapuje propojení mezi britskou monarchií a britskou společností. Autorka v práci dále popisuje vývoj britské monarchie do současného stavu, život a financování královské rodiny, a na základě dostupných zdrojů se zamýšlí nad postavením a rolí monarchie v moderní Británii. Praktická část je věnována dotazníkovému šetření a rozboru reakcí v různých britských novinách v otázce vnímání monarchie Brity.

Klíčová slova: monarchie, Spojené království, Britská královská rodina, media, dotazník

## **Annotation**

PIVNIČKOVÁ, Tereza. *The British Royal Family and its role in the 21th century*. Hradec Králové, 2015, 57 pp. Bachelor Degree Thesis. University of Hradec Králové, Faculty of Education. Leader of the Bachelor Thesis: Mgr. Michal Pištora

The bachelor's thesis is thematically focused on the United Kingdom and its system of government – constitutional monarchy. The thesis maps the connection between British monarchy and British society. The author also describes the development of British monarchy to the present day, the life and financing of the Royal Family, and based on available sources she analyses the position and role of monarchy in modern Britain. The practical part is dedicated to the survey and the analysis of several reactions written in various British newspapers towards the perception of the monarchy by British citizens.

Key words: monarchy, United Kingdom, British Royal Family, media, questionnaire

## **Prohlášení**

Prohlašuji, že je bakalářská práce uložena v souladu s rektorským výnosem č.1/2013. (Řád pro nakládání se školími a některými jinými autorskými díly UHK).

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

The bachelor's thesis deals with the Royal Family in contemporary Britain and focuses primarily on the role of the Royals in British society. The major aims of the thesis are to clarify how both official and unofficial royal duties and powers have changed in the course of time, to analyze the benefits as well as disadvantages the institution of monarchy brings to the United Kingdom and, last but not least, how the institution together with the Royals is perceived by the British themselves.

The thesis begins with a brief outline of the development of British monarchy focusing on the most significant changes throughout the centuries. It is followed by general information about the institution itself with emphasis put on the situation in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The main part is dedicated not only to the official roles and powers of the Queen and members of her immediate family but also to the position of the Royals in the United Kingdom. The next chapter discusses the Royals' finances, costs and revenues to the state and its inhabitants. The following practical part comprises a questionnaire for British citizens, containing several questions regarding their views on the British Royal Family and the monarchy as an institution. For a better illustration and a clear arrangement, some charts and comments of the respondents are included. The final part of the thesis is devoted to a short analysis of several newspaper articles and some readers' comments on monarchy.

All citations and paraphrases are noted in brackets directly in the text. Full citations can be found in the Bibliography section at the very end of the thesis. The Bibliography chapter is further divided into 4 groups: printed, electronic (both listed in alphabetical order), video and picture sources. For the thesis, both English and Czech sources were used. Czech sources were translated into English by myself, the author.

## **2 HISTORY OF THE BRITISH MONARCHY**

The first chapter looks into the way British monarchy has been evolving throughout the history since the Anglo-Saxon period. Emphasis is put on major changes that influenced the political and executive powers of monarchs.

### **2.1 Monarchy on the British Isles from the 5th century to 1603**

On the grounds of the fact that monarchism in Britain has deep roots in the history of the state, this subchapter deals with the most significant events from the first attempts to centralize the system of government up to the establishment of the Union of the Crowns. The following period is described in the subchapter 2.2.

#### **2.1.1 Anglo-Saxon England**

The Anglo-Saxons were tribes of Germanic origin who arrived to the British Isles from the western parts of Europe during the fourth century (Royal Family History – King Offa, [online]). After the decline of the Western Roman Empire in the early fifth century, the Anglo-Saxons gained power over the territory and established the Anglo-Saxon England. The Anglo-Saxon England was in existence from the fifth to the eleventh century and corresponded approximately to present-day England, excluding the areas of Cornwall and Devon until the ninth century.

By the middle of the seventh century, the British Isles comprised a number of kingdoms founded by native or immigrant communities. The power of Anglo-Saxons gradually led to the founding of a heptarchy, the reign of seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms dominated by Kings of Wessex: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Sussex and Wessex (King Offa – The Royal Family, [online]). The two following centuries were affected by the progressive unification of England under Wessex supremacy, which caused the establishment of a single sovereign taking control over diverse tribes occupying England and uniting them. The then Anglo-Saxons kings,

Offa of Mercia and Alfred the Great, are considered to have laid the foundations of a centralized system of government.

The predecessor of the modern British Parliament has its base in two political institutions. The Witan, or the Witenagemot, which means “the meeting of wise men”, was the kings’ council composed of nobles and bishops assembled to advise kings in all possible matters at their requests, including judicial and military issues. There were also moots (or shire-moots), regular meetings of each county, attended by local lords and bishops, the sheriff and also several representatives of each village who discussed local issues. These two assemblies remained separated from each other for many centuries (Anglo-Saxon origins, [online]). The Anglo-Saxon period is also characterized by the ceaseless threats of Viking invaders and Danish settlers from northern Europe. In the course of time, the Danes controlled extensive territories in East Anglia and Mercia, which resulted in the division of England by the confirmation treaty of 886. Parts of England where Danish laws dominated the Anglo-Saxon ones were gathered in the area called the Danelaw (Saxon Kings - House of Wessex, [online]).

### **2.1.2 Norman invasion**

The Norman Conquest of England was the incursion and takeover of Norman, Breton and French troops of the English territory lead by Duke William II of Normandy, later renamed William the Conqueror, which started with the Battle of Hastings on 14 October 1066 (Bates, 1982, pp. 8-10). After the invasion, the territory was governed by smaller, permanent councils of advisors, sometimes supplemented by representatives of the nobility or clergy. As Adams explains, the situation in the territory’s government after the invasion was as follows: after the conquest of England, the Norman kings “*used a council called the curia regis to conduct much of the business of state in England.*” This council existed in two forms. The first, the great curia regis, was composed of the tenants-in-chief<sup>1</sup> and ecclesiastics<sup>2</sup> and later formed the foundations of the Upper House of the Parliament - the House of Lords. The other

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<sup>1</sup> a person who held the land under various forms of feudal tenure (Bloch, 1964, p. 333)

<sup>2</sup> group which included archbishops, bishops and certain abbots (Morris, 1929, p. 772)

one, the lesser curia regis, consisted of court magnates and was regarded as the king's royal court. In summary, with the Norman conquest, the development of the system of government was intensified through establishing the bases of several long-lasting national institutions including the Parliament, developed from the curia regis after taking on representative elements (Adams, 1907, pp. 12-15). During the period of the Norman dynasty's reign, the country experienced numerous changes and developed extensively (The Normans – The Royal Family, [online]). For example, the Domesday Book, a detailed property survey of England ordered by William the Conqueror in 1086, was published. The main purpose of the research was to find out about personal ownership in order to allow for the imposition of taxes (The Domesday Book, [online]). Among others, the department of the Exchequer<sup>3</sup> was founded and the construction of the Tower of London commenced (The Normans – The Royal Family, [online]).

### **2.1.3 Angevins**

According to the official website of the British Monarchy, the Angevins were a dynasty from Anjou, north-western France, ruling Britain until 1485. The dynasty can be divided into four Royal Houses: the Angevins, the Plantagenets, the Lancasters and the Yorkists (English Monarchs, 400 AD-1603 – The Royal Family, [online]). Nevertheless, in English historiography, it is sometimes stated that the name 'the Angevins' refers to the Plantagenet dynasty with its two sub-branches, namely the ruling dynasties – the Lancasters and the Yorkists. Henry II, the first representative of the Angevin dynasty enthroned the King of England, introduced many changes during his long rule which had long-term consequences. Henry's legal changes are generally considered to have laid the basis of the English Common Law<sup>4</sup>. His intervention in Brittany, Wales and Scotland shaped the development of their societies and governmental systems (Gillingham, 2001, pp. 5-7).

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<sup>3</sup> also known as the Court of Exchequer; a former superior court in GB dealing with matters of revenues, now merged with the King's and Queen's Bench (Exchequer, [online])

<sup>4</sup> judge-declared law which applies to a group on the basis of customs and legal precedents developed over hundreds of years in Britain; imported as the law of British colonies throughout the world; p.ex. United States of America, Australia (English Common Law, [online])

The reign of John Lackland, the last King of England of the Angevins, was marked by the loss of the Duchy of Normandy and extensive territorial possessions in France, which resulted in the collapse of most of the Angevin Empire. He was also forced to sign the Magna Carta in 1215, a document sometimes considered to be the first step towards the constitution of the United Kingdom (The Angevins: John Lackland – The Royal Family, [online]). The Magna Carta marks the first attempts to limit the king's power. The judicial branch underwent significant changes as well. From then on, freemen were judged by juries and justice could no longer be sold, denied or delayed.

The historical period dominated by the Plantagenet dynasty can be characterized as the era of three important conflicts. With the reign of Edward I, Wales was successfully conquered and there were also large numbers of attacks on Scotland in an effort to create a British Empire dominated by England. Nevertheless, Scotland retained its independence until the reign of the Stuarts (The Plantagenets, [online]). In 1295, the Model Parliament was established and possessed the “power of the purse”, meaning the legislatures had control over funds. It was the first assembly to be composed not only of members of the clergy and the aristocracy but also representatives of counties and boroughs to stand for ordinary people. This system remained valid for next two hundred years (The Development of the British Parliamentary System, [online]).

Edward I's descendants were confronted with the long era of the Hundred Years' War<sup>5</sup>, followed by the Wars of the Roses, a series of power battles fought between the supporters of two rival branches, the House of Lancaster and the House of York (1455-1487). After several years of Yorkist dominance, the conflict ended in the victory of Henry IV, a claimant of the House of Lancaster, at the Battle of Bosworth Field (Starkey and Goodwin, 2012, p.11).

#### **2.1.4 Tudor Dynasty**

The hegemony of the Tudors lasted 118 eventful years. During this period, England became one of the leading colonial powers in Europe and their campaigns against the

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<sup>5</sup> the series of wars fought between France and England from 1337 to 1453; after early victories English were expelled from France except for Calais

Irish population led to the strict English control over Ireland. The Tudor court played a very important role in the Renaissance era, influencing numerous cultural and social matters, such as the development of crafts, trade, education and culture, mainly English literature and drama thanks to William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe (The Tudors – The Royal Family, [online]).

During the Tudor era, the Parliament was used for ratifications of the most important royal laws such as the determination of the throne's successorship, or the break from the Roman Catholic Church followed by the creation of the Anglican Church by Henry VIII, a significant figure of English history (Rovná, 2004, p. 61). His strong disagreements with the Pope led to its separation from the papal authority and consequently, the king declared himself the Supreme Head of the Church of England (Scarbrick, 1997, p. 361). The Anglican Church (also the Church of England) did not tolerate other churches, which resulted in the oppression of parts of the population adherent to different creeds (The Tudors: Henry VII – The Royal Family, [online]).

## **2.2 Monarchy on the British Isles from 1603 to the present day**

### **2.2.1 House of Stuart**

The establishment of the Union of the Crowns in 1603 significantly changed the British royal system. In fact, it resulted in the accession of James VI of Scotland (I of England) to the thrones of both England and Ireland for several purposes, mainly a collective approach in foreign affairs under the rule of a single monarch (The Union of the Crowns, [online]). The act was the consequence of Elizabeth I of England's death with no descendant. Despite the efforts to subjugate Scotland's territory and create an empire, England, as well as Scotland, remained sovereign states until the Acts of Union in 1707 during the period of Queen Anne's reign. The Acts of Union connected both kingdoms, Scotland and England, into one united kingdom called Great Britain (Smith, 1998, p. 28).

