

**Západočeská univerzita v Plzni**

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**THE ROLE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY  
IN CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN**

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**Bakalářská práce**

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracovala samostatně a použila jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

*Plzeň, duben 2012*

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The Bachelor thesis deals with The Royal Family in contemporary Britain and especially its role, whether it is the official role undertaken in support of the monarch, or influencing the British nation by the Royal's lives, actions or beliefs. Its objective is to show both the positive and negative impact on Britain, its nation and the functioning of the state. The topic was selected with respect to the author's interest in national traditions, as the British monarchy represents one.

The work commences with general introduction and definition of the monarchy as a system of government in Britain. It is followed by description of the historical period of 20<sup>th</sup> century, when many monarchies have disappeared, but Britain maintained its position. It describes the importance of The British Royal Family, who played an active public role throughout this period.

The next part concerns The Royal Family in Britain from different points of view – starting with the House of Windsor, its origin and characteristics. The author chooses important personalities, such as King Edward VIII and Princess Diana, to explain their significance and their contribution to the country or the nation. In the second part of this chapter follows an enumeration of the money spent on The Royal Family – the Civil List, their incomes and expenses, or their property, both private and public in their use. The author presents the summary of the royal finances, based on the annual financial reports of The British Monarchy, and compares it with the opposite calculations of republicans.

The main part of the thesis describes the role of The Royal Family. At first, the author uses the official website of The British Monarchy, as a source of information about “perfectly managed” public roles of particular members, especially of The Queen's close family. In the next part, The

Royals are described from a different and more critical point of view according to mass media or British nation.

At the end of the thesis, the author indicates a brief outlook into the future of Britain. Contemporary situation is described, with possible future options and characteristics of the coming rulers. In addition, the summary of public opinion survey about Britain's future is provided.

The author uses several types of sources for the research. At first, certain monographs concerning Britain and British monarchy, for instance *Britain* (James O'Driscoll) or *Monarchie Moderní Evropy* (Isabelle Bricard). Then the internet sources including official websites of British institutions, such as *The Crown Estate* and *The British Monarchy*, or the internet editions of British newspapers, for example *The Guardian*. Finally, certain documentaries, for instance *Monarchy with David Starkey – The House of Windsor*, or the *BBC Panorama interview with Princess Diana*. In addition, the author often confirms the statements by results from the public opinion surveys provided by research companies, such as *Populus*.



## 2 MONARCHY – TRADITION OR ANACHRONISM?

### 2.1 Definition of monarchy

Monarchy is a form of government where a head of state is represented by a *monarch*. The sovereign has more or less authority depending on the type of monarchy, and plays a significant role when running the state. The office of monarch is generally lifelong, with possibility of abdication, and the post is hereditary. This enabled some dynasties to reign throughout the centuries. [1]

We can distinguish several types of the monarchy according to different parameters. Considering the range of the sovereign's powers, two the most important types can be mentioned. The first form is an *absolute monarchy* (very common in the past) where the sovereign exercises total power over the land and its subject people and his or her power is not limited by law. From British history we can mention King James I and Charles I of England, who tried to employ the principles of absolute monarchy in Europe. [2] Nevertheless, the popularity of this form of reign declined after the French Revolution and many nations with absolute monarchies have shifted since that towards more democratic form of the monarchy.

The second type is a *constitutional or parliamentary monarchy*, the most widespread form today. In this political system the monarch's power is defined and limited by a constitution, whether it is written or not, and is mostly representative. The sovereign must act within the parameters of the constitution, and when nowadays most constitutional monarchies employ a parliamentary system, the monarch may have strictly ceremonial duties or very restricted powers - he does not form a government and he has only slight influence on the state affairs. [3] Among this type belong for example the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth realms with the current queen Elizabeth II.

The types of monarchy described above are divided according to the range of the sovereign's powers. But we can also examine the way of gaining a reign. In *hereditary monarchy* (as in the history the sovereign was considered to be a representative of the God) the monarch is chosen by God's determination and a crown is passed from one member to another member of a family. It guarantees stability and continuity of the reign. In other countries the monarch is voted, such as in Vatican City, where the papal office does not allow having a descendant.

## **2.2 Republic vs monarchy**

Monarchy was the most common form of government until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but nowadays it does not prevail. King Farouk I of Egypt was once heard to say: „In the year 2000 there will be only 5 kings: the king of spades, the king of diamonds, the king of hearts, the king of clubs ... and the English queen.“ (trans. from Czech) [4] His statement was not correct – there is 46 sovereign nations in the world with the monarchs acting as the heads of state (16 of them belongs to Commonwealth realms that accept Queen Elizabeth II as their head of state). 11 monarchies are situated in Europe and they can be considered as one of the most powerful democracies of the world. [5]

### **2.2.1 20<sup>th</sup> century – from monarchist to republican world**

The general idea of king Farouk about a decreasing number of the monarchs was correct. Most monarchies came to an end during two waves around the two World Wars. The first wave in the 1918 destroyed the empire of Russia, Germany and Austria, the kingdom of Prussia, Bavaria or Saxony, and many grand duchies, dukedoms and principalities. Moreover, in the second wave, after the World War II, all the Balkan sovereigns fell. During this period, an establishment of new monarchies can be noted in Spain, Italy and Greece, but these are more likely exceptions confirming the rule. [6]

Why have people decided to get rid of the monarchs and preferred the republic to the monarchy? Some of them, such as the United Kingdom, succeeded in surviving and even now, they are among the most powerful states in the world and continue in their tradition. With more or less problems, the monarchs run their states facing the question and the fear if the monarchy is a great tradition or a foregone anachronism, and that one day people will question the purposefulness of the kings who reign but do not rule.

To maintain the monarchy, the sovereigns were obliged to make a large number of compromises. Great Britain, equally, had to adapt to the situation and implement a great deal of changes during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Considering the fact that the colonial expansion of British Empire had stagnated since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in contrast to its competitors, Great Britain started to concentrate on strengthening its position and on administration of the territory already acquired. In contrast to other countries at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in Great Britain dominated "an extraordinary consensus in ideas about the state, nation, empire and Britishness". [7] Queen Victoria died in 1901 and her son **Edward VII** ascended the throne. The King represented welcome refreshment after the long reign of Queen Victoria. He was a great politician and he maintained important relations in Europe, as he was, in contrary to his mother, more interested in continental Europe than in British dominions. During his life, he tried to reconcile the Europe and to take actions against Germany, but he died too soon in 1910. Despite his effort, Europe began the war. [8]

In the World War I, Britain fought alongside Russia, France and USA against the German Empire. During this period, The British Royal Family faced a large pressure because of its blood connection with the current ruling family in Germany, Britain's main enemy in the war. King **George V** decided to demonstrate the feeling of belonging to the British nation by

changing the German name of the Royal Family *House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha* into more British *House of Windsor*. [9]

After the war period, the world had to recover from financial, material and human losses. Despite the fact that the European monarchies were falling one after another in revolutions, British Royal Family held its position and was willing to comply with nation's wishes. King George V guided the country through the financial crises playing a significant and active role, ready to reduce the Civil List to help balance the budget. [10] Among other affairs, George V faced the conflict with Southern Ireland and its partition in 1922. He died after long disease