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ZÁSADY PRO VYPRACOVÁNÍ:

This thesis aims to provide information about the Act of Union in the year 1707 and its Aftermath in Scottish and English history. I will be dealing with how the union of these two, originally independent, kingdoms into a single, united kingdom named Great Britain affected both countries. The thesis will also explore the attempt of the Scottish independence referendum in 2014, the reaction of people and its result.

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V dne

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INTRODUCTION

Many countries in the world have their histories connected with another nation. Usually one of the nations appears weaker and the other tries to conquer it. This is the case of Scotland and England. For centuries these two kingdoms were independent on each other. This changed a bit in the seventeenth century and radically in the eighteenth century.

There have been many conflicts between Scotland and its southern neighbour, England. Most of the disputes concerned religion and politics. The religious problems stemmed from intolerance between Catholic Scotland and Protestant England. Due to a complicated succession to the English throne, Scotland lost its independence and became a part of the United Kingdom. Nevertheless, they never stopped trying to fight for their freedom.

The first chapter of this thesis provides historical background information about events that led to the Union. It describes the reign of Mary Steward and her disputes with Elizabeth I, whose death resulted into the Union of Crowns. Even though from now on the kingdoms had joined monarch, there were conflicts between parliaments and eventually between the king and the parliament. The following chapter describes how different these kingdoms were.

The third and fourth chapters will be dealing with the Acts of Union and their consequences. The third part will describe the whole road from preparations to the ratification, including characterization of some Articles. The next section concerns with an aftermath caused by this union, mostly the Scottish Church, the end of Scottish Parliament and succession to the throne.

The last two chapters are focused on the Great Britain in modern times. They deal with a current political situation with the focus on Scotland's position within the United Kingdom and the efforts to retrieve their former independence. The latest attempt is described in the last chapter, along with the results.

The aim of this thesis is to familiarize the reader with a situation in Scotland and England now and then. It will describe an impact of the union on both kingdoms and events in the United Kingdom in recent years.

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Before I start with the Union in 1707 itself it is important to be familiar with the situations in both kingdoms before they were joined. The Acts of Union of 1707 were obviously not the first attempt to connect these two countries. This chapter deals with the reasons that led England and Scotland to join and another important effort to form a Union.

1.1. The Reign of Mary, Queen of Scots

When Mary's father died on 14 December 1542, Mary Stewart, a legitimate heir, was only a week old. It was her age that threatened the survival of the Stewart monarchy and the independence of Scottish Kingdom. On the other hand, she had a claim on the English throne as well because her rival, Queen Elizabeth I, was considered to be an illegitimate child since she was born after Henry VIII's divorce.¹

A marriage treaty was made with France. In 1548 Mary was sent there and raised a Catholic. Her mother, Mary of Guise, became a Regent in Scotland. A condition was made by the Scottish Parliament. If Mary died without heirs, the throne would not pass to the Dauphin. Nevertheless, another marriage-contract was signed in France. Mary was leaving Scotland and her claim to the English throne to the French King. She married French Dauphin in 1558.²

When her first husband died in 1561, she returned to Scotland. By that time, most of the nobility and townspeople had become Calvinists under the influence of John Knox. Mary's situation worsened when her second husband Henry, Lord of Darnley was murdered and she married the Earl of Bothwell. Mary was defeated by Scottish nobility led by her half-brother, the Earl of Moray and forced to abdicate in favour of her son from the second marriage, James VI. A year later Mary Stewart fled to England. Elizabeth I imprisoned her and in 1587 Mary was condemned to death and executed.³

¹ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 104.

² Andrew Lang, *A Short History of Scotland*. (New York: Cosimo, Inc., 2005), 105-107.

³ Josef Poliřenský, *Dějiny Británie*. (Praha: Nakladatelství Svoboda, 1982), 83-85.

1.2. The Reign of Elizabeth I

Queen Elizabeth I (1558–1603) was a daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. As I said before, she was considered an illegitimate child and therefore her claim to the English throne was weakened by the claim of Mary, Queen of Scots. After the death of her half-sister Mary,⁴ Elizabeth became a Queen at the age of 25. Her country was wracked by religious conflicts. Aware of her weak claim, she tried to gain public support. Elizabeth was strongly against Catholicism and decided to reinstate the Church of England of which she was the Head.

Even though she had many suitors, she refused to marry. The man who was closest to winning her heart was Robert Dudley, the Earl of Leicester. Unfortunately, he was married. After his wife died, rumours were spreading about a relationship between the Queen and Robert. She ignored the rumours and appointed him as one of her advisors. Many discovery voyages took place during her reign. In 1585 a colony Virginia was set up in North America.

When Elizabeth's Catholic cousin fled to England she was arrested. In 1586 her state secretary Francis Walsingham implicated Mary in a plot against the Queen and she was convicted for treason. After few months she decided to execute her.

At the age of 69 Elizabeth died unmarried, childless, and known as the Virgin Queen. In 1603, the Tudor dynasty ended with the death of a beloved queen during whose reign the country flourished.⁵

1.3. The Union of Crowns

Before the death of Elizabeth I in 1603, England and Scotland were two independent kingdoms with their own monarch. However, with Elizabeth dying unmarried and childless, there was no English heir. Therefore the English crown had to pass to the next possible heir. This happened to be James VI,⁶ the King of Scotland and a son of executed Mary, Queen of Scots. From now on these two kingdoms shared a

⁴ Also known as Bloody Mary.

⁵ "Elizabeth I: Troubled child to beloved Queen." The official website of BBC, [bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk/timelines/ztfxtfr) [online]. Accessed March 7, 2016. <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/timelines/ztfxtfr>>.

⁶ James VI was the sixth James on the Scottish throne but the first one on the English throne. That is why he is also known as James I.

monarch and by that even the crown. That is a reason why this union is known as the Union of the Crowns. An important note is that the kingdoms had both their own Parliament.⁷

According to James, England was a kingdom that welcomed his arrival and Scotland wept at his leaving for London. Either way, both kingdoms had reasons for certain doubts. England was concerned about a Scottish King on their throne because they considered him inexperienced. On the other hand, Scots were proud to see their king peacefully seated on the English throne. James tried to bring Scottish politicians onto the English Privy Council and to give them government offices but he met with hostility from the English. Nevertheless, few of Scots held office in England which made James' attempt to create Anglo-Scottish court almost successful. Unfortunately, the Union of the Crowns was not a beginning of an Anglo-Scottish friendship. On the contrary, English felt that their government and court were threatened and Scots knew they were unwelcomed in London.⁸

Even though James spent most of his time in London, he did not stop listen to his councillors in Scotland. He improved postal service in order to communicate from London to Edinburgh. Because he was no longer only a King of Scotland, James desired a closer union. His proposition did not meet with excitement from Scots nor English. In 1604 it was declined by the English House of Commons. Another of his wishes in the first years of his reign was to create a British Flag, the Union Jack. In 1607 James tried to accomplish the union again. However, the Scottish Parliament declined and so did the English Parliament. After the death of James VI in 1625 there was still hope for the union. Unfortunately, his successor had no such intention.⁹

1.4. The Reign of Charles I and the Civil War

After the death of his father Charles I succeeded to the English and the Scottish throne. It was no secret that he struggled with the Parliament. During the first years of his rule the Parliament met four times (in 1625, 1626, 1628 and 1629). Most of the

⁷ "Union of the Crowns." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 8, 2016. <<http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislativescrutiny/act-of-union-1707/overview/union-of-the-crowns/>>.

⁸ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 126.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 126-132.

arguments held between them were about money. That was why the House of Commons passed the Petition of Right and the king was forced to give a formal consent. Crucial parts of the Petition were that the Parliament must have approved all taxation and that no one could be imprisoned without a lawful cause.¹⁰

With this Petition he agreed that the Parliament now controlled all money and the law. That collided with his idea of rule and therefore he decided to dissolve the Parliament the next year. After that Charles was determined to rule his kingdom without it. He managed to balance his budgets and made administration efficient. In 1637 he was at the highest point of his power and it seemed that the Parliament might never meet again.¹¹

Due to religious issues in Scotland Charles was forced to co-operate with the Parliament again. He needed money for paying of Scots and the only way to gain them was through the Parliament. After 11 years this put an end to Charles' absolute rule. He was pressured into ruling under parliamentary control and to accepting a new law that the Parliament had to meet at least once every three years. Because of Charles' stubbornness and a lack of interest in following the new law the Civil war began in 1642.¹²

The biggest mistake of Charles was an attempt to arrest five Members of Parliament. The five had fled but it was a crucial moment that started a war between the King and the Parliament. The most significant was the battle of Naseby in 1645 when the Parliamentary New Model Army trained by Oliver Cromwell defeated the Royalists and meant a victory of Parliament. Charles then escaped to Scotland but Scots handed him over to the Parliament. In 1649 he was executed and from that year until 1660 England was a Republic.¹³

¹⁰ "Charles I." Encyclopaedia Britannica, britannica.com [online]. Accessed March 3, 2016. <<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-I-king-of-Great-Britain-and-Ireland>>.