The era of the Stuarts was intense and politically unstable. The mid-seventeenth century culminated in the English Civil War between the Roundheads

(Parliamentarians), supporters of the Parliament of England, and the Cavaliers (Royalists), led by King Charles I of England (Roberts, 2006, p. 35). The English Civil War ended in 1651 in the victory of the Roundheads, the monarchy was completely abolished and the Commonwealth of England<sup>6</sup> was established. It was replaced by the Protectorate two years later (1653-59) when Oliver Cromwell proclaimed himself the Lord Protector of the territory. Following the victory, the Parliament erected its dominance over the Supreme Court (Macaulay, 1856, p. 105). However, both forms of government were replaced by a monarchist system in 1660. The issuing of the Bill of Rights in 1689 confirmed human rights and the levying of taxes only by permission of the Parliament. The end of the Stuarts' reign was followed by the Act of Settlement<sup>7</sup> in 1701 and the ascension of the Hanoverian dynasty to the throne. This act shifted the balance of power from the Monarch to the Parliament, and also provided the basis for the establishment of the office of the Prime Minister<sup>8</sup>

### **2.2.2 House of Hanover**

In the eighteenth century Britain witnessed a major political development caused mainly by two political parties, the Whigs and the Tories, which exercised their influence on the British society and gradually formed the two-party system. The Whigs supported the constitutional monarchy and sympathized with the Hanoverians, while the Tories were sympathizers of the Stuarts and the Church of England. Both parties were taking their turn in governing the Commonwealth during the era and their factions laid the foundations of the later Conservative (Tory) and Liberal (Whig) parties (1868-1889) (Starkey – House of Hanover, [online]). In 1832, the Representation of the People Act, an Act of Parliament, introduced wide-ranging changes in the electoral system of England and Wales. Elections took part in smaller districts on the basis of a majority election system, “first-past-the-post” (winner takes all) (Rovná, p. 62).

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<sup>6</sup> the period from 1649-53 when England, along with Scotland and Ireland, was ruled as a republic (Schultz, 2010, [online])

<sup>7</sup> *law of succession to the English and Irish thrones for Electress Sophia of Hanover and her non-Roman Catholic but protestant heirs* (The Act of Settlement, [online])

<sup>8</sup> *the function of the first Prime Minister is given to Sir Robert Walpole, First Lord of the Treasury in 1721* (Smith, 1990, p. 384)



During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Britain came into possession of vast overseas territories, colonies, and the British Empire covered almost a third of the globe. The reign of the last Hanoverian monarch, Queen Victoria, known as the Victorian era, is regarded as a period of salient industrial, political and scientific changes. Victoria's ascension to the throne marked the end of monarchs' active interventions into the actions of a government, which was now formed by the winning political party in the elections. The Second (1867) and Third (1884) Reform Acts extended the suffrage considerably: the Second Act to a large number of men voters and the Third to almost all men (Rovná, 2004, p. 62).

### **2.2.3 House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and the House of Windsor**

The only figure on the British throne ruling under the Saxe-Coburg-Gotha dynasty was Edward VII. His period of reign was nine years (1901-1910), during which British monarchs faced a strong pressure because of their blood connection with the current ruling family in Germany, the then enemy. To emphasize a sense of belonging to the British nation, King George V changed the name of the Royal Family *House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha* into the more British sounding *House of Windsor* by a proclamation issued on 17 July 1917 (Saxe-Coburg-Gotha – The Royal Family, [online]).

Throughout the twentieth century, British kings and queens, descendants of the House of Windsor, played the most important role in carrying out the constitutional monarchy's duties as British representatives, e.g. in supporting the public during the World Wars. As regards domestic issues, in 1916, the Easter Rising in Ireland was the first impetus for a gradual political development which eventually led to the declaration of Irish Free State in 1922, later renamed the Irish Republic. Thus, Great Britain lost a major part of its territories in Ireland, except for six northern counties that remained part of the United Kingdom (now Northern Ireland) (The House of Windsor – The Royal Family, [online]).

A few years later, the reign of George VI witnessed the dissolution of the British Empire. In 1931, the dominions were already separated into sovereign states by the act of British Parliament called the Statute of Westminster. The process of a

transformation of the whole empire into independent states forming the Commonwealth of the Nations intensified after the Second World War. In 1947, British India was divided into two independent dominions, India and Pakistan (Townsend, 1975, pp. 176, 229-232).

### 3 UK AS A STATE AND ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM

#### 3.1 Formation of the British state

In the very beginning it is essential to clarify that the term 'Britain' is fairly unclear and used to refer to more than one subject. The appellation 'Britain' is sometimes used interchangeably with the name of the whole country, i. e. the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. However, it may also refer to the island of Great Britain. Lastly, it is commonly used by the English as a synonym for England. Nevertheless, the country is multinational and it is required to regard all its nations as equals, although there are some obvious differences between them (Birch, 1998, p. 3).

English invasions of Ireland began in the twelfth century - therefore it is considered to be England's oldest colony. With the Act of the Union 1800, the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Ireland (previously in personal union) were united under the official name of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The English dominance over Ireland lasted until the guerrilla war fought in the early 1920s, when a major part of Ireland proclaimed its independence. The remaining counties in the north remained under the dominance of the United Kingdom. Wales, dominated by England as well as Ireland since the twelfth century, experienced a significant change in language priorities and a decline of the unique local culture. Although Welsh had remained the main spoken language in Wales until the nineteenth century, nowadays it has been replaced by English. Besides the language, the Welsh people have also embraced many aspects of the English culture. As Birch points out (1998, p. 4), *"By 1981 only 19 per cent of the people of the Wales claimed any knowledge of Welsh, and it is only in rural areas and a few small towns that the language is used."*

As regards Scotland, the territory was a self-sufficient independent area until the Union with Great Britain in 1707. The Act of Union represented a turning point in Scottish history. Even though Scotland became part of United Kingdom, Scottish people successfully preserved some of their state institutions, their own system of education and even the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, which had separated from the British Anglican Church (Birch, p. 5). Traditionally, Scottish people have always

exhibited a strong national sentiment. During the referendum held in September 2014, many Scottish nationalists expressed their desire to proclaim Scotland an independent state again.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is an island country situated in the west of Europe and the isolation from the rest of the continent has affected its political system. Since the eleventh century, after centuries of fights with other tribes and nations from continental Europe, British politics had developed without any significant external interventions (Hlaváček and Jurek, 2014, p. 14). The beginnings of English and later British politics date back to the end of Roman dominance and the commencement of Anglo-Saxon kings' reign.

In the past, the country's political system was often used as a model by the creators of various types of constitutions throughout the world. Probably, the main reason was a high success rate in gaining overseas territories, which enabled the country to spread its influence. Although their colonies were partially self-governed and they formed constitutions of their own, there were some trails of British power as well. In contrast, the main goal of some constitutions was more likely to suppress the British model of institutionalism. This pertains to both American constitutions, the Articles of Confederation and The Constitution of United States of America, issued during The American War of Independence (Hlaváček and Jurek, p. 13).

### **3.2 Definition of monarchy**

Monarchy is a form of government where the head of state is represented by a *monarch*, who has more or less authority depending on the type of monarchy. The office of a monarch is generally hereditary, lifelong, with the possibility of abdication (Monarchy, [online]). According to different parameters, several types of monarchies can be distinguished. Considering the range of the sovereign's powers, two main types can be defined. The first form is absolute monarchy, where the sovereign exercises total power over the territory with no limitation of power by law. In British history, there were several attempts to implement the principles of absolute monarchy, for instance by two long-reigning Stuarts – James I and Charles I. Although this form of

government was very common in the past, its popularity faced a decline after the French Revolution in the late eighteenth century. Many countries struggled to develop a more democratic system (Absolute monarchy, [online]). The second type is a constitutional (or parliamentary) monarchy. Even though the monarch is the head of state, his position is limited by a constitution and officially more representative than in the past. This is caused by the fact that the state's parliament took over a leading position in the administration of the state and its legislative branch (Constitutional monarchy, [online]).

### **3.3 Constitutional monarchy in the UK**

The roots of constitutionality (a form of government based on a democratic constitution) on the British Isles date back to the thirteenth century: in 1215, the Magna Carta Libertatum was issued in an effort to limit the monarch's power (Hlaváček and Jurek, p.13). The British political system is controlled based on past experience rather than on exact rules. The British constitution itself does not exist in physical form, i. e. there is no codified set of rules and laws. 'The Constitution' draws from several sources — parliamentary written laws, royal prerogatives, precedents, constitutional conventions, legal literature and European law. It regulates the relations among individual parts of the United Kingdom, the relations among constitutional institutions, including competences, and primarily the rights and freedoms of all British citizens (Rovná, pp. 65-68).

#### **3.3.1 Sources of 'the Constitution'**

Parliamentary laws regulate all the British constitutional sources from which the government draws. They played a very significant role in the creation of electoral right and also in setting up the relations between the two chambers of the British Parliament. Precedents, typical features of Anglo-Saxon law, where a previous legal case or judicial decision is approached as a model for future cases with similar facts or issues, are important especially in human rights and freedoms issues. As for constitutional conventions enforceable by the state, they represent customs that are not written in any legal documents. They pertain especially to issues concerning the relations between

the Crown and the Cabinet<sup>9</sup>, e.g. they determine that the monarch calls on the leader of the winning political party to form a coalition, or the fact that the Cabinet's meetings are confidential and any resolution is obligatory for all members, even if they had voted against it. The European law is strictly superordinate to the British legal system: British law is required to correspond to international European law decisions (Rovná, pp. 65-68).

### **3.3.2 Republic vs monarchy**

Until the 19th century, monarchy was the most common form of government throughout the world; however, it does not predominate anymore. Today, there are about 46 sovereign states headed by monarchs in the world, of which 16 are members of the Commonwealth under the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Present day Europe comprises 11 monarchies, which rank among the most powerful and developed democratic states in the world (Seznam současných monarchií, [online]).

#### ***3.3.2.1 20th century - time for a change***

As early as the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the number of monarchies throughout the world decreased noticeably. Most of them came to an end in several waves around the World Wars. The first huge wave of 1918 destroyed the Russian Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the German Empire and many other dukedoms or principalities. During the second major wave after the World War II, the majority of Balkan monarchies fell. Nevertheless, even during this decline period, the establishment of some new monarchies can be noted, e.g. in Spain, Italy or Greece. However, these can more likely be perceived "*as exceptions confirming the rule*" (Bricard, 2002, p. 7).

The question is why many nations decided to start restricting monarchs' powers. Even if some monarchies, such as the United Kingdom, have survived, remaining some of the world's most powerful states, their monarchs still face the question whether a monarchy is a great and deeply-rooted tradition worth being preserved or more of an

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<sup>9</sup> the decision-making body composed of the Prime Minister and 21 Cabinet ministers

anachronism, connected to the questionable significance of kings who reign but do not rule.

Sovereigns, including the British one, were forced to make many compromises to preserve the monarchist system of government. In response to the fact that the colonial expansion of the British Empire had stagnated since the end of the 19th century compared to its rivals abroad, Great Britain started to concentrate on strengthening its position in the administration of the already acquired territories (Schulze, 2003, p. 244). When Queen Victoria died in 1901, her son Edward VII ascended the throne, and unlike her, he was more interested in continental Europe than in British overseas territories (Bricard, p. 8). Despite his effort to reconcile Europe, World War I broke out.

After the war period, the world had to recover from financial, material and human losses. Regardless of the fact that various European monarchies declined, British Royal Family successfully retained its position and the representatives were forthcoming in responding to the people's requirements. Even during World War II, The Royal Family demonstrated its support towards British people. The Royals repeatedly refused to leave London for a safer place. By staying with British people in the most difficult times, they gained popularity among citizens. Moreover, during both World Wars, some male members of The Royal Family served in the army, while female members helped in hospitals (Buckingham Palace, [online]).

After the wars, Britain tried to retain its powerful political position in the world. Nonetheless, the period of decolonization in 1940s caused the loss of some territories. A number of countries such as India or former British territories in Africa became independent and joined the British Commonwealth of Nations, founded in 1931. Since then, the British policy has been oriented towards the members of Commonwealth, situated all around the world (Oakland, 2010, pp. 117-118). Following the accession of Queen Elizabeth II, the monarchy occasionally had to face republican sentiments as well as severe press criticism, which culminated in the 1990s in reaction to the Royals' divorces and scandals. Although the Royals lost much of their political power, the Queen has maintained the popularity, prestige and moral authority of the Royal Family and lead the monarchy into new millennium. In addition, during the last few years, the

Royal Family has become even more popular with the general public, mostly thanks to the new generation of the Royals, who are seen as symbolizing the future of the monarchy (Starkey – House of Windsor, [online]).



## **4 ROLE OF THE MONARCHY IN TODAY'S WORLD**

While the two previous chapters discussed the principal features of the state's political system and also the way British monarchy has been evolving during the two past millenniums, this chapter focuses on the present situation. Officially, present-day Britain has been run by the House of Windsor for almost a hundred years during which only four different sovereigns occupied the position of the head of state, namely George V, Edward VII, George VI and Elizabeth II. Elizabeth II has been Queen of the United Kingdom since her accession in 1952, being the longest-reigning British monarch in history (Oakland, p. 90).

### **4.1 House of Windsor**

As mentioned above, the House of Windsor was founded in 1917 by George V in response to a strong anti-German sentiment in Britain during World War I. King George V adopted *Windsor* not only as a name of the house, but also as a surname for the Royal Family (Schulze, 2003, p. 333). Eight years after the accession of Elizabeth II to the throne, she decided along with her husband to change the name from *Windsor* to *Mountbatten-Windsor* for all their descendants to be distinguished from the rest of the Royals (House of Windsor, [online]). For an illustration of the family tree, see Appendix 1.

### **4.2 British Royal Family**

The members of the British Royal Family play a significant role in the life of every British citizen by serving their duty in two important fields. Firstly, they take charge of a wide range of public engagements, such as representing the British nation during state visits. They are also of great symbolic (and ideological) importance to the nation on the grounds of representing the stability and prosperity of the United Kingdom and of directly influencing the people by their lives, actions and beliefs.

### **4.3 Official powers, duties and public roles of the Royals**

The engagement of the Royals in public activities such as visits or conventions is integral to their private lives. They are expected to personify and represent the British people all around the world, which can sometimes be an exacting task. After all, they are important public figures to whom people look up and model themselves on.

#### **4.3.1 British monarch**

According to written law, the Queen can be perceived as an absolute monarch, but in reality, her function is predominantly ceremonial and most of her duties have been passed to the Parliament. All the acts that adjust the role and authority of the British monarch have their base in conventions. However, there are some adjustments in a monarch's authority which are controlled by law. One of the most important acts, the Bill of Rights of 1689, dismisses the possibility for a monarch to practice any other religion than Anglicanism or to marry a person adherent to any other church than the Church of England. The Bill of Rights also requires that an underage ruler be substituted by a regent, i. e. a successor in line after the monarch who is older than twenty one. (Rovná in Harvey and Bather, pp. 213, 214). In the past, the British monarch was the ruler with absolute power. This has changed during the centuries through documents that gradually restricted his authorities, such as Magna Carta Libertatum or the Bill of Rights, which provided more power to the Parliament and the Cabinet. Nowadays, the monarch is still integral to the British political system but, as formulated by Rovná (p. 72), with the difference that “*the monarch reigns, but not rules*”.

Most importantly, the monarch fulfills the role of the UK's head of state. The sovereign has at his disposal some important remits, royal prerogatives summed up in a set of powers and privileges called the Royal Prerogative, a part of the British constitution. Even though a lot of these powers are exercised on Her Majesty's behalf by ministers, there are still a lot of them carried out by the Queen herself. The most important political powers are to suspend and call back the Parliament as well as the right and responsibility to grant assent to bills proposed by the Parliament. The

sovereign can also intervene in the law-making branch in secondary legislation (The Queen's Powers, [online]).

In addition, the British ruler names the British Prime Minister, as well as other ministers of the Crown. When necessary, he dissolves the Cabinet and the Parliament. He is also the one who appoints members of the House of Lords, whether their titles are lifelong or heritable. The sovereign's power to decorate personalities and to grant a pardon is subordinate to the decisions of the Prime Minister and other relevant ministers of the Crown. Other prerogatives dependent on suggestions of the Parliament, Cabinet or a relevant minister include the declaration of war or peace and confirmation of international agreement. As for the armed forces, the monarch serves as the Commander-in-Chief of the British armed forces. Besides all the roles connected to the state's politics, the monarch embodies other, more symbolic, roles, functioning as the 'leader of the nation'. This includes encouraging national identity, unity and pride, and providing the nation with a sense of stability (Rovná, pp. 73-75)

#### **4.3.2 Close family members of the Queen**

Members of the Queen's nuclear family – her children or grandchildren and their spouses – may take over some duties of the monarch in case the Queen is unable to exercise them in person, i. e. in periods of her long-term absence or an extremely busy schedule, especially travelling abroad or participating in festivities across the country or within the Commonwealth. They also help to show hospitality to foreign visitors and to strengthen national awareness and welfare.

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh – Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II – symbolizes an important component of the Queen's social and personal life. He has accompanied her to countless state visits. Nevertheless, by being the patron or president of more than 800 organizations of various interests, he also travels for his own engagements. Although Prince Philip has retired from his active naval career, he is still connected to this field. He bears several naval titles such as *Captain-General of the Royal Marine* or *Colonel-in-Chief* (The Duke of Edinburgh, [online]).

The Prince of Wales – His Highness Prince Charles – has no constitutionally established scope of activity. However, his contributions to the monarchy can be divided into three spheres. Firstly, it is taking over the Queen’s duties in periods of her absence. They both endeavour to connect people of different social origins and to maintain the state’s stability. Secondly, he engages in charitable work. This statement can be proved by the fact that he is the head of one of the largest charitable organization in the UK with about £120 million earned every year. He also proclaims an interest in supporting the national sentiments, traditions and encouraging tolerance and mutual understanding among adherents of different faiths and communities (The Prince of Wales, [online]). Prince Charles is frequently accompanied by his wife, The Duchess of Cornwall. Their relationship dates back even before Charles’ marriage to Princess Diana. Nowadays, Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall are regarded as the most important British pair of ambassadors (The Duchess of Cornwall, [online]). The Princess Royal – Her Royal Highness Anne, the only daughter of the Queen and Prince Philip, undertakes a number of official duties and visits. In 2008, she effectuated about 500 engagements in the UK. Besides, she is active in charity, volunteerism and the support of equitation – she is involved in many organizations connected to this sport discipline (The Princess Royal, [online]). The ruling couple has two more children; the Duke of York and the Earl of Wessex. The Duke of York – His Highness Prince Andrew’s representative duties relate mostly to the navy and his profession of a pilot, but also to international trade and investment (The Duke of York, [online]). The youngest son, Earl of Wessex – His Highness Prince Edward, works on behalf of many organizations or charities linked to sport, the activities of young people or art. His wife, The Countess of Wessex, is likewise active in charity, focusing especially on the support of disabled children. Since 2002, their main focus has been on supporting the Queen and their own companies and organizations have been sidelined (The Countess of Wessex, [online]).

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip have two adult grand-children, the sons of Prince Charles and the late Diana, Princess of Wales. The Duke of Cambridge – His Royal Highness Prince William, the elder son, takes patronage of several organizations, such as *Centrepint* (he inherited the auspice after his mother Diana, Princess of Wales). In 2009 he and his brother Prince Harry created their own organizations aiming to help young people in difficult situations, to rise the awareness and support for servicemen

and to fight against global warming. Two years later, he got married to Catherine ‘Kate’ Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge. As his wife, her chief role lies in supporting her husband in his activities and accompanying him on his business visits (The Duke of Cambridge, [online]). The Duchess of Cambridge is also very active in charity. She has gained a wide popularity, being perceived as an example for others and one of the most admired public personalities in the world. His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales is currently focusing on his career in the British army. Like his elder brother, he continues in the mission of his mother Princess Diana to help people through charity organizations. One of his main interest is helping support HIV positives in their fight for life (Prince Harry, [online]).

#### **4.4 Position of the Royal Family in British society**

Although the Royal Family have lost much of their remits in the course of the country’s history, they still represent an important part of British society. We can argue that the Royal Family represents a symbol of continuity and an expression of national pride. Speaking of the family’s social status, the situation has changed noticeably during the twentieth century. Initially, they represented an inaccessible group of people whose lifestyle was radically different from their subjects’ everyday lives. With the access of mass media and its rapid development, the relationship between the Royals and their subjects changed dramatically. Following Elizabeth II’s accession to the throne, the nobles gradually adopted a more open attitude in their everyday lives and public manners and the gap between people of different social layers grew narrower (Singh, 2011, [online]). One of the most significant changes was caused by the marriage of Prince Charles, Duke of Edinburgh, to Lady Diana Spencer in the early 1980s. The union was characterized by problems from an early stage, on the grounds of Prince Charles’s accusation of having a love affair with his ex-girlfriend Camilla Parker-Bowles. Even though Princess Diana’s attitude towards the problem was strongly criticized by the Royal Family, she retained the public’s support – she was immensely popular with the entire nation till her death in 1997 (Diana – Princess of Wales, [online]).

With the advent of the new millennium the Royal Family was confronted with yet other public scandals, this time relating to the Queen's grand-children, especially Prince Harry. Repeatedly, he was reported to have problems with marihuana and excessive alcohol consumption, which resulted in him being sent to a drug rehabilitation (Harry sent to drug clinic, [online]). A few years later, the media had another event to discuss – the wedding of Prince Charles and his long-time lover Camilla Parker-Bowles. She was faced with the prospect of never achieving Princess Diana's level of popularity. Allegedly in order to reach a rapprochement with the people, she was only appointed 'Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall' rather than 'Princess' and also, at the Queen's request she had not attended Diana's funeral (Gillan, 2007, [online]).

#### **4.4.1 Future monarch**

The question whether the monarchy is a proud tradition or rather an expensive anachronism became even more widely discussed with the Queen's 90th Anniversary. Despite the fact that there are a lot of royalists in the United Kingdom, obviously there are also opponents, inclined to a change in the form of government. Diverse approaches towards the institution of monarchy are the reason for differing individual perspectives and points of view. One of the main arguments for the opposition to the monarchy may be the lack of possibility for the citizens to elect the country's representatives. Thus, opponents may argue, the British have a head of state who represents the privileged social stratum rather than the whole nation (Reynolds, 2016, [online]). The other reason could be the financing of the monarchy. The total cost of keeping the Royals is about £334 million with "*each 'working royal' costing the taxpayer about £18.5 million apiece*", a sum which some people may consider exaggerated (Eleftheriou-Smith, 2015, [online]).