¹¹ David McDowall, *An Illustrated History of Britain*. (Longman, 1989), 89.

¹² *Ibid.*, 89-90.

¹³ Plantagenet Somerset Fry, *The Kings & Queens of Scotland*. (London: Dorling Kindersley, 1990), 136-138.

1.5. The Reign of Charles II and James II (VII)

When Oliver Cromwell died, he hoped that his son would take over the Republic. Sadly, Richard Cromwell was not a good leader so in 1660 he arranged free elections and called for Charles II who fled to France after the Civil War. Charles II returned to London and was accepted a king which resulted into England being a kingdom again. He did not wish to make the same mistakes as Charles I so he reconciled with his enemies and only punished those who were personally responsible for his father's execution. Nevertheless, the Parliament remained weak.¹⁴

A desire of the new king was to make peace between all religious groups. The Parliament was strongly Anglican and would not allow free meetings of Puritans and Catholics with the Anglican Church. Charles himself was drawn to Catholicism which was a great concern of the Parliament. They were so afraid of Charles' becoming a Catholic that they passed a Test Act in 1673, which forbade any member of Catholic Church from holding a public office. The fear of the monarchy becoming too powerful resulted in an emergence of the first political parties in Britain. Those were the Whigs and the Tories. The Parliament then passed an Act that forbade a Catholic to occupy a position in either House of Lords or House of Commons. With this they tried to prevent Charles' Catholic brother James from inheriting the crown. It was not successful and in 1685, when Charles died, James II ascended the throne.¹⁵

James was devoted to Catholicism and his intention was to secure a toleration of Catholics within his kingdoms. He tried to remove the Test Act from 1673, which forbade the participation of Catholics in a government and a public life. Many people suspected that he was trying to make Catholicism an official church. The attempt to turn the kingdoms into a Catholic monarchy resulted into a breakdown of his authority in 1688.¹⁶ The same year, James II (VII) abdicated and left for France and William of Orange was called to England in order to restore English liberties. He accepted and arrived to London.¹⁷

¹⁴ David McDowall, *An Illustrated History of Britain*. (Longman, 1989), 93.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 94-95.

¹⁶ "Restoration." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 9, 2016. < <http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislativescrutiny/act-of-union-1707/overview/restoration/>>.

¹⁷ Plantagenet Somerset Fry, *The Kings & Queens of Scotland*. (London: Dorling Kindersley, 1990), 145.

1.6. The Reign of William and Mary

Due to the Revolution in 1688, the only way for the king to receive money was through grants from the Parliament. Those grants were annual; hence the Parliament had to meet at least once a year. In 1689, in the first year of William and Mary's reign a Bill of Rights was passed.¹⁸ With this Bill the Parliament agreed that William and Mary would reign as joint sovereigns and granted executive power in the hands of William. A Declaration of Rights was embodied in the Bill of Rights and its key point said that no Catholic could ever become a king or a queen of the British Constitution and that taxes cannot be raised without the Parliament's consent. On top of that the Parliament had to approve any change in legal system.¹⁹ In short, this Bill established freedom of the Parliament from the King. In the 17th and 18th centuries the Parliament was not democratic and representative. According to the Bill of Rights no one but the Parliament could reform the Parliament.²⁰

William and Mary were not welcomed with much enthusiasm. The rich had only brought him to England because they thought that there would be no obstacles to their complete rule.²¹ The reason why William accepted the British throne was his constant fighting with France. His main goal was to expand in Europe. He hoped that British support would strengthen him in the Dutch quarrel against France. His lack of care for Britain met with zero popularity. Nevertheless, his wife Mary was loved among people.²²

William was a Calvinist and did not sympathize with the Church of England. His aim was a religious toleration but the nation was not ready for it. After Mary died in 1694, William became more unpopular than before. Fortunately, there was also a good side of his reign. In the same year that Mary died, the Bank of England was established and the currency was restored.²³

¹⁸ Christopher Hollis, B.A., *History of Britain in Modern Times, 1688–1939*. (London: Hollis and Carter, 1946), 26.

¹⁹ Plantagenet Somerset Fry, *The Kings & Queens of Scotland*. (London: Dorling Kindersley, 1990), 146.

²⁰ Christopher Hollis, B.A., *History of Britain in Modern Times, 1688–1939*. (London: Hollis and Carter, 1946), 26-27.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 29.

²² Plantagenet Somerset Fry, *The Kings & Queens of Scotland*. (London: Dorling Kindersley, 1990), 148.

²³ Christopher Hollis, B.A., *History of Britain in Modern Times, 1688–1939*. (London: Hollis and Carter, 1946), 29-31.

An important document was passed in 1701 because Mary died childless and her sister's children all died. It was an Act of Settlement which guaranteed that after the death of Anne ²⁴ the succession was to the next Protestant heir in line. There were other clauses in the Act, most of which were aimed against William and his persuasion for expansion of Holland. The Act said that monarch could not leave the country without Parliament's approval and that Britain would take no part in any war on behalf of another country. ²⁵ After the death of William in 1702, Queen Anne inherited the throne and during her reign the Union of 1707, of which I will be talking about in chapter 4, happened.

²⁴ Mary's sister.

²⁵ Christopher Hollis, B.A., *History of Britain in Modern Times, 1688–1939*. (London: Hollis and Carter, 1946), 27.

2. THE TWO VERY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Here I am going to mention how different the soon to be united kingdoms were. After the Revolution in 1688, Scotland was still considered to be in a condition of anarchical barbarism. The Southern Lowlands were a place of many wars and the Northern Lowlands laid open to the raids of the Highlanders. The Highlanders still lived the traditional tribal life under their chieftains with an absolute power.²⁶

This was considered as one of the rudest standards of living by the English people. The tribes from Highlands were of feudal loyalty and some of the chieftains strongly disagreed with a deposition of James. Dundee, a leader of Highlanders, decided to fight for James. Even though the tribes defeated the army of William of Orange²⁷ in 1689, the revolt was not successful. Dundee was killed and the Jacobite forces disintegrated. Dundee was not the only chieftain who participated in this revolt. Another one was Macdonald of Glencoe who had been made an example of and was slaughtered along with the whole tribe.

Nevertheless, the tribal structures remained in the Highlands. However, after this massacre, Scotland kept peace with England throughout the rest of the reign of William and Anne. It even started to prosper and in 1695 founded a Bank of Scotland which was very similar to a Bank of England.

Probably the biggest difference which caused a great deal of problems in the histories of Scotland and England was religion. For a long time Scotland was purely catholic and England a protestant country. In the 17th century, after the Reformation, some Scots and English remained Catholic. But even Scotland had become a Protestant country under the influence of John Knox and it had been an extreme Calvinist Presbyterianism, not Episcopalianism as in England. The Stuart kings had made an attempt to make the Episcopalian religion the State religion of Scotland but the Presbyterians resisted and so the religious divergence caused the country's trouble.²⁸

William thought of the Presbyterianism highly and considered it a better form of Church government. 'Therefore he took advantage of the Whig principles to declare

²⁶ Ibid., 37.

²⁷ Further referred to as William.

²⁸ Christopher Hollis, B.A., *History of Britain in Modern Times, 1688–1939*. (London: Hollis and Carter, 1946), 38.

Presbyterianism the established religion and to offer toleration to the Episcopalians and other Protestants.’²⁹ Not all Presbyterians agreed with this solution, the extremists were against any other religion than theirs, including Catholicism, but in the end, this arrangement was successful.³⁰

²⁹ Christopher Hollis, B.A., *History of Britain in Modern Times, 1688–1939*. (London: Hollis and Carter, 1946), 38.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 38-39.

3. THE ACTS OF UNION

This chapter of my bachelor thesis will be dealing with the Union itself. I will focus on what led an independent Scottish Kingdom to connect with England (and Wales) and become a part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain. At the time of the Union both countries had the same monarch but different legislatures and they were very different from each other. I will start with the preparations for the Union, and then continue with the negotiating of the Articles. After that I will focus on the Articles themselves and mention the most crucial ones. This chapter will end with ratification of the Articles and the beginning of the Union.

3.1. Preliminaries to the Union

After an unsuccessful attempt of the Union in 1603 and the Restoration period around 1660 it seemed almost impossible to join these two diverse lands. After the death of William, the Scottish Parliament was not dissolved but it did not meet either. A Commissioner of the Scottish Parliament in that time was Queensberry. Queen Anne desired the Union due to the national debt which was a result of instant battling with France. Scotland owed nothing from this debt and taxes in there were much lower than in England. However, with the Union, the taxes in Scotland would rise to the England level and that would have meant extra funds to lower the national debt. The increase in taxation eventually did not concern all fields. It excluded taxes on windows, lights, coal, malt and salt.