According to Reynolds, Daily telegraph columnis, the British citizens themselves are more deserving of this financial support, especially people 'struggling to survive'. In his article he also argues that Paris has higher revenues from tourism than London despite not having a monarch, and therefore the abolition of the monarchy would cause no dramatic change in the popularity of the destination. Nevertheless, there is the other

side of the coin, too. As Warner argues in *The Telegraph* (2015, [online]), the financing of a republican head of state would not be any cheaper. As an example he states that the funding of the German president is as expensive as the Queen's costs. For now, nothing indicates that the monarchy should be abolished in the near future. In case the monarchy remains in existence, which still seems more probable, it will remain subject to the order of succession to the British throne, determined by descent, gender, legitimacy and religion (Succession to the British throne, [online]). For the line of succession, see Picture 2 in Appendices.

## 5 MEDIA AND THE ROYALS

Today, mass media are generally considered to be the major sources of information about current world events and about political and social affairs, and Britain is no exception. The media have a potential power and influence to represent the world in particular ways, and also to contribute to the formation of specific attitudes and opinions among the public. The British press is distinguished by several aspects. However, due to the chosen topic, I will introduce the differentiation in relation to the British Monarchy.

As examples I have chosen two representatives of the quality daily newspapers, The Daily Telegraph and The Guardian, because arguably, they have the most firm position as they were established a few centuries ago. The Daily Telegraph was established in London in 1855. In terms of political allegiance, it is right-of-centre and supports the Conservative Party (The Daily Telegraph, [online]). This is also reflected in the profile of its readers. Generally, right-oriented voters tend to sympathize with the Monarchy, therefore the newspaper can be considered a supporter of the Monarchy. In comparison, The Guardian, which appeared for the first time in 1821 as The Manchester Guardian, belongs to the minority of liberal or more likely left newspapers in the UK. The Guardian tends to argue against the institution of monarchy (The Guardian, [online]). For more information about political affiliation, see the Questionnaire, chapter 7, Political affiliation chart). As for the relationship between the media and the Royals, it is fragile and easily damageable, which has been proven on numerous occasions due to the media's infringement into the Royals' privacy. The question of the media and the Royals will be described in more detail in the practical part of the thesis.



## 6 ROYAL FAMILY IN THE ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The financing of the monarchy plays a significant role in the perception and evaluation of the Royal Family. According to O’Driscoll, there is a widespread belief in the UK that the monarchy is quite an expensive form of government (O’Driscoll, 1995, p. 83). It is not surprising as since the era of absolutism, the nobles have been renowned not only for their pompous and costly events and ceremonies, but also for spending money on other matters, such as art or charity. The British financial system went through several significant changes. In 1760s, during the reign of King George III, it was decreed that the Crown Estate<sup>10</sup> was no longer the personal property of the sovereign but of the Crown, and the head of state had no power to control it. Instead, the monarch started to receive an annual Civil List grant from the government. However, this system is no longer active due to the Civil List Reform of 2013, which caused a belt-tightening of the Royals and also “*the scrapping of the household grant in favour of a Sovereign Support Grant based on share of profits from the Crown Estate*” (How Civil List Reform will affect the Royal Family, [online]).

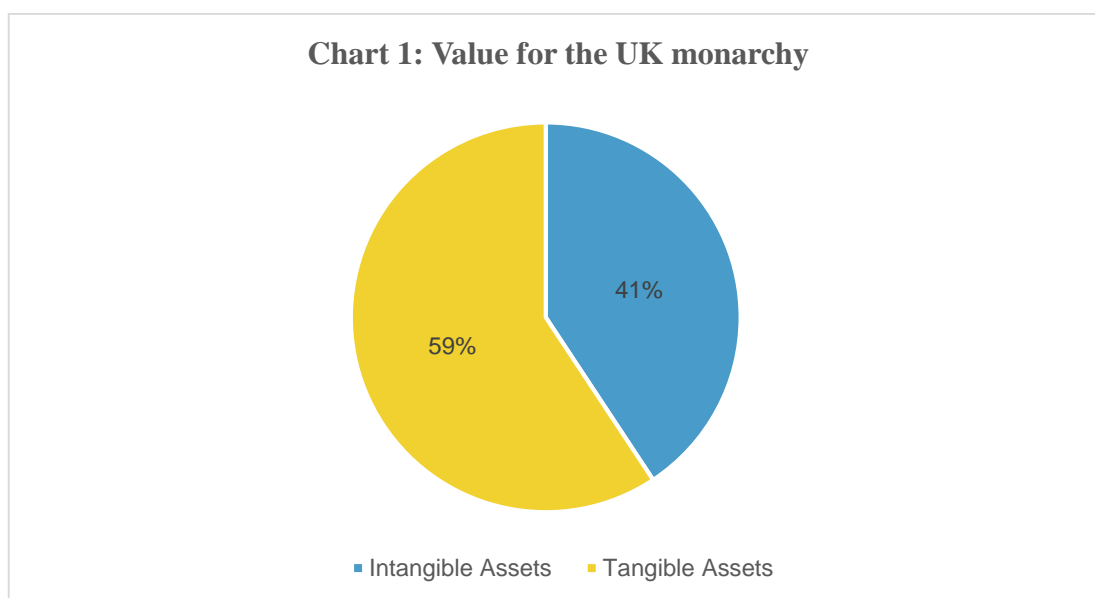
### 6.1 Royal Family as a brand

David Haigh in the Introduction to *Brand Finance Journal: Special Jubilee Issue* (BFJ) claims that the Royal Family can be considered a brand. Actually, the contributors rate the Royal Family to be, with its total value, “*one of the most valuable British brands*”, and also claim that the monarchy improves the economic situation of the state by bringing a huge amount of money to the Treasury. (BFJ, pp. 3-6). According to them, the monarchy generally benefits the country’s industry as well as tourism. Lastly, they declare the Royal Family a “*team of stars building a multi-billion dollar brand for the UK*” and argue that “*it makes a significant contribution in the effort to rescue Britain from recession*” (BFJ, pp. 3-4).

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<sup>10</sup> A collection of lands and holding in the UK which belong to the monarchy; it cannot be sold and all the profits come into the public purse; its total value in 2014/15 was about £10.85bn (Crown Estate, [online])

The value of the Monarchy 'brand' is derived by combining tangible and intangible asset values. The Special Jubilee Issue released by Brand Finance Journal in July 2012 examined the total intangible value and tangible assets of the UK Monarchy. The estimate value of the Monarchy's tangible assets was £18,113 million, whereas all the intangible assets were estimated at £26,365 million, £44,4 million in total. Three years later the value was estimated approximately at £57, million (Value for money myth, [online]).



In Chart 1, it is apparent that Tangible Assets of the Monarchy, creating 59% of the value, are predominant. As we can see in the tables below, the tangible assets of the Monarchy are clear to define; they include the value of the Crown Estate, the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall, the Royal Collection and they are rising year by year.

**Table 1: Tangible assets of the monarchy, year 2012**

Tangible Assets of the British Monarchy	GBP MILLIONS
<b>Crown Estate</b>	7,001
<b>Duchy of Lancaster</b>	383
<b>Duchy of Cornwall</b>	729
<b>Royal Collection</b>	10,000
<b>TOTAL TANGIBLE ASSETS</b>	<b>18,113</b>

(Source: Brand Finance Jubilee Report 2012, brandfinance.com [online])

**Table 2: Tangible assets of the monarchy, year 2015**

<b>Tangible Assets of the British Monarchy</b>	<b>GBP MILLIONS</b>
<b>Crown Estate</b>	7,001
<b>Duchy of Lancaster</b>	383
<b>Duchy of Cornwall</b>	729
<b>Royal Collection</b>	10,000
<b>TOTAL TANGIBLE ASSETS</b>	<b>18,113</b>

(Source: Finance – Businessinsider, uk.businessinsider.com [online])

Speaking of the intangible assets, the appellation indicates that it can be quite difficult to define what kind of assets fall into this group. According to BFJ, it includes the economic contribution through encouraging tourism, special event effects, Royal Warrants, endorsement effects (Kate, Charlotte and George especially), PR value, etc., overall about £37 billion. (For more information about the contribution of the monarchy see subchapter 6.3.)

## **6.2 Royal finances**

Since the end of the twentieth century, Queen Elizabeth II has significantly reduced the amount of money the Royal Family receives from the taxpayers. This step was provoked by the fact that citizens had many objections to the real costs of the British royalty's lives. After the incident of November 1992 when Windsor Castle ended up in flames, it was revealed that the residence had not been insured, which caused the public's indignant reactions as the repair expenses were assessed at about £50 million, and the costs were paid for from the state budget, although all the necessary taxes do not apply to the Queen (Windsor Castle: Five years from disaster to triumph, [online]). As a result, the Queen affirmed paying her personal income tax and stopped using some royal properties. She also reduced the number of Royals on the Civil List to sovereigns and their spouses only, while the rest began to receive money from the Queen's personal Civil List (Bricard, p. 162).

In general, the head of state is supported from several sources. By issuing the Sovereign Grant Act at the end of the year 2011, all the sources of money from the Treasury – paid by taxpayers – were brought together into the Sovereign Grant. This source of money is given to the Queen annually to carry out her official duties – it covers property maintenance, staff expenses, royal travels, garden parties etc. (Finances of the British Royal Family, [online]). Under the Sovereign Grant Act the Queen receives an equivalent share of 15 % of the Crown Estates' surplus, which varies annually, last year it was £37.9 million, in 2016-17 the act will be worth £42.7 million (Report of the Royal Trustees on the Sovereign Grand for 2016-17, [online]). Today, the Crown Estate is an independent commercial property business with one of the largest property portfolios in the UK worth £11.5bn. The second main source is the Queen's private income called the *Privy Purse*, primarily used for funding the expenses of other members of the Royal Family such as Prince Andrew, Prince Edward and Princess Anne. The Privy Purse is mostly funded from the Duchy of Lancaster, the sovereign's private estate (including land and property) of about 18,000 hectares in England and Wales, which is managed separately from the Crown Estate. In 2015, the Queen's privy income was £13.3 million. Also, the Queen has an investment portfolio consisting of shares in some British companies, valued about £110m, besides owning numerous artworks and buildings (including Windsor Castle).

As for the financing of the Queen's closest relatives, each of them receives a different amount of money from different sources. Prince William's income reaches about £43,000. His younger brother Harry's income is nearly the same (both officially work for the British Army). Besides their income, since age 21, they have access to the investment profit of about £7 million inherited from their mother, Princess Diana (annually about 310,000 – fully accessible after the age of 30). In addition, William and his spouse Kate are not given a salary for their royal duties, only receiving occasional refunds (for representing the country abroad). Prince Charles and his spouse Camilla gain their money from the Duchy of Cornwall Estate (about £19 million in 2013), a large part of which is used for charitable purposes. Although the Duchy's revenues are tax-free, Prince Charles pays the 40% income tax voluntarily (How much do British Royal Family make annually, [online]). Several other family members are financed from the Queen's Privy Purse. Despite the fact that the Royal Household is expected to make the Royal Finances as transparent and comprehensible

as possible, the Queen's wealth is not known because she is not directly required to reveal her private finances. Nevertheless, according to the *Sunday Times Rich List 2015*, the Queen's estimated fortune was about £340 million (Therrien, 2015, [online]).

### **6.3 Contributions to the state**

In British media, articles about the contribution of the British monarchy to the state's economy are very common. Monarchists often use the example of tourism as the field the institution of monarchy benefits the most as a result of its interconnection with the UK's heritage and culture. In 2015, the tourism benefits connected to the monarchy and its heritage reached £535 million. Moreover, in early 2012, VisitBritain reported that about 13 % of the top attractions in the United Kingdom were those somehow linked to the monarchy. An example can be seen in the numbers of castles and palaces within the state's territory such as Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle or the Tower of London. Even if many of them are no longer inhabited or the access to them is limited, they still maintain a strong association with the monarchy in the eyes of many international visitors, the royal spirit along with the impression of grandeur and power. Also various ceremonies and events attended or organized by the Royals represent free publicity to UK tourism.