General Elections in 1703 resulted into the last Scottish Parliament. There were parties which voted for the Union (the Court Party, the party of Courtiers and the party of Cavaliers – Jacobites) and on the other hand, there was the Country Party which was against the Union.³¹ A war with France had begun and Queensberry needed the supply from Scotland. Nevertheless, the Country and the Cavalier parties refused to supply until an Act of Security³² for religion, liberty, law, and trade should be passed.³³ The Act of Security also included a part which clearly stated that after the death of

³¹ Andrew Lang, *A Short History of Scotland*. (New York: Cosimo, Inc., 2005), 244-245.

³² Sometimes called the Scottish Bill of Security.

³³ Andrew Lang, *A Short History of Scotland*. (New York: Cosimo, Inc., 2005), 245-246.

Queen Anne a Protestant representative of the House of Steward would be crowned a king. This was unacceptable for Queensberry so he refused to pass this Act.

Eventually, the Act of Security was passed. Some source claim it was in July ³⁴ and another that it happened in August 1704. ³⁵ Another clause was added, though. Scotland would have unrestricted access to English colonial trade or there should be no joint monarch. ³⁶

In 1705, Scots agreed to negotiate for the Union with England. ³⁷ The decision of the union lied in a fact that Scottish economy suffered a lot during the European conflicts between 1688 and 1713. The greatest problem was in the trade with England and from rising tariffs by all European governments which needed to fund their military expenses. Scottish merchants and aristocrats saw the Union as a solution to their own deprivation and their country's underdevelopment. ³⁸

3.2. Negotiating of the Articles

Queen Anne appointed commissioners of both countries to treat for the Union. One of the new made commissioners was the Duke of Argyll who favoured the Union like most of the commissioners. In April 1706 the commissioners of Scotland and England have met at the Cockpit in Whitehall. Negotiations were not held face to face but in separate rooms. The communication took place through their proposals in writing. There was also a news blackout. ³⁹

Scots desired that after their union with England, they would still have their own, separate Parliament. Nevertheless, the English rejected that proposal because in their

³⁴ Ibid., 246.

³⁵ "The Scottish Parliament in Revolt 1703." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed February 26, 2016 < <http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislativescrutiny/act-of-union-1707/overview/the-scottish-parliament-in-revolt-1703/>>.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Dominic Scullion, *The Union of 1707 and its Impact on Scots Law*, In: Aberdeen Student Law Review, Vol. 1, No. 1, 07.2010, 112.

³⁸ Roderick Floud and Donald McCloskey, *The Economic History of Britain since 1700. Volume 1: 1700–1860*. Second edition. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), 206.

³⁹ "The 1706 Negotiations." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed February 26, 2016. <<http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislativescrutiny/act-of-union-1707/overview/the-1706-negotiations/>>.

minds the Union would only truly be complete with one Parliament for both nations. Scotland eventually acquiesced.

On 22 April 1706 the business had begun. Scots were presented with a proposal by Cowper, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. The proposal said: ‘the two kingdoms of England and Scotland be forever united into one kingdom by the name of Great Britain; that the United Kingdom of Great Britain be represented by one and the same parliament; and that the succession to the monarchy of Great Britain be vested in the House of Hanover.’⁴⁰

Both countries had three days to ensure what they wanted. For England it was a Hanoverian royal dynasty’s succession to the Scottish crown and for Scots an access to English colonial markets for improving their economy. The reason that it lasted only three days was that most of the issues were resolved in previous months. Naturally, there were some issues to be discussed, i.e. the union flag, the standardisation of weights, measures and coinage, the preservation of private rights and jurisdictions and a number of peers and MPs to sit in Westminster.⁴¹ The number of Scottish members of the British Parliament was much lower than the one of English. There were 45 English members but only 16 Scots and they felt that they were hardly used.⁴² The one thing that was not permitted to the negotiators and its violation would for sure mean the end of the treaty was the Scottish Kirk or church.

3.3. The Articles and Their Ratification

25 Articles of the Union were presented to Queen Anne on 22 July 1706. Again, the date differs within one day in various sources. The official website of the UK Parliament states the 23 July 1706. On 3 October 1706, a session of the Scottish Parliament began and its goal was to agree on the Articles. I will mention some of them which I find the most important.

The first Article dealt with the Kingdoms United. In this article, the date of the Union, the name and the flag were resolved. ‘That the two Kingdoms of (fn. 1) Scotland and England, shall, upon the first Day of May next ensuing the Date hereof,

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Andrew Lang, *A Short History of Scotland*. (New York: Cosimo, Inc., 2005), 249.

and for ever after, be united into one Kingdom by the Name of Great-Britain, and that the Ensigns Armorial of the said united Kingdom, be such as her Majesty shall appoint; and the Crosses of St. Andrew and St. George be conjoined in such a manner as her Majesty shall think fit, and used in all Flags, Banners, Standards, and Ensigns, both at Sea and Land.’⁴³

Another Article which I would like to mention was the second one, concerning a succession to the monarchy. The next monarch would be Princess Sophia, her Dowager Electress of Hanover, and her heirs. ‘That the Succession to the Monarchy of the united Kingdom of Great-Britain, and of the Dominions thereunto belonging, after her most sacred Majesty, and in default of Issue of her Majesty, be, remain, and continue to the most Excellent Princess Sophia, Electress and Duchess Dowager of Hanover, and the Heirs of her Body, being Protestants, upon whom the Crown of England is settled, by an Act of Parliament...’⁴⁴ Crucial part in the second article was that only a Protestant could become a monarch. Catholics were excluded from the succession. ‘...And that all Papists, and Persons marrying Papists, shall be excluded from, and for ever incapable to inherit, possess, or enjoy the imperial Crown of Great-Britain, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, or any Part thereof...’⁴⁵

The third Article was very short and very clear. All of the Articles were important but this one was probably the most relevant. It unequivocally stated that there was only one Parliament. ‘That the united Kingdom of Great-Britain be represented by one and the same Parliament, to be stiled the Parliament of Great-Britain.’⁴⁶

The next few Articles were concerning a trade within the Union and goods. Article number four guaranteed a freedom of trade. ‘That all the Subjects of the united Kingdom of Great-Britain shall, from and after the Union, have full Freedom and Intercourse of Trade and Navigation, to and from any Port or Place within the said united Kingdom...’⁴⁷

Articles ten to fourteen were dealing with taxes and stating the exceptions of which I have spoken before. I was also speaking about the number of members of the

⁴³ “*Articles of Union.*” The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed February 28, 2016. < <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/heritage/articlesofunion.pdf>>.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

new Parliament. This amendment was enshrined in the 22nd Article. What was important, however, was contained in the following Article. ‘That the aforesaid sixteen Peers of Scotland, mentioned in the last preceeding Article, to sit in the House of Lords of the Parliament of Great-Britain, shall have all Privileges of Parliament, which the Peers of England now have, and which they, or any Peers of Great-Britain, shall have after the Union; and particularly the Right of sitting upon the Tryals of Peers...’⁴⁸ It clearly stated that all the peers of the Parliament, both English and Scottish, had the same privileges.

Penultimate Article discussed the Great Seals of both Scotland and England. They were to be replaced by the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain. The new seal would be different from the Great Seals used in both kingdoms but until then the Great Seal of England would be used as the Great Seal of the United Kingdom. Another important issue covered in this Article was that the crown jewels of Scotland containing the Crown, Sceptre, and Sword of State along with the Records of Parliament and all the other crucial documents and records would stay in Scotland.⁴⁹

And at last, Article 25 voided all laws that were incompatible with the previous ones. ‘That all Laws and Statutes in either Kingdom, so far as they are contrary to, or inconsistent with the Terms of these Articles, or any of them, shall, from and after the Union, cease, and become void, and shall be so declared to be, by the respective Parliaments of the said Kingdoms.’⁵⁰

The last Article was in Scotland agreed on in January 1707. In the same month, an Act for guaranteeing the Presbyterian Church was made a part of the Act of Ratification. After that, the voting began. Most of the Country party in Scotland was not in favour of the Union. But because they were not forced to attend the voting, the Court party was in a majority. The Act of Ratification was put to a vote and because there were more members of the Court party than of the Country party, the Union was approved. The Duke of Queensberry then touched the Act with the royal sceptre and the Union was accepted by the Scottish Parliament.⁵¹

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ “*Ratification October 1706 –March 1707.*” The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 3, 2016. < [21](http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

On the English side, there were fewer difficulties with the voting; hence the Union was favourable for England, due to its national debt. The greatest problem was the Act concerning the Scottish Kirk. There were many attempts to remove the Act from the Treaty and the last one, unsuccessful, took place on 6 March 1707 when the Queen gave her official consent to the bill ratifying the Union.⁵²

The Acts came into force on 1 May 1707 as planned in the first Article. That was the day when the English Parliament and the Scottish Parliament ceased to exist and became the Parliament of Great Britain, set in Westminster, London, and the former headquarters of the English Parliament.

heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislativescrutiny/act-of-union-1707/overview/ratification-october-1706---march-1707/>.

⁵² “*Westminster debates the Articles.*” The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 3, 2016. <<http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislativescrutiny/act-of-union-1707/overview/westminster-debates-the-articles/>>.

4. CONSEQUENCES OF THE UNION

This chapter will be dealing with how the Union changed both kingdoms but mostly Scotland. First I will look into the situation when the Scottish Parliament ceased to exist and became only a small part of the Parliament of Great Britain. Then I will deal with the consequences for the Scottish Church.

4.1. The End of the Scottish Parliament

By voting for the Union, Scots put an end to the existence of a historical legislative assembly, which attached considerable historical interest. The Scottish Parliament was a tool of a strong king or of the nobles when there was no strong king. Until the Revolution in 1689,⁵³ the Parliament was not considered to be a great national force. And it only had 18 years to shine.

The Parliament served as both the King's Council and the Supreme Court of Law. It represented two out of three communities into which was the country divided before the War of Independence: clergy, landowners, and the burgesses of royal burghs. Only the clergy and greater landowners were parts of the Parliament.⁵⁴

After the year 1707, when the independent Parliament with its seats in Edinburgh ceased to exist, Scotland felt unnecessary. There were only forty-five Scottish representatives in the House of Commons and sixteen members in the House of Lords and it gave Scots a feeling that the new Parliament looked a lot like the one England used to have.⁵⁵

The end of an auld lang was mostly felt in the former meeting-place of the Estates, in Edinburgh. Even the transference of the Court to England in 1603 diminished the glories of an assembly over which the monarch no longer presided in person.⁵⁶

Judged by a modern demographic democracy, the Scottish shares in the Parliament of Great Britain were obviously unfair. With population of about a million, which was five times lower than the population of England and Wales, Scotland had fewer than 10 percent of representatives in each house of parliament. However, the goal of the

⁵³ Also known as the Glorious Revolution or the Bloodless Revolution.

⁵⁴ Sir Robert S. Rait, *History of Scotland*. (London: Oxford University Press, 1929), 225-226.

⁵⁵ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 156.

⁵⁶ Sir Robert S. Rait, *History of Scotland*. (London: Oxford University Press, 1929), 240.

Union was not to attain equal representation for all of British subjects but to gain economic and political power. Due to this low percentage, Scottish nobles were relegated to second-class status. Scots peers to the House of Lords were selected by the government. The situation with the House of Commons was similar. A difference was in that this arrangement created thirty Scottish constituencies in the shires and fifteen in the royal burghs and the elections were crumbled with corruption.

These were reasons why the Union was so unpopular in its first years in Scotland. Scots seemed to have surrendered a great part of their political independence and national integrity for the idea of economic stability and prosperity.⁵⁷

4.2. The Church of Scotland after the Union

In the eighteenth century, not many Roman Catholics were to be found in Scotland. Most of the Catholics arrived not until the Irish Catholic immigration in the nineteenth century. Therefore most of the conflicts were embedded among Protestants. For most of the eighteenth century bishops who sympathised with Jacobites led Scottish Episcopalians and it caused the continuation of the religious problems. By the middle of the century there was an opposition between Evangelical, Popular, or Orthodox party. There was also a Moderate party which was culturally and theologically liberal but their political and social outlook was conservative. The primary reason of their clash was the way of selecting parish ministers. According to the Moderates, and the law they accepted in 1712, the power should be vested in the patron of the parish. It meant either the most powerful landowner or the crown. Their opponents had a different approach. They wanted the procedure of selecting the ministers to be more complex, that it would be the parish heritors and lay elders who would have the power of selection in their hands. They were also less tolerant of Roman Catholics and Episcopalians.⁵⁸

The lack of toleration led to the first secession from the Church in 1733. The Original Seceders did not unite with the extreme Presbyterians called Cameronians.⁵⁹ They split into a variety of sects. Burgesses of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Perth took an

⁵⁷ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 156-157.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 152.

⁵⁹ Followers of Richard Cameron, leader of the Presbyterians known as Covenanters.

oath but a dispute as to the lawfulness of it led to a major split of the Secession Church. They divided into Burghers and Anti-Burghers, both of them then split into Old Light and New Light Burghers and Old Light and New Light Anti-Burghers.⁶⁰ By the end of the century, they grew to have more than a hundred of congregations as a result of tapping pious merchants and tradesmen, who were unhappy within their Church and sought for more autonomy. During this time, another group of Presbyterians fell from the Church of Scotland. In 1761, the Relief Church was established by several clergymen unwilling to accept the strict enforcement of the law of patronage.⁶¹

At the Reformation, it has been desired that ministers should be chosen by their congregations, but it did not happen. In 1649, the Parliament abolished the Patronage but after the Restoration, the Act was not valid anymore. In 1712 the Parliament of Great Britain restored the Act. The restoration happened in order to the reassurance that after the Union the privileges of the Church of Scotland would be respected.⁶²

At the end of the eighteenth century the Scottish Episcopalians renounced their Jacobite tendencies and became a true Hanoverians.⁶³ There was not sufficient enthusiasm for Jacobites in the rest of the Great Britain. The end of Jacobitism is connected with the death of Charles Edward Stuart in 1788. Charles had no children and the only Jacobite who could re-establish their dynasty was his brother Henry who became a priest and therefore destroyed the chance of saving Jacobites.⁶⁴ With the change in Scotland's religion in this century the differences became less confrontational. This was vital to the social, economic and political life of the nation because there were much less conflicts.⁶⁵

The Disruption of the Church happened in the middle of the century, specifically in 1843. About a third of the Church of Scotland clergy formed the Free Church, led by Thomas Chalmers.⁶⁶ One of the reasons of this Disruption was the existence of lay patronage. The abolition of Patronage in 1874 served as a protection from the emergence of conflicts between Church and State. The New Light Burghers and Anti-

⁶⁰ Sir Robert S. Rait, *History of Scotland*. (London: Oxford University Press, 1929), 169-170.

⁶¹ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 153.

⁶² Sir Robert S. Rait, *History of Scotland*. (London: Oxford University Press, 1929), 170.

⁶³ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 154.

⁶⁴ Christopher Hollis, B.A., *History of Britain in Modern Times, 1688–1939*. (London: Hollis and Carter, 1946), 55.

⁶⁵ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 155.

⁶⁶ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 193.

Burghers formed the United Secession Church and then joined forces with the Relief Church and in 1847 formed the United Presbyterian Church. The Old Light Burghers and Anti-Burghers joined the Free Church of Scotland. In 1899 the United Presbyterian Church and the Free Church united and started to negotiate for a union with the Church of Scotland. In 1929 they joined and the Scottish Kirk was reunited.⁶⁷

4.3. The Establishment of the Hanoverians

When Queen Anne died in 1714, a question who would be the next king of the United Kingdom of Great Britain arose. There were two candidates for the position: George I and James Edward, the Old Pretender.⁶⁸ In the end, Whigs were more efficient and George I, the Elector of Hanover, peacefully accepted the throne.⁶⁹

A year later, the Jacobites led by the Earl of Mar, raised a rebellion. The rising was suppressed quickly in England but in Scottish Highlands, the situation was much more serious. In a few weeks, Mar managed to mobilize 16,000 men. He soon controlled a great part of the Highlands and caused a rebellion of almost national proportions to show his disagreement with the Union.⁷⁰ The same year Mar's Jacobite army was outnumbered and defeated at Sheriffmuir near Perth by the army of the Duke of Argyll. The Duke of Argyll was the second duke of the Campbells of Argyll, the largest and most powerful of the Highland clans which along with Presbyterians supported the Hanoverian establishment in Scotland. After the defeat Mar fled to France.⁷¹

George I and the Whigs argued that James Edward was excluded from the throne because of his Jacobitism and therefore every Catholic in Great Britain is a Jacobite. Preserving any kind of Catholic organisation was a potential revolutionary organisation for the Hanoverian supporter. Therefore they decided to break up all of them and even suppress all Catholic education. In short, they implemented anti-Catholic legislation and it was effective throughout the whole of Great Britain. Between 1715 and 1745

⁶⁷ Sir Robert S. Rait, *History of Scotland*. (London: Oxford University Press, 1929), 171-172.

⁶⁸ He was a Jacobite.

⁶⁹ Christopher Hollis, B.A., *History of Britain in Modern Times, 1688–1939*. (London: Hollis and Carter, 1946), 41.

⁷⁰ "The 1715 rebellion." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 7, 2016. < <http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislativescrutiny/act-of-union-1707/overview/the-1715-rebellion/>>.