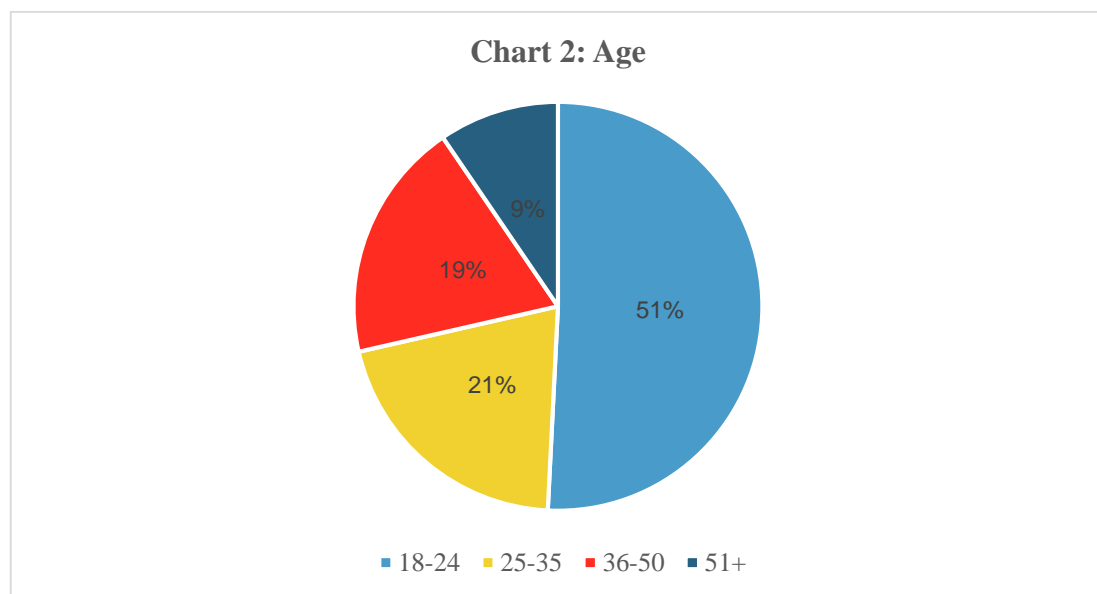
In simple terms, the Royal Family represents a significant element which attracts tourists to the UK for a very special experience. Namely, the Royal Wedding in 2011 was watched by an estimated 2 billion people worldwide. On the occasion of a personal visit to London at the time of the wedding, both international and national tourists brought a huge amount of money to the state's treasury, also thanks to celebratory merchandise which was bought by millions of people. During the wedding, the popularity of the Royal Family increased the state's profile internationally, and according to *YouGov* survey, 73 % of respondents found the event to bring a positive attribute to the perception of the monarchy (Haigh and Wong, 2012, pp. 35-38, [online]). The financial field is not the only source of contributions to the UK. Although the monarchy constitutes high economic revenues for the UK, it can be also considered as an integral part of the British identity and uniqueness, and a means of

preserving a sense of national continuity (Warner, 2010, [online]). Nevertheless, as reported by the tourism body *VisitBritain*, “*While having a royal family gets Britain an enormous amount of global coverage and free advertising across the world, it is not something we can give an exact economic value for.*” (Eleftheriou-Smith, 2015, [online])

## 7 QUESTIONNAIRE

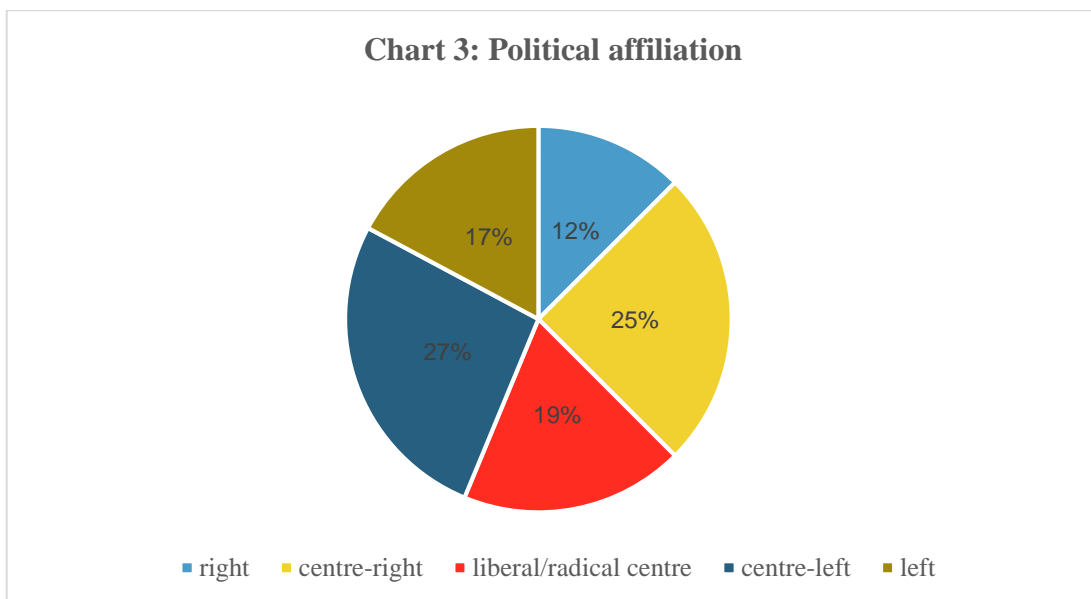
This chapter is dedicated to the first section of the thesis' practical part – the questionnaire. As for the collecting of data, the questionnaire was accessible to fill in on [www.surveo.com](http://www.surveo.com) for the duration of 10 days, specifically between 10–20 May 2016. It is composed of 25 questions – 8 aimed to find out some basic information about the respondent, 10 core ones about the issues already mentioned in the theoretical part of the thesis and 7 supplementary questions to clarify the responses. Target respondents were all adults aged 18+ who were either born in the United Kingdom or were granted British citizenship. This survey explored the connection between the opinions written online, in newspapers or books on the one hand and points of view as recorded within the sample of 63 respondents from the British Isles on the other hand.

Regarding the general characteristics of the respondents, 54% were females and more than a half of respondents (51%) stated their age between 18–24. The other half consisted of people aged 25 and older. The predominance of responses of a younger generation could indicate their more frequent activity in Internet social networks. This fact could also cause the questionnaire to map predominantly the opinions of a younger social stratum – thus the results may be distorted to some extent.



Another general question asked the respondent to choose what part of the UK they are from. Here the responses were almost unequivocal, 83% (52) said they come from Britain, 11% (7) were from Scotland and the rest (4) stated either Northern Ireland or Wales as their region of origin. The level of education can be perceived as a very important aspect. There is a widespread belief that more educated people are more interested in issues such as politics or economy and at the same time they are aware of the importance of the topics for the society and general knowledge. By having 73% of individuals (46 out of 63) tertiary educated, we can expect more elaborated responses to the point.

The inquiry about the direction of political orientation yielded more diverse results. From the chart we can deduce that 19% identify themselves as liberals, and a larger part of the respondents (44%) characterized themselves as leaning towards the left side of the political spectrum (left or centre-left), whereas 37% sided with right-wingers.



Nevertheless, in the following complementary question about a membership in any political party, 92% said they are not politically active and do not support any political grouping. 8 remaining per cents claimed their membership in these political parties: The United Kingdom Independence Party (1), The Green Party (1), The Liberal Democrats (2) and 1 member of the Labour Party.



## 7.1 Attitudes and question of the future

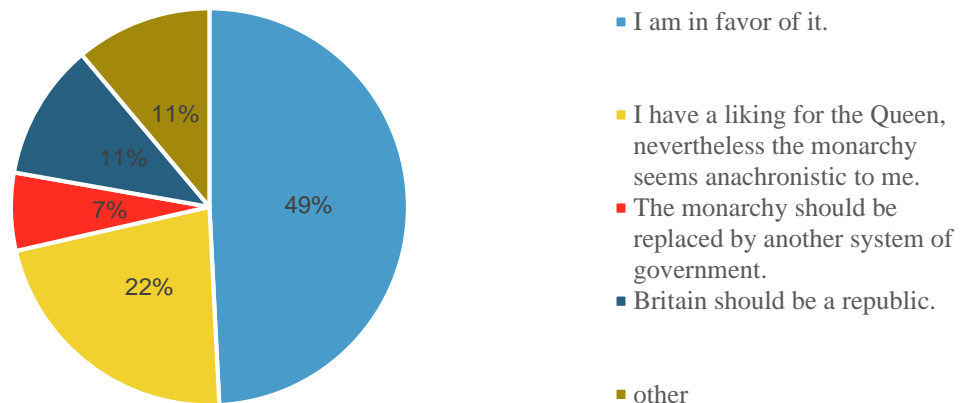
All the following questions are centred around the principal aim of this part of the thesis, which is to compare and justify the attitudes of British citizens towards the institution of monarchy. As mentioned previously in subchapter 2.3.2.1, during the last century, many representatives of states all over the world have been intervening in governmental issues and opting for changes. Since then, the surviving monarchies have been facing the question of the meaning, benefit and importance of the institution to nations. More specifically, in the United Kingdom, the position of the Royals in the society is very often discussed with many speculations about the future. A survey from 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May 2012 by Charlotte Jee of *Survation*, conducted on a sample of 1000 people, showed that support for the Monarchy as an institution remained high. 71% of respondents agreed that they are in favour of the Monarchy and ‘the UK should keep a monarch as head of state’ and only a minority of 21% would abolish the monarchy and favour the UK becoming a republic (Jee, 2012, [online]).

Compared to my results 3 years later, the responses were very similar. Nonetheless, even though 71% of my respondents expressed support for the Queen, 22% found the institution anachronistic. Several times it was stated that ‘*despite a liking for the Queen, it is better for the state that the Royals do not have any power when it comes to policy making*’. According to 18% of the respondents, Britain would be better off abolishing the monarchy, out of which 11% spoke out in favour of a republic. With these results, the poll suggests that the majority of the country sees no benefit in a republic. Many respondents mentioned that ‘the monarchy is a part of the establishment and history’ and ‘Britain is a conservative country steeped in traditions and that is why it will take a long time before the monarchy disappears’. See below for some complementary comments to the issue.

*“The Monarchy is what makes us unique, it’s a part of our history but also a part of our future, it’s not outdated since our monarchs evolve and grow with the rest of us, it’s not like they are trying to keep us living in the dark ages.”*

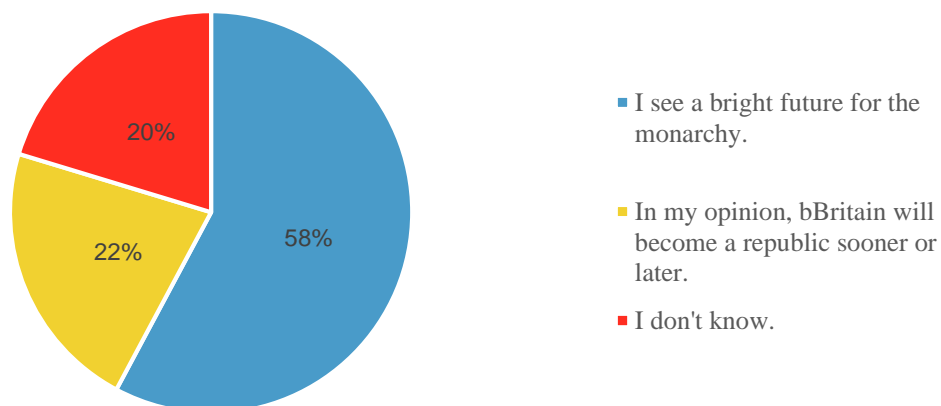
*“Because the monarchy is evolving to fit our times, through social media and a more open relationship with the people for example, I don’t think it will ever disappear.”*

**Chart 4: What is your attitude towards the monarchy?**



In accordance with the support for the Royals by the majority of the respondents, 58% of those surveyed were convinced of no dramatic governmental change in the near future and agreed with the statement that ‘they see a bright future for the monarchy and Prince George, son of the Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke of Cambridge, will one day ascend the throne for sure. On the other hand, according to 22%, Britain will become a republic sooner or later. The remaining 20% were not really sure what was going to happen or refused to answer the question. In supplementary responses, some of the respondents voiced a lack of interest in politics and the Royal Family as such, and generally their responses were very diverse.

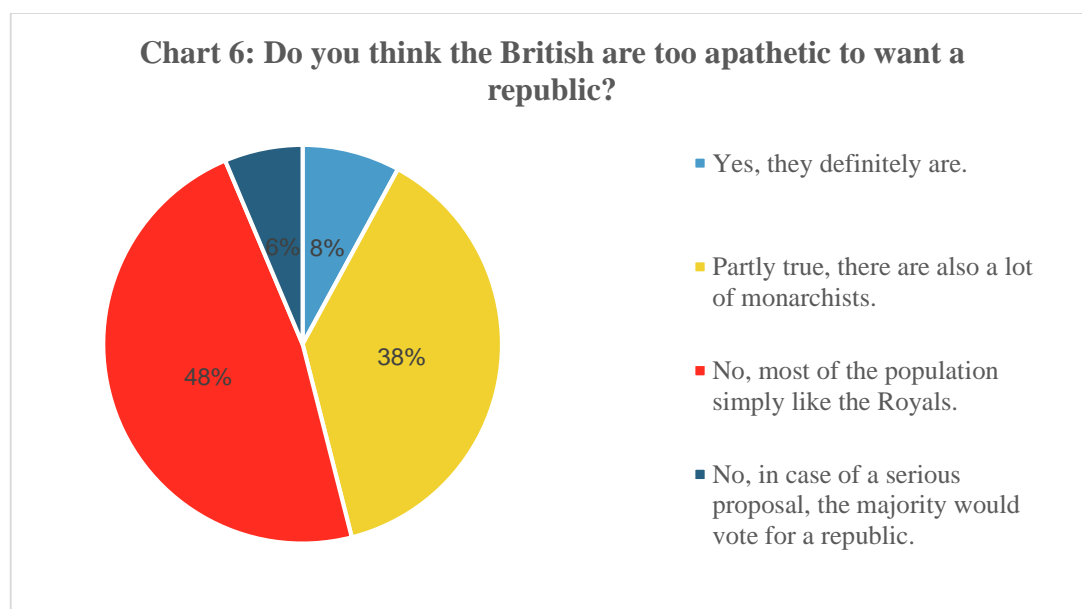
**Chart 5: Do you think Prince George will one day ascend to the throne?**



The difference between the ratio of respondents endorsing a republican form of government, and those persuaded of the importance of the monarchy to the state could be caused by the possibility that they do not foresee the change (that is why they declared their support for monarchy in the previous question), nevertheless they believe it could happen and Britain may have a democratically elected head of state in a few decades.

The results of another survey conducted by the *ComRes* for *The Sunday Daily Telegraph* in July 2013 imply that the confidence in British monarchy is on the upswing rather than on its decline in comparison with a similar survey of 2011. Back then, 25% of those questioned expected Britain becoming a republic within 50 years, whereas in 2013 only 9% thought that Britain will have become a republic by the time Prince George is old enough to ascend the throne (Hennessy, 2013, [online]).

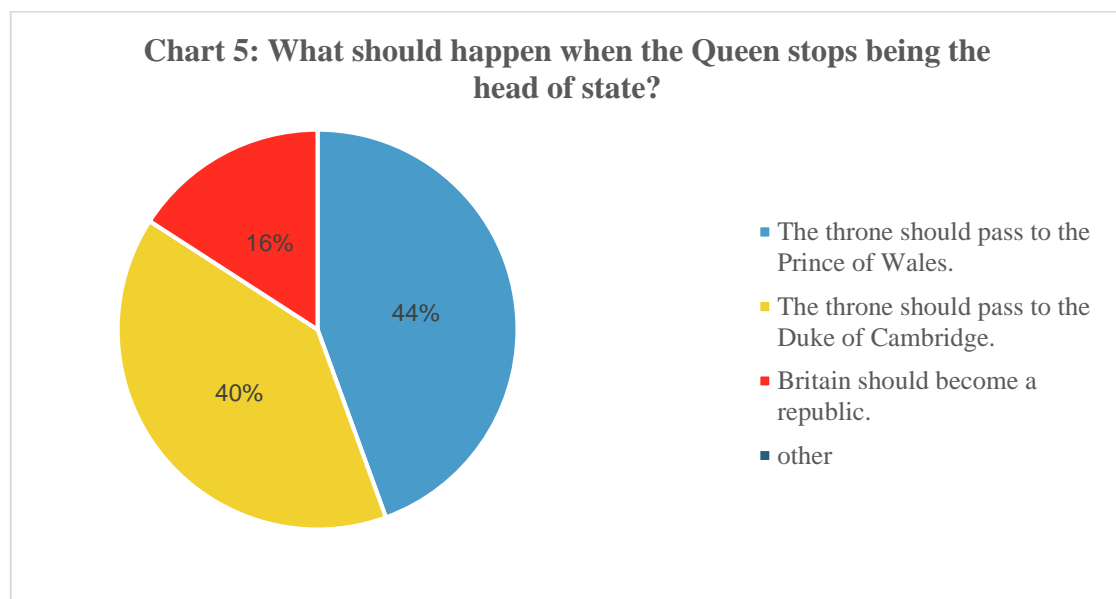
All the above stated information may indicate that the British are simply indifferent to the possibility of a republic and/or reluctant to adapting themselves to a new form of government. But the real reason could be hidden elsewhere.



86% responded in favour of the British Monarchy whereas only 8% think that the British nation is too apathetic to want a change and that is why they choose to carry on with the tradition. According to the *ComRes* survey, 66% of their respondents think

that Britain is better off as a monarchy. Moreover, the popularity of the Royals seems to be on the rise with the marriage of Prince William to Catherine Middleton, mostly among the young British (Hennessy, 2013, [online]). In light of this, the primary reason for the popular support could be that the British favour the Royals, perceive them as unique and simply do not wish to replace them with an ordinary democratically elected head of state.

Since the Queen celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a month ago (21 April, 2016), it is evident that the British have started to consider and evaluate her possible successors. Referring to the points discussed in subchapter 3.4.1, there is an order of succession determined by several requirements, which must be met by a potential successor. According to the list, Prince Charles is currently the first in line to become the next monarch. Our respondents were asked the question, “What should happen when the Queen stops being the monarch?” and the responses were divided in 4 groups as illustrated by the chart below.



Evidently, when it comes to the key question of who should replace Elizabeth II on the throne, the public seem divided. The chart shows that responses are fairly evenly split over Prince Charles, the heir apparent, and Prince William. 16% stated their republican approach. In case of the death or abdication of the Queen, 44% would opt for the current heir Prince Charles, but a significant number of the respondents – 40% - favour Prince William, i. e. they would prefer to pass over one generation. This can

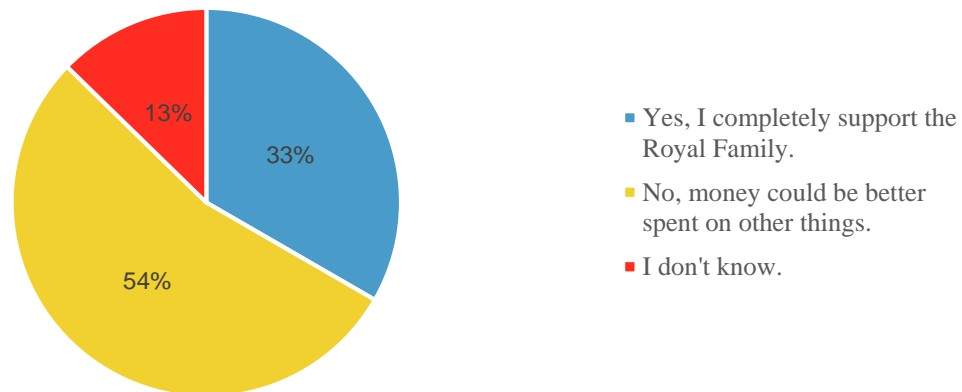
be the consequence of the young Royals' rising popularity, particularly among young British people. The Royal Family's popularity diminished significantly after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, but has since been boosted several times, especially around the Queen's Gold Jubilee in 2002 and the royal wedding. Generally, Prince William seems more popular than Prince Charles, in part thanks to his recent marriage, and in addition his potential succession would bring the prospect of a long-time reign, like that of his grandmother Elizabeth II. Besides, nowadays, the younger members of the Royal Family seem to be more open to the public and they are often perceived as role models in good manners and courtesy. Considering the above mentioned facts, we can deduce that if the monarch gains in popularity among his subjects, it could put the state on a slow course towards an elected head of state.

Some respondents clarified their opting for the Duke of Cambridge by claiming that it would help in the modernization of the institution. Moreover, the younger Royals, unlike Charles, who failed to meet expectations of the nation by starting his love affair with Camilla when married, have not yet disappointed in their leadership and service to the nation and cannot be criticized for their scandals. Nevertheless, we should bear in mind that currently, there are no signs that the crown should pass to anyone other than the Prince of Wales, on account of a nonexistent constitutional precedent

## **7.2 The monarchy as an economic burden versus a contribution**

In the course of time, the Royals were forced to give up many remits, as well as lower their sights in financial support due to the public's pressure. Today, one of the main sources of financial support given to the Royals is called the Sovereign Grant, fully covered by taxpayers, which is used for carrying out the official duties of the Queen such as royal travels, property maintenance etc. As stated in the following surveys, it seems that the only respect in which the monarchy is not seen approvingly by the majority of the public is the costs of the Royal Family. Although the results of the 2012 *ComRes* survey for *The Daily Telegraph* showed that 43% of respondents believed that the total sum of about £36 million was an adequate sum to support the Royal Family, while 40% strongly disagreed with them, the ratio in my questionnaire was unequivocal and quite different (Hennessy, 2013, [online]).

**Chart 6: Do you agree with the funding of the Royal Family?**



Those who approve of the royal expenses and see the institution as a good investment were in the minority with 33%. They argued for their responses by stating that the Royal Family justify the grant from taxpayers through the encouragement of tourism and other financial revenues they generate. Besides other things, they frequently mentioned the issue of paying useless politicians who do nothing for the taxpayer, heeding only their personal interests. Certainly, the Royals' lavish lifestyle may be seen as snobbish and useless, but it is at the same time an integral part of the monarchy's appeal, the royal protocol, and is perceived by some as 'totally adequate to retain the status of the Family'. Supporters view the Royals as the ones to aid those in need, as illustrated by their engagements in the military and charity. Another widespread view was that British taxpayers should support the Queen and her immediate family as they would support any other head of state. Moreover, it is proven that the most expensive head of state in Europe is the president of the French Republic, François Hollande, i. e. neither a King nor a Queen, and the British Royals are not even the most expensive royal family in Europe, being surpassed by the Dutch Royal Family.