⁷¹ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 158.

the old English Catholicism was almost eliminated. Until 1745 English Catholicism was restricted only on the members of old families and the inhabitants of a few villages in the north of England.⁷²

The most important parties at that time were the Whigs and the Tories. Nevertheless, the king remained the real head of the executive power. He chose his own advisors no matter which party he had chosen. The Tories had been against the Act of Succession and the Whigs supported it. Naturally, only the supporters received office under king George I. Unfortunately, he had not spoken well English language; therefore he was forced to name one of the ministers as Prime Minister to attend Cabinet meetings. Another reason for appointing the Prime Minister was that George I spent most of his time in Hanover. The most significant ministers at that time were the Earl of Sunderland, General Stanhope, Sir Robert Walpole and Viscount Townshend.⁷³

Robert Walpole was the first Prime Minister of Britain. He was appointed because of his financial abilities. Walpole developed an idea of the Cabinet which was a small group of ministers who worked together. If any minister would disagree with the other Cabinet ministers, he should resign. The goal of the Cabinet was to make all of the ministers agree on political decisions. Walpole's aim was to make sure the king was limited by the constitution. These limits were: the monarch must not be a Catholic; the king was reliant on Parliament and could not change laws without their consent and others.⁷⁴

His most pleasant reform was the reform of the tariff. He wanted Britain and France to be markets for each other. According to him, the tariff in Britain was the worst in Europe. His intention was a free trade among the states of Europe. Sadly, it was only a step to this reform. He desired raw materials to arrive cheaper to the country but his main goal was to simplify the tariffs so the traders would know what they should pay. He eventually managed to reduce them.⁷⁵

In 1745 there was another Jacobite rebellion. The main reason why the first one in 1715 failed was that it happened in a time of peace. The Jacobite rising in 1745 was

⁷² Christopher Hollis, B.A., *History of Britain in Modern Times, 1688–1939*. (London: Hollis and Carter, 1946), 42.

⁷³ *Ibid.*, 42-43.

⁷⁴ David McDowall, *An Illustrated History of Britain*. (Longman, 1989), 108.

⁷⁵ Christopher Hollis, B.A., *History of Britain in Modern Times, 1688–1939*. (London: Hollis and Carter, 1946), 47-50.

lead by Charles Edward, the son of Prince James who might have ruled as James III if it was not for his Catholicism. Nevertheless, in April 1746 the Jacobite Army was defeated at the battle of Culloden.⁷⁶ As I said in chapter 5.2., this rebellion was the beginning of the end of Jacobitism because the last Jacobite was Charles Edward who died in 1788.

4.4. The Highland Clearances

Until the middle of the 18th century people in Lowlands of Scotland were urbanized. They were more connected with England than the people in Highlands in the terms of culture, language and politics. Their land was mostly rural. Their neighbours still followed the clan system with the ruling family. The Highlanders were focused on agriculture as well as the Lowlanders.

During the Jacobite risings the Highlanders supported Charles Edward, the Young Pretender against the English. During the Battle of Culloden in 1746, where they were defeated, thousands of Highlanders died. Many others were killed in the following months. This resulted into restrictive laws that destroyed the power of the clan chiefs and suppressed the Gaelic culture.⁷⁷

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the population started to reduce because of overseas emigration of Scots. This emigration was a result of Agricultural and Industrial Revolution. The lands of Highlanders were not fit for humans so their cottages were being destroyed. Instead of that the area was used for cattle breeding, mostly sheep, and kelp industry. Nevertheless, in 1815 the kelping collapsed and landowners faced financial ruin. In 1840 there was a failure of the potato crop which resulted into famine and emigration to the Lowlands, Australia and Canada.⁷⁸

From 1850s to 1880s the situation was relatively stable. Because the soil was devastated and the sheep-farming was unprofitable due to the Australasian competition, the landowners must have found a new field. Large tracts were transformed to

⁷⁶ Ibid., 52-53.

⁷⁷ "Highland Clearances." Encyclopaedia Britannica, britannica.com [online]. Accessed March 29, 2016. <<http://www.britannica.com/topic/Highland-Clearances>>.

⁷⁸ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 182-183.

deer forests. This endangered economy of the crofting townships. In 1886 Act gave crofters security of tenure, a fair rent tribunal and compensation for improvements.⁷⁹

Similar clearance happened in the Lowlands as well. People had to abandon their farms and seek for a new way of living somewhere else. However, it was not as striking as it was in the Highlands.

4.5. What Did Writers Think of the Union?

The Union concerned every social class. This included writers too. Many of them were torn and their feelings about it were not clear. This was the case of one of the greatest Scottish poets, Sir Walter Scott. On one hand, he was glad that Scotland merged with England because this opened new opportunities for modernization and improvement of both nations. Nevertheless, what bothered him, as it did most of the Scots, was a fact that with this Union Scotland lost independence and by that some traditions. This affected his most famous novel, *Waverly*, which is a story of the Jacobite rebellion in 1745.⁸⁰ Even though he was not a hundred per cent sure how to react to the Union he was a conservative, and a positive reactions prevailed.

However, not everyone was like Walter Scott. There were others, who were not in favour of this unity with England. A Scottish poet Hugh MacDiarmid was one of them. According to him the Scotland of his period was pathetic, only a parody of an older Scotland. His main goal was to free Scotland from Anglicisation and the only way he could have accomplish that was through the use of the Old Scots Tongue. He took his mission to retrieve Scottish culture seriously. He was one of the founding members of the National Party of Scotland, the predecessor of the Scottish National Party. However, he was a committed communist and therefore expelled from the party.⁸¹

Hugh MacDiarmid despised modern Scotland. Nevertheless, the only thing he could do was to bring the old language back. Even though some of his poems were written in English, the Scottish language prevailed.

⁷⁹ Ibid., 184.

⁸⁰ "Sir Walter Scott, 1st Baronet." Encyclopaedia Britannica, britannica.com [online]. Accessed March 29, 2016. <<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Sir-Walter-Scott-1st-Baronet>>.

⁸¹ "Hugh MacDiarmid & Scottish Cultural Renaissance." The official website of BBC, bbc.co.uk [online]. Accessed March 29, 2016. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/scottishhistory/modern/features_modern_culturalrenaissance.shtml>.

5. GREAT BRITAIN IN MODERN TIMES

In this chapter I will mention how the situation in Great Britain looks today. I will focus on the legal system in the United Kingdom. Another part of this will deal with the attempts of Scottish referendum before the last attempt in 2014.

5.1. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy with the capital city London. The sovereign of the country is king or queen,⁸² and the head of government is the Prime Minister,⁸³ who is a leader of the winning party in the House of Commons. The Parliament also consists of the House of Lords.⁸⁴

The Queen acts as a Head of State. However, because the kingdom is a constitutional monarchy, she is limited by the Parliament. This system of government separates the queen's ceremonial and official responsibilities from party politics. The Queen remains even if the Parliament changes. She is not only the Head of State but also the Head of Church and the commander-in-chief of all armed forces. Among her formal duties the Queen meets with the Prime Minister, signs Acts of Parliament, represents Britain in the rest of the world, receives foreign ambassadors, makes State visits overseas and many others.⁸⁵

As for her less formal duties, she provides unity and pride; gives a sense of stability. She travels through her kingdom, through every part of it regularly in order to act as a focus of national identity. During her travels she meets people of every lifestyle; the poor and the rich. The Queen supports the whole nation, gives honours, and hosts garden parties for people from all backgrounds, mostly charities. The Royal Family supports her deeply and the members fill in for if Her Majesty cannot attend some of the duties.⁸⁶

⁸² Today it is Elizabeth II, the longest reigning monarch in the history of the UK.

⁸³ Today it is David Cameron.

⁸⁴ "*United Kingdom*." Encyclopaedia Britannica, britannica.com [online]. Accessed March 14, 2016. <<http://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom/Trade#toc44702>>.

⁸⁵ "*The Role of the Sovereign*." The official website of The British Monarchy, royal.gov.uk [online]. Accessed March 14, 2016.

<<http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchUK/HowtheMonarchyworks/TheroleoftheSovereign.aspx>>.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

5.2. The Government of the UK

As I said before, the parliamentary government of the United Kingdom is divided into the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The main parts which are of concern of the government are the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary.⁸⁷

The leader is the Prime Minister, who has support of the Cabinet and ministers. It can be said that he is the one that runs the country because he is responsible for all policy and decisions. He controls actions of the Civil Service and government agencies, chooses all remaining ministers, including those who form the Cabinet, and is a crucial member of the House of Commons. The residence for the Prime Ministers for over a hundred years is at Number 10 Downing Street in London.

The Cabinet consists of 21 members and they meet every week for a discussion of the most significant issues. There are also 96 other ministers who are chosen from both, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Each of them is responsible for their own department. In total, there are 118 ministers, 24 ministerial departments, 22 non-ministerial departments and over 300 agencies in the UK government. The Civil Service is responsible for paying benefits and pension, running employment services, driving licences and others.⁸⁸

The ministers are all members of the Parliament. The British Parliament supervises government's work by asking ministers questions. Government's taxes and spendings must be approved by the Parliament. The government's plans for changes in legislation in the form of a Bill are presented to the Parliament every year. Then the Parliament discusses it. If the Bill is supported by the majority of the House of Commons it becomes an Act of Parliament and it is their responsibility to make the law work.⁸⁹

⁸⁷ "United Kingdom." Encyclopaedia Britannica, britannica.com [online]. Accessed March 14, 2016. <<http://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom/Trade#toc44702>>.

⁸⁸ "How government works." Gov.uk [online]. Accessed March 14, 2016. <<https://www.gov.uk/government/how-government-works>>.

⁸⁹ "Parliament and government." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 14, 2016. <<http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/parliament-government/>>.

5.3. The House of Lords

The House of Lords is the upper chamber of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. There are 816 members in this chamber and they are independent from the House of Commons. The main roles of this House are making laws, consideration of public policy and checking the work of the government. Oversight of government activities takes place through debates and question time where the ministers must respond.⁹⁰

There are some limitations to the powers of the House. The Lords used to have a power to veto laws. This right was removed by the Parliament Act 1911. From that year, the House of Lords could veto only a Bill for extending the lifetime of a Parliament. They could only delay a Bill by up to two years. However, this delay has been decreased to only one year by the Parliament Act 1949.⁹¹

Unlike members of the House of Commons who are elected, representatives of the House of Lords are appointed by the Queen. The Queen is advised by the Prime Minister. Non-party-political members can be recommended by the House of Lords Appointments Commission which is an independent body established in 2000. There are some special conditions under which the members are appointed and I will mention only some of them. A former MP may be given life peerage at the end of a parliament; after resignation of the Prime Minister, he or she may recommend 'resignation honours' for politicians or others who have supported them; there is a limited number of 26 archbishops and bishops of the Church of England in the House so when they retire, the membership passes on to the next most senior bishop; former speakers of the House of Commons are traditionally awarded a peerage at the request of the Commons.⁹²

Their leader is the most senior member of the government in the Lords. The current Leader is Baroness Stowell of Beeston. She is responsible for the business of

⁹⁰ "What the Lords does." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 16, 2016. <<http://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/work-of-the-house-of-lords/what-the-lords-does/>>.

⁹¹ "The Parliament Acts." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 16, 2016. <<http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/parliamentacts/>>.

⁹² "How members are appointed." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 16, 2016. <<http://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/whos-in-the-house-of-lords/members-and-their-roles/how-members-are-appointed/>>.

the whole House and leads a team of about 25 ministers and whips. The Leader is appointed by the Prime Minister and assists and advises all members of the Lords.⁹³

5.4. The House of Commons

The House of Commons is the lower house of the British Parliament. Even though it is referred to as the lower house it has a dominant role over the House of Lords. A number of Members of the Parliament or MPs as they are known changed in the course of history. From 1801 until 1885 there were 658 MPs. Then it was increased to 670 members. Another rise came in 1918 when the number of members got beyond 700.⁹⁴ Usually the House of Commons has 650 members. Nevertheless, due to the death of one on 4 February 2016 there are only 649 today. The numbers of each part of the United Kingdom differs. 532 seats are occupied by representatives from England, 18 from Northern Ireland, 59 from Scotland and 40 from Wales.⁹⁵

Members of the lower House are elected publicly every five years. It is a form of general election which means that people from every part of the United Kingdom are free to choose their Member of Parliament. In the case of death or retirement of one of the MPs as is the today, a by-election is held in order to find a new representative for that area.⁹⁶

The main roles of this house are discussing the biggest political issues and passing proposals for new laws. A role of the whole Parliament is also checking the work of Government.⁹⁷

Proposals for a new law or for a change of an already existing law can be presented by both, the House of Lords or the House of Commons. For this bill to be accepted and transformed into an Act it must be approved by both sides without any change. There are several stages of passing of the bill. The first one is the first reading

⁹³ "Leader of the House of Lords." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 16, 2016. <<http://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/whos-in-the-house-of-lords/members-and-their-roles/leader-of-the-house-of-lords/>>.

⁹⁴ "House of Commons." Encyclopaedia Britannica, britannica.com [online]. Accessed March 15, 2016. <<http://www.britannica.com/topic/House-of-Commons-British-government>>.

⁹⁵ "MPs." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 15, 2016. <<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>>.

⁹⁶ "General Elections." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 15, 2016. <<http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/elections-and-voting/general/>>.

⁹⁷ "The work of House of Commons." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 15, 2016. <<http://www.parliament.uk/business/commons/what-the-commons-does/>>.

followed by the second reading where the main principles are debated by MPs or Lords (depending on who passed the proposal). The next stage is called a committee stage where some amends can be made. During the report stage the bill is further examined and then moved to third reading. If this reading passed off without any problems it is sent to the other House for the first reading. If both sides agreed on the Bill it can receive Royal Assent which is the Monarch's agreement and become an Act.⁹⁸

We can find several bills which do not require the participation of the House of Lords. These bills are called Money Bills. They concern taxes and spending of the public money. The Lords cannot amend them and the Royal Assent must be received no later than a month after they are introduced in the upper House. This proves that the House of Commons is more powerful than the House of Lords.⁹⁹

5.5. Scotland in the 20th Century

Before the twentieth century, both nations seemed to be satisfied with the Union and lived peacefully. At the beginning of the 20th century, for the first time since 1832, the Conservative Party won a majority of the Scottish parliamentary seats. After the death of Queen Victoria, who held a great affection for Scotland, her son Edward succeeded to the throne. During his reign and mostly between 1900 and 1914 many crises took place there. Some social, economic and military weaknesses were evident during this time and threatened the integrity of the Empire. In 1903 the Conservative Party split because about a half of them was not able to support the issue of protectionism. The Liberal Party was restored to their leading position of Scottish politics in 1906. This was challenged as an economic downturn and triggered a period of industrial disputes. The First World War did not help with these problems. It only highlighted them.

The war was devastating for Scottish economy. Scots were falling apart behind the rest of the United Kingdom. Scottish economy was dependent on heavy industry in the

⁹⁸ "Making Laws." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 15, 2016. < <http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/>>.

⁹⁹ "The Parliament Acts" The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 16, 2016. < <http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/parliamentacts/>>.

19th century and it was reliant on international markets. Because of both world wars the situation in Scotland was not propitious and the country had to deal with high unemployment. Poverty and poor housing have then taken their toll on the health of the population.¹⁰⁰

The economic problem dominated Scottish politics. In 1928 the National Party of Scotland was created. Their goal was to promote the cause of self-government and it failed. This party joined with the right-wing Scottish Party in 1934 and formed the Scottish National Party.¹⁰¹ Because they did not have any solution to the current economic situation in Scotland, they also failed to make impression on Scottish voters. Nevertheless, in 1939 The Scottish office moved to Edinburgh so the decision about Scotland would now be taken by Scots. This was one of the first steps of an attempt to liberate Scotland from England.¹⁰²

Ever since the 1940s, Scotland desired a Home Rule.¹⁰³ It was no sooner than the 1970s when things were put in motion. A discovery of North Sea oil strengthened Scotland and helped their attempt of referendum. A Labour Royal Commission on the UK Constitution was in favour of an elected Scottish Assembly in 1973. In February 1978, the Scotland Act was passed. This Act specified authority and character of the Assembly and the referendum required to endorse it. One of the amendments demanded that for this referendum to be valid, at least 40 per cent of the Scottish electorate must be in favour. It meant that every vote which was not cast effectively was understood as a rejection of Home Rule.¹⁰⁴

The devolution referendum took place on 1 March 1979 and the Scots were asked a question: 'Do you want the provisions of the Scotland Act from 1978 to be put into effect?'¹⁰⁵ The results are shown in table 1 below.

¹⁰⁰ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 201-202.

¹⁰¹ Further referred to as SNP.

¹⁰² Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 209-215.

¹⁰³ Peter Lynch, *Scottish Government and Politics: An Introduction* (Edinburgh University Press, 2001), 6.

¹⁰⁴ Catriona M. M. Macdonald, *Whaur Extremes Meet: Scotland's Twentieth Century*. (Great Britain: Birlinn Ltd, 2009), 251-252.

¹⁰⁵ "Results of Devolution Referendums." The official website of the UK Parliament, parliament.uk [online]. Accessed March 20, 2016. <www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/RP97-113.pdf>.

Table 1

Referendum	Turnout (% electorate)	Option	Response	Votes (% turnout)	Votes (% electorate)
1979	63,8	Support for a Scottish Assembly	Yes	51,6	32,9
			No	48,4	30,8

Source: D. Denver et al., *Scotland Decides: The Devolution Issue and the 1997 Referendum* (London, 2000), 23.

As the table above shows, more than 51% of the voters voted in favour of the Act. Nevertheless, it was not the required 40% of the electorate because 36,2% did not vote at all. This meant that the Scottish Assembly would not be established, at least not yet. Scots were determined to continue with the attempts to create the Parliament of their own and they did not have to wait long.

In 1997 there was a run-up for another referendum. The main political parties, including SNP, Labour and Liberal Democrat, formed an organisation called Scotland Forward. Each of the parties had their own campaign operations as well as the collective 'Yes' campaign. The main goal was a creation of Scottish Parliament.¹⁰⁶

The difference between the referendum in 1979 and this one was that there was not only one question asked. This time there were two. The first one was whether the people think that there should be a Scottish Parliament and the other, whether the Scottish Parliament should have tax-raising powers. The referendum took place in September 1997 and the results are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Referendum	Turnout (% electorate)	Option	Response	Votes (% turnout)	Votes (% electorate)
1997	60,4	Support for a Scottish Parliament	Yes	74,3	44,7
			No	25,7	15,5
	60,2	Support for tax-raising powers	Yes	63,5	38,1
			No	36,5	21,9

Source: D. Denver et al., *Scotland Decides: The Devolution Issue and the 1997 Referendum* (London, 2000), 113.