*“I feel the Royal Family more than justify the expenditure. Considering politicians in the UK spend about 3 million pounds a year on biscuits from taxpayers' money and waste an estimated 20 billion lost through public sector fraud, I don't see an issue with the money spent on the Royal Family at all.”*

On the other hand, the number of respondents who found the financing of the Royals too costly was much higher. More than a half out of all 63 people expressed their dissatisfaction with the amount of money provided to the Royals. Among these there were also quite a few monarchists. Even though they support the Royals, they feel that the costs of the Royal Family should be reduced and the money saved used on other, no less important matters. According to the respondents, what should be lowered immediately is the Royals' standard of living. Despite their full awareness of the need of protecting and up-keeping the architecture and property belonging to the monarchy, they believe that the Royals 'spend too much on pompous, often useless, events and their personal comfort (especially transport)'. However, some respondents came up with the suggestion to impose higher taxes on big business first (often a thorn in people's side) and only then to focus on the Royals.

When it comes to the question of what the money should be spent on, the respondents stated that most importantly, the money needs to be invested for the good of the majority, not just of few privileged individuals. It is evident because, as elsewhere in the world, people are struggling to pay their bills and extensive cuts are being made. Therefore, helping those in dire straits first would be a good opportunity for the government to improve its relationships with the citizens. As Britain is facing cuts to funding in many areas, it would be beneficial to put more money where services are needed urgently. Among the areas deserving of more funding, the majority of respondents mentioned the National Health Service (NHS), education, the country's infrastructure, medicine and research, as well as the investments in heritage sites and their preservation.

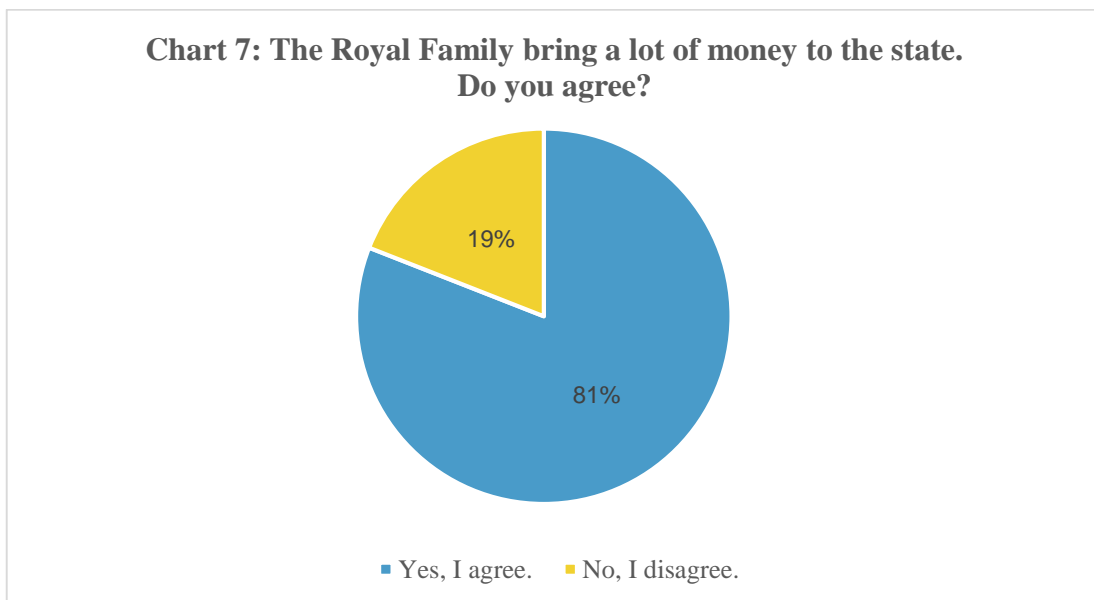
*“Money should be invested into benefitting the majority – preserving and improving the NHS, more affordable housing, better mental health system, etc.”*

*“Money would be better spent on social insurance and health care.”*

*“Nearly everything else would be better – especially social welfare.”*

*“Money can be spent on supporting ill people, or elderly people. Also on research in the field of medicine.”*

In contrast, the results of the following question indicate that people have a quite different opinion of the monarchy considering its benefits brought by the members of the Royal Family to the nation and the state's treasury. According to the respondents, the Royal Family justify their costs through tourism and other financial revenues they generate. This opinion is probably reasonable because, as stated in subchapter 6.3 about the contributions of British monarchy to the state, the Royals attracted 500 million from overseas tourists. Moreover, thanks to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, the year was considered a bonanza for British tourism. Similarly, the year 2011 benefited from The Royal Wedding. The chart below shows that only one fifth of all respondents disagreed with the statement that the British Monarchy is a significant source of money in the field of tourism.



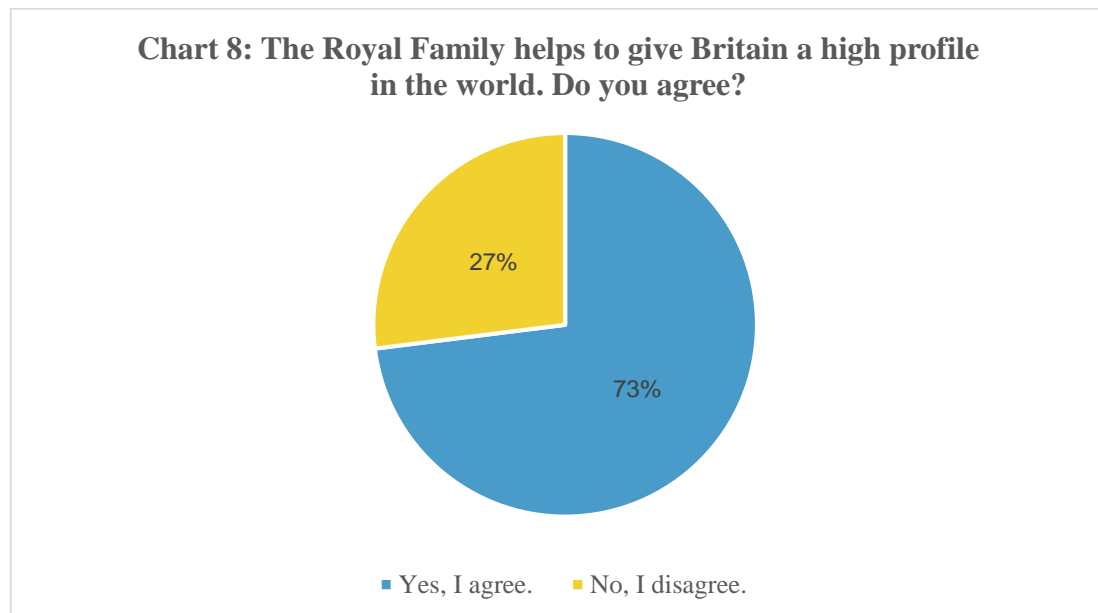
Since the overwhelming majority agreed on the significant financial benefit of the Royals to the United Kingdom through tourism, the following question inquired in which field of the economy the boost is the most visible. Many respondents stated that the contribution can be seen predominantly in the capital city of London. As for the most popular and widely-visited sights, they pointed out significant places such as Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London and St. Paul's Cathedral, where many royal celebrations are held (for example the Royal Wedding in 2011). They often attributed the financial profit to visitors during royal events such as weddings, jubilee parades, coronations or the Queen's birthdays, when tourists are willing to and do spend a lot



of money on account of the Royal Family being present, and often spend large sums of money on royal-themed souvenirs. Royal celebrations generate a lot of global attention and, consequently, an influx of tourists. Moreover, many tourists decide to travel around the country to see royal palaces and residencies such as Windsor Castle, Balmoral Castle or Sandringham Palace, which are often open to the public.

British people are fully aware of the fact that they would probably not have these attractive buildings at their disposal if it were not for the monarchy. The questionnaire indicates that some British people attach a great importance to the Royals visiting different regions of Britain to publicize popular British attractions and beauty spots, as well as travelling abroad, spreading British traditions and values.

Apparently, as can be deduced from the point of view mentioned above, tourism is not the only aspect of the Royal Family which makes a contribution to the state. Almost three quarters of those questioned admitted that according to them, the Royals help to give Britain a high profile worldwide.



How should this statement be interpreted? The Royal Family as a unit can be regarded as a brand which adds vast sums to the national economy on a yearly basis (as discussed in subchapter 6.1). Furthermore, they are also a world-wide public relations machine spreading the British national feelings and identity. Travelling abroad and meeting world leaders and dignitaries, they promote good causes and develop

relationships with other countries. Thus, they can be regarded as ambassadors of goodwill who represent Britain and British people in a positive light to the population of a given country. These visits also ensure that their presence is continually perceived overseas. This can be shown in the United States of America, a former colonized British territory. Although the USA became independent 240 years ago, the British heritage is still present in the ancestry of the American population. For example, British royal ceremonies are very popular with American TV viewers, which indicates that the Monarchy retains a positive public image in the USA.

According to the respondents, the Royal Family personifies a constant symbol of the country and its national identity which they should be proud of. There are not many countries other than the United Kingdom which have a monarchy preceded by a long line of ancestors and highly respected around the world. The respondents concurred that the Royals are one of the first things people imagine when speaking of the United Kingdom. It is something that people globally associate with the country – predominantly in a positive way, in contrast to politicians, whose reputation tends to be rather mediocre, just as in the majority of countries all over the world. Many of those surveyed also claimed that although the role of the Royals is largely symbolic, ‘if Britain were not a monarchy it probably wouldn’t be Britain’, and reckon the monarchy as ‘personification of Britishism’.

Nevertheless, the fact that the Queen is still the head of state in many countries all over the world and visits them on official state visits is not necessarily perceived as positive. In terms of possible negative connotations, the Queen’s presence in former British colonies can be understood as something bound up with colonialism and British imperialism and may evoke Britain’s attempt to maintain political influence over these countries, or even to regain its former authority.

### 7.3 Media point of view

The last part of the questionnaire deals with the perception of the British Royal Family and its role in British society as reflected in the media, and the relationship between the media and the Royals. We can declare that the relationship between the Royals and the media has always been quite delicate. As we can remember from 1980s and 1990s, the Princess of Wales was confronted with an enormous interest and pressure from a wide range of the media after marrying Prince Charles, the successor to the throne, in 1981, and a few years later becoming the mother of 2 children, the representatives of a future royal generation. She was pursued by paparazzi on a daily basis even on completely ordinary occasions. Despite the Act introduced in reaction to the uncomfortable behaviour of the media, the pressure did not abate. The situation grew even worse when she divorced Prince Charles and her relationship with Dodi Al-Fayed was revealed. In addition, journalists are blamed for a significant contribution to her untimely death. With regard to this, it is not surprising that the Royals have become much more careful and vigilant concerning their privacy. Nevertheless, being world-wide known public figures, the massive public interest is to be reckoned with. Nowadays, it is apparent from the British press that the younger Royals are trying to redefine the rules of the media's access to their lives, pertaining even to the press traditionally supportive of the Royal Family such as the right-wing orientated newspapers – *The Daily Express* or *The Daily Telegraph*.

Recently, with the rising phenomenon of social networks, the younger Royals have created their official Twitter account, named Kensington Palace. To date, it has about 719,000 followers and provides updates not only by means of written tweets but also pictures and videos. This may give an impression of dryness and curtness which can hardly attract socially active people. Both Prince Harry and William are known for their antipathy towards the media in general, which is probably the consequence of their mother's death, yet perhaps they fail to distinguish between paparazzi and serious journalists, which can have an impact on the Royals' public image.