¹⁰⁶ Catriona M. M. Macdonald, *Whaur Extremes Meet: Scotland's Twentieth Century*. (Great Britain: Birlinn Ltd, 2009), 254-255.

Based on the data from the table it is clear that the attempt for the 1997 referendum was successful. The overall turnout was 60,4% which was enough and the Scottish Act could have been passed to British Parliament in 1998.

5.6. The New Scottish Parliament

The first elections of the Scottish Parliament were held on 6 May 1999. This new parliament was determined to reject the conventions of Westminster. They wished to prove that something different, something new, and something Scottish and silenced for a very long time could now speak.¹⁰⁷

The standing orders and working processes of the Parliament were formulated in 1998 by a Consultative Steering Group. The principles set by this group were instructive:

- The Scottish Parliament should embody and reflect the sharing of power between the people of Scotland, the legislators and the Scottish Executive;
- The Scottish Executive should be accountable to the Scottish Parliament, and the Parliament and Executive should be accountable to the people of Scotland;
- The Scottish Parliament should be accessible, open, responsive and develop procedures which make possible a participative approach to the development, consideration and scrutiny of policy and legislation;
- The Scottish Parliament in its operation and its appointments should recognise the need to promote equal opportunities for all.¹⁰⁸

There was a new structure of representatives in the Scottish Parliament. It consisted of 129 members, 73 of them were elected by the traditional first-past-the-post system and 56 through regional lists. The first minister of Scotland was Donald Dewar, an experienced politician. Unfortunately, he died in 2000.¹⁰⁹ One of his quotes concerning the new parliament is: "This bill will give Scotland the power to boost its self-confidence, economically, culturally and politically." After the elections in 1999,

¹⁰⁷ Catriona M. M. Macdonald, *Whaur Extremes Meet: Scotland's Twentieth Century*. (Great Britain: Birlinn Ltd, 2009), 256.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, 256.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, 257-260.

the majority party formed the government of Scotland. The headquarters of the New Parliament was in Edinburgh. The new legislative should help in several fields, including economy, health and education.¹¹⁰

¹¹⁰ "1997: Dawn of Scottish parliament." The official website of BBC, news.bbc.co.uk [online]. Accessed March 21, 2016.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/december/18/newsid_2538000/2538553.stm>.

6. SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM 2014

This chapter will be dealing with the latest attempt of the Scottish independence. I will provide some information about reasons for Scotland's decision to unleash itself from the United Kingdom. I will mention what would happen if the people voted yes and what would happen if they voted no. At the end of the chapter I will post the results.

6.1. The Road to Referendum

The road to the Scottish independence referendum began in 2007 when Holyrood election was held. The SNP gained one more seat than the Labour Party. The winning party gained 47 seats and formed a minority government. This was a year when Alex Salmond became the First Minister.¹¹¹ It was the first time after fifty years of Labour Party dominance that another party won. In 2011 the SNP secured the first majority government in the Scottish Parliament's history. With this win, Salmond pledged to hold an independence referendum in the second half of the parliament.¹¹²

In 2012 the First Minister announced his desire to hold a referendum in the autumn of 2014. On 15 October Alex Salmond and David Cameron, the Prime Minister of the UK government, met and signed the historic Edinburgh Agreement that the independence referendum can happen.¹¹³ It ensured that the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood can deliver a fair, transparent and appropriate referendum.

In January 2013 the Scottish Government accepted the independence referendum question which was: 'Should Scotland be an independent country? Yes/No.' A month later the first in a series of papers which declared that independent Scotland would be seen as a separate state by March 2016, was published by the UK government. The following month the crucial step was taken. A Scottish Independence Referendum Bill was introduced and its aim was to give the 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in the

¹¹¹ "Timeline: Scotland's road to independence referendum." The official website of BBC, [bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-20546497) [online]. Accessed March 21, 2014.

<<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-20546497>>.

¹¹² "Scottish National Party (SNP)." Encyclopaedia Britannica, [britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com/topic/Scottish-National-Party) [online]. Accessed March 21, 2016. <<http://www.britannica.com/topic/Scottish-National-Party>>.

¹¹³ "Timeline: Scotland's road to independence referendum." The official website of BBC, [bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-20546497) [online]. Accessed March 21, 2014. <<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-20546497>>.

2014 referendum. On 21 March the Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament. With this, the date and the conditions for the referendum were set. The vote will be held on September 18, 2014. This bill was passed on November 14, 2013. ¹¹⁴

6.2. The Different Outcomes

If the majority decided to support independence, the Independence Day would be set in March 2016. There were of course some issues which would have been needed to resolve. One of the problems would be probably finances and currency. The questions there would be: What happens to Scotland's share of the national debt? What currency would Scotland use? It was clear that Scots would not be able to continue using the British pound. Another issue might concern membership in international organisations like the European Union or NATO. ¹¹⁵

If the outcome of the referendum was negative, there would not be many changes. Scotland would continue to govern their country as it did until the referendum happened. It meant that Scotland would lose an opportunity to make changes they desired. One of them was the funding of nuclear weapons at the expense of better pensions or improved childcare. According to Salmond, this independence referendum was once-in-a-generation opportunity and if the voters decided to reject it, the chance for Scotland to be independent any time soon was lost. ¹¹⁶

6.3. Results of the 2014 Referendum

The election took place on 18 September 2014. The votes from all 32 council areas were counted and the result was that Scotland will remain a part of the United Kingdom. Over 55 per cent of voters were against the independence. Only 44 per cent were in favour. Nevertheless, that was not enough for the referendum to pass. The following tables will show the results in detail.

¹¹⁴ "Background." Scotreferendum.com [online]. Accessed March 21, 2014. <<http://www.scotreferendum.com/information/>>.

¹¹⁵ "Q&A: Scottish independence referendum." The official website of BBC, bbc.com [online]. Accessed March 21, 2014. <<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-13326310>>.

¹¹⁶ "Following a 'No' Vote." Scotreferendum.com [online]. Accessed March 21, 2014. <<http://www.scotreferendum.com/topic/following-a-no-vote/>>.

Table 3: Should Scotland be an independent country

	Votes	Share of Vote (%)
Yes	1,617,989	44,65
No	2,001,926	55,25

Source: scotlandreferendum.info [online]. Accessed March 21, 2014.

Table 3 summarizes the number of votes and the percentage share of votes. Almost 400 000 more people answered the question whether Scotland should be an independent country negatively.

Table 4: Summary

Total electorate	4,283,938
Number of Votes Cast	3,623,344
Turnout (%)	84,6

Source: scotlandreferendum.info [online]. Accessed March 21, 2014.

According to table 4, the turnout of the voters was 84,6% which means over 15%, meaning more than 600 000 of the potential voters, did not participate in the elections.

Table 5: Totals per local government areas

Local Government Area	Electorate	Total Votes Counted	Turnout (%)	YES	NO
Aberdeen City	175,751	143,664	81,7	59,390	84,094
Aberdeenshire	206,490	180,045	87,2	71,337	108,606
Angus	93,656	80,302	85,7	35,044	45,192
Argyll & Bute	72,014	63,516	88,2	26,324	37,143
Clackmannanshire	39,974	35,410	88,6	16,350	19,036
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar	22,908	19,758	86,2	9,195	10,544

Dumfries and Galloway	122,052	106,775	87,5	36,614	70,039
Dundee	118,764	93,592	78,8	53,620	39,880
East Ayrshire	99,682	84,262	84,5	39,762	44,442
East Dunbartonshire	86,844	79,011	91	30,624	48,314
East Lothian	81,947	71,798	87,6	27,467	44,283
East Renfrewshire	72,993	66,021	90,4	24,287	41,690
City of Edinburgh	378,039	319,025	84,4	123,927	194,638
Falkirk	122,460	108,626	88,7	50,489	58,030
Fife	302,165	254,162	84,1	114,148	139,788
Glasgow	486,296	364,664	75	194,779	169,347
Highland	190,787	165,976	87	78,069	87,739
Inverclyde	62,486	54,601	87,4	27,243	27,329
Midlothian	69,620	60,395	86,8	26,370	33,972
Moray	75,173	64,205	85,4	27,232	36,935
North Ayrshire	113,941	96,173	84,4	47,072	49,016
North Lanarkshire	268,738	226,883	84,4	115,783	110,922
Orkney	17,806	14,907	83,7	4,883	10,004
Perth & Kinross	120,052	104,285	86,9	41,475	62,714
Renfrewshire	134,745	117,612	87,3	55,466	62,067
Scottish Borders	95,542	83,526	87,4	27,906	55,553
Shetland	18,516	15,635	84,4	5,669	9,951
South Ayrshire	94,895	81,716	86,1	34,402	47,247
South Lanarkshire	261,193	222,927	85,3	100,990	121,800
Stirling	69,043	62,225	90,1	25,010	37,153
West Dunbartonshire	71,128	62,532	87,9	33,720	28,776
West Lothian	138,238	119,115	86,2	53,342	65,682
Total	4,283,938	3,623,344	84,6	1,617,989	2,001,926

Source: scotlandreferendum.info [online]. Accessed March 21, 2014.

The last table, number 5, shows the results in all 32 local government areas. I highlighted the areas where the number of voters who were in favour of the

independence was higher than the number of voters against. It was surprising that only in four areas there were more supporters than opponents. This included Dundee, West Dunbartonshire, Glasgow and North Lanarkshire, where Dundee had highest percentage of pro-independence voters.

On the other hand the other 28 areas had a majority of the “No” vote. The lowest support gained the independence referendum from the Orkney Islands. Not many “Yes” votes were received from the Shetland Islands either. These islands also belong to Scotland. The referendum did not receive more than 37% of positive responses from any of them.

The biggest election turnout was in East Dunbartonshire and amounted 91%. Surprisingly, the smallest was in the third largest city in Britain and Scotland’s largest government area, Glasgow. Only 75% of potential voters participated in the election here and ironically a majority of them backed the independence.

The Orkney Islands or Orcadians as they often call themselves are along with the Shetland Islands a part of the Northern Isles. They are located in the North Sea and are belong to Scotland from the fifteenth century.

They both belonged to the Scandinavian kingdom before. In 1469, King James III married Margaret of Norway. By this marriage, Scotland was given Orkney and Shetland as a part of Margaret’s dowry and in 1472 they were both formally annexed to Scotland.¹¹⁷

With the acquisition of Orkneys and Shetlands from Norway, Scotland had shown to be a territorially acquisitive power.¹¹⁸ The Northern Isles managed to keep their traditions and customs even after the Union. After the Union the British Government caused an economic slump because Scots were not very skilled in the salt fish trade. The parliamentary representatives of the Northern Isles were mostly Whigs, Liberals and Liberal Democrats. After the end of the Second World War the situation was not ideal and many people emigrated to make a living somewhere else.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁷ Andrew Lang, *A Short History of Scotland*. (New York: Cosimo, Inc., 2005), 66-67.

¹¹⁸ Jenny Wormald, *Scotland: A History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 243.

¹¹⁹ “About Shetland.” Shetland.org [online]. Accessed March 29, 2014.
<<http://www.shetland.org/about/history#content>>.

Nevertheless, in 1970s the oil and gas were found and the economy grew. A giant oil terminal was built and has shipped out billions of barrels of oil. The Islands started to prosper again and population started to grow.¹²⁰

The Northern Isles were satisfied within the United Kingdom. Even though they were permitted to remain a part of the UK if the referendum result freed Scotland, the outcome was still negative and both, Orkney and Shetland, voted against the Scottish independence.

What did the result of the referendum mean? Most people, including the Royal Family, were relieved that the independence of Scotland was refused, and will continue to be a part of the United Kingdom. The Scottish nation must be glad that there will be no revolutionary changes and that it was all over. The main political parties in the UK, the Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats, pledged during the referendum campaign that if Scots rejected independence, more power would be given to Scotland. Each of the party offered Holyrood more income tax-raising powers than the parliament had before. So even though the independence referendum failed, the Scots were given more rights in the United Kingdom.¹²¹

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ "Scotland votes 'No': What happens now?" The official website of BBC, bbc.com [online]. Accessed March 21, 2014. <<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-29252899>>.

CONCLUSION

In my bachelor thesis I have tried to take a closer look on the development of the relationships between Scotland and England during the period from the sixteenth century to present. These two kingdoms have always shared a history.

The first chapter focused on the historical background and the Union of Crowns, which was the first step in forming the United Kingdom. Due to a very complicated succession to the English throne, the Union of Crowns from 1603 joined the kingdoms by the monarch. Some issues with the parliaments arose from the union. The following chapter highlighted the distinctions between the kingdoms which caused a great deal of disputes.

The third chapter introduced the Acts of Union and the whole journey to the Union in 1707. This road was not without bumps and both kingdoms must have made sacrifices. The Union was more beneficial for England due to their national debt caused by constant battling with other nations, mostly with France. It were Scots who had most doubts about the situation. I have described this journey from the initial negotiations to its ratification. The fourth chapter then showed the consequences of the acceptance.

In the fifth chapter I have moved to more recent history. I focused on the current situation in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, the organisation of the monarchy, the legislative and executive bodies and their functions. The last section of this chapter dealt with the situation of Scotland in the twentieth century.

The final part of my thesis followed the newest attempt of Scotland to regain its former independence in the referendum in 2014. I have described the road to the referendum, the two different outcomes, which might have happened, and at the end I have posted the results from the elections.

The position of Scotland in British history was not always easy. Its tensed relationships with England due to their religious differences resulted in many conflicts. This may still be one of the reasons why Scots seek for independence. Even though the Union was more beneficial for England it had its positives for Scotland too. It helped Scots reach higher economic position by opening of international markets with whom England traded.

RESUMÉ

Cílem práce je seznámit čtenáře se situací ve Skotsku a Anglii od šestnáctého století až dodnes. Klíčovými lety se staly rok 1603, kdy se tato dvě království spojila v rámci Unie dvou korun, a dále pak také rok 1707, kdy byly vydány Zákony o unii a došlo k definitivnímu spojení a vzniku Spojeného království Velké Británie. Skotsko však nikdy nevzdalo snahu získat zpět svou nezávislost a pokusilo se o ni prostřednictvím referenda v roce 2014.

První kapitola se zabývá převážně Unií dvou korun, tím, co k ní vedlo a jak se vyvíjela situace po jejím vzniku. K tomuto spojení došlo díky velice složitému nástupnictví na anglický trůn v důsledku toho, že Alžběta I. zemřela neprovdaná a tedy i bez právoplatného dědice. Na trůn proto nastoupil skotský král Jakub VI., který se jako první stal králem jak Skotska, tak i Anglie, a přijal proto také titul Jakub I. Ve druhé kapitole si pak nastiňujeme, jak rozdílná království protestantská Anglie a katolické Skotsko byla.

Třetí a čtvrtá část práce se věnují samotné Unii z roku 1707, tedy vzniku Spojeného království Velké Británie, a jejím následkům. Třetí kapitola popisuje cestu k tomuto spojení krok za krokem. Pouť se samozřejmě neobešla bez jakýchkoliv problémů a obě země musely něco obětovat. Ačkoliv společenství bylo výhodnější pro Anglii, kvůli jejich národnímu dluhu, také Skotsko z něj vzešlo s určitými klady. Čtvrtá kapitola se zabývá důsledky unie, hlavně v oblasti církve, zániku skotského parlamentu a nástupnictví na trůn.

Pátá a šestá kapitola už popisují moderní dobu. Zabývají se dnešní organizací monarchie, řídicími orgány a jejich pravomocemi. Dále se zde také dozvídáme o pozici Skotska v současnosti a jeho neustávajícími pokusy získat alespoň část své dřívější nezávislosti. Toho bylo dosaženo na konci 20. století, kdy znovu vznikl skotský parlament. To však některým stále nestačilo, a proto se šestá kapitola zabývá pokusem o dosažení autonomie v referendu na podzim roku 2014. V poslední části jsou také poskytnuty kompletní výsledky voleb, ve kterých se občané svobodně vyjádřili, zda s nezávislostí souhlasí, či nikoli.

ANNOTATION

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Abstrakt

Cílem této bakalářské práce je seznámit její čtenáře s událostmi, které vedly ke spojení dosud samostatných království Skotska a Anglie. Nejdříve se země spojily do Unie dvou korun a netrvalo dlouho a došlo ke zrodu Spojeného Království Velké Británie. První kapitoly nastiňují situaci před vznikem království a kladou důraz na to, jak byly tyto dvě země odlišné. Další části práce se pak věnují samotné Unii z roku 1707, podmínkám pro její uzavření a důsledkům jejího přijetí. Popisují zánik Skotského parlamentu a vliv na skotskou církev. Poslední dvě kapitoly se zabývají Velkou Británií v moderní době a zvláště pozicí Skotska, které se v roce 2014 pokusilo o nezávislost v referendu, konajícím se na podzim 2014 a jehož výsledky jsou popsány v poslední kapitole.

Abstract

The aim of this work is to introduce the events leading to a union of two independent kingdoms, firstly to the Union of Crowns and lately to the United Kingdom of Great Britain. The first part of this bachelor thesis describes the situation before the Union of 1707 and highlights the differences between Scotland and England in that time. Next parts are devoted to the Acts of Union from 1707, conditions to their passing and consequences of its acceptance. Last two chapters are dealing with the situation of Great Britain in modern times, mostly with Scottish attempts to restore their independence. The results of the independence referendum from 2014 are described in the last section.

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