As for the questionnaire itself, although 80% of those surveyed responded they read newspapers occasionally, certainly not on a daily basis, they were sure that the media play a significant role in the perception of the monarchy and strongly influence the

public's opinions of each Royal. In a supplementary question they were asked 'in which type of the media can the opinions on the monarchy be seen the most' and also if they consider the media's approaches towards the Royals rather positive or negative. The overwhelming majority responded that the monarchy is generally promoted positively in the media, focusing on their contributions to the country, and this keeps the public perception of them favourable. Nevertheless, scandals are reported too, when they occur, in a similar way to celebrities, as the media do not distinguish much between celebrities and the Royal Family. Clearly, the representation depends on the sort of media and angle covered. For example, the respondents stated that the BBC, providing documentaries and live footage of important events, represent a relatively pro-monarchy or neutral stance – yet, that they probably would not hesitate to cover a story about a royal scandal. On the contrary, populist media such as many tabloids, *The Sun* or *The Daily Mail*, tend to rally around the monarchy to sway public opinion in their favour. As an illustration the respondents referred to an article which claimed that the Queen had spoken in support of Brexit (the campaign to leave the EU). Though these claims were shown to be unfounded, the damage was already done. The respondents also claim that tabloids post mindless articles about petty things, only made to look attractive because the Queen or Prince are involved. Generally, tabloids are considered to intrude into the private lives of the Royals just as they do into the privacy of all people in the public eye.

As another reason for the media's positive comments towards the monarchy, the respondents mentioned the rising popularity of the Royals across the British society caused by the future successor to the throne Prince William and his spouse Catherine along with the recent royal deliveries of Prince George and Princess Charlotte, as well as the popularity of reports of national celebrations or national events such as Remembrance Day. Despite the majority of reactions to the media's coverage of the Royals' lives being positive, several negative ones appeared as well. According to some, sometimes the media find the events from the Royal Family's lives (such as royal births or birthdays) a lot more important than they really are. Another negative comment directed to the Royals stated that the Royals present themselves in the media the way they find suitable for their own needs. Only when there is a scandal and their popularity is inevitably hurt is this sham representation unveiled. In summary, the majority points of view can be represented by the two cited below.

*“Yes, the media play a significant role. The mainstream media reinforces the notion that the Royal Family is a quaint little institution that enhances life in Britain.”*

*“I think the media play a huge role in all aspects of public perception. It is difficult to pin down to specific examples. The media are fickle at best and simply represent stories which will sell papers.”*

## 8 CONCLUSION

The purpose of this thesis is to outline the contemporary situation of the Royal Family in Britain and to determine its role across the British society. The author of the thesis provided the brief summary of the development of the monarchist institution since its beginning up to the present day, with laying stress on the current Royal House in the United Kingdom – The House of Windsor and their official powers, duties and public roles. As it was indicated in the very first chapter, the Royal Family is still mostly highly regarded and plays an important public role, although they lost a lot of their remits throughout the centuries and their role is rather symbolic. What was also discussed is the question what happens in the future. To all appearances, there is no suggestion that the British form of government will change in the next few years or maybe decades. The British nation, at least those surveyed in the questionnaire, seems to support the Royal Family together with the monarchist institution.

The following chapter concerning the economic point of view shows that the royal finances are still a quite delicate topic. The Royal Household tries to present its royal incomes and expenses as clearly and comprehensibly as possible, but opponents of the monarchy stand fast, they find the whole institution useless and they are inclined to think that the Royals represent the economic burden for the state. However, the public opinion of ‘the monarchy value for money’ and the awareness of various contributions prevail.

As the media have a potential power and influence to represent the world in particular ways, there is no doubt that they play a significant role in the perception of the monarchy as an institution as well as strongly influence the public’s opinions of each Royal. In the questionnaire it has been proven that the British people find the role of mass media noticeable in the perception of the Royals, with overwhelming majority of responses connected to positive promotion of the monarchy in media.

In further research of and the extension of this work, the topics such as *The Influence of Mass Media to the British Royal Family* could be also examined, same as *The Royal Family in Scotland* or, in more details, *The Royal Finances*.

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## Picture Sources

**Picture 1:** Family tree of the House of Windsor and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. In: *GaukartiFact, the antiques encyclopedia* [online]. © 2013 Gauk Media Ltd. [retrieved 16-06-02]. Available from: <http://gaukartifact.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Windsor-family-tree-.jpg>

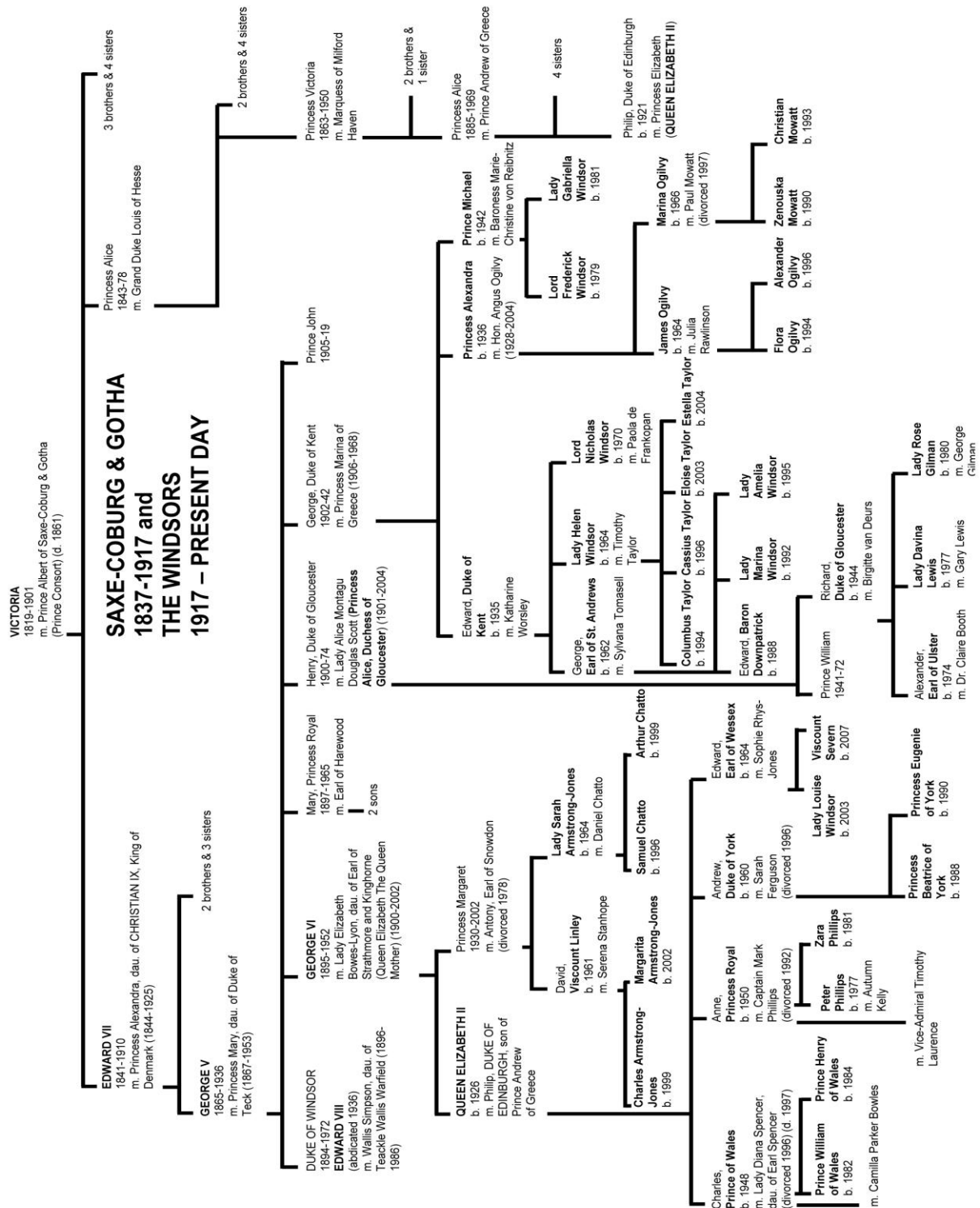
**Picture 2:** Line of succession to the throne. In: *The official website of the British Monarchy* [online]. The Royal Household © Crown Copyright 2016 [retrieved 16-05-29]. Available from: <https://www.royal.uk/succession>

**Picture 3:** Monarchy's revenues and costs in 2015. In: *Business Insider UK* [online]. Copyright © 2016 Business Insider Inc. Available from: <http://uk.businessinsider.com/the-queen-and-the-uk-royal-family-contribution-to-the-uk-economy-2015-9><http://uk.businessinsider.com/the-queen-and-the-uk-royal-family-contribution-to-the-uk-economy-2015-9>

# 11 APPENDICES

**Picture 1: Family tree of the House of Windsor and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha**

(without Prince William's spouse Catherine and their children Prince George and Princess Charlotte)





## Picture 2: Line of succession to the throne

(first 15 successors, 2016)

### SOVEREIGN

1. The Prince of Wales	9. The Earl of Wessex
2. The Duke of Cambridge	10. Viscount Severn
3. Prince George of Cambridge	11. The Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor
4. Princess Charlotte of Cambridge	12. The Princess Royal
5. Prince Henry of Wales	13. Mr. Peter Phillips
6. The Duke of York	14. Miss Savannah Phillips
7. Princess Beatrice of York	15. Mrs. Isla Phillips
8. Princess Eugenie of York	16. Mrs. Michael Tindall

**Picture 3: Monarchy's revenues and costs in 2015**

**Brand Finance®**

**Brand Finance's Valuation of the British Monarchy 2015**

Income and Costs			
Economic Benefits	Notes	2015 Value (£m)	Net Present Value (£m)
Leisure, Tourism and Accommodation	Tourism revenue connected to the monarchy and its heritage	535	17114
Royal Warrants	Total value of premiums commanded by Royal Warrant holding brands	134	4235
Coat of Arms	Total value of premium derived from Coat of Arms by eligible brands	13	423
Kate Effect	Uplift to fashion and other brands worn, used or otherwise endorsed	152	4795
Charlotte Effect	Uplift to fashion and other brands worn, used or otherwise endorsed	101	3197
George Effect	Uplift to fashion and other brands worn, used or otherwise endorsed	76	2398
Estimated value of PR	Advertising value equivalent of special event and other coverage	114	3597
Crown Estate	Operating surplus generated by Crown Estate for nation's benefit	288	9115
<b>Total benefits</b>		<b>1412</b>	<b>44874</b>
Costs	Notes	2015 Value (£m)	Net Present Value (£m)
Sovereign Grant	Set at 15% of Crown Estate revenues as per Sovereign Grant Act 2011	-40	-1338
Annuity for Duke of Edinburgh		-0.4	-13
State buildings used by royal family		-6	-192
Royal Collection net surplus		-7	-217
Royal Household pension scheme		-2	-70
Costs met by Government and Crown Estate		-4	-121
Cost of Lord Lieutenants	The Queen's representatives in each county of the UK	-2	-67
Duchy of Cornwall (lost revenue income)		-18	-557
Duchy of Cornwall (lost capital income)		-37	-1165
Duchy of Lancaster (lost income)		-15	-460
Duchy of Lancaster (lost income)		-1	-19
Legal costs to maintain royal secrecy		-0.2	-6
Security		-104	-3293
Cost to local councils		-22	-687
<b>Total costs</b>		<b>-207</b>	<b>-6336</b>
<b>Net Economic Contribution</b>		<b>1155</b>	<b>36668</b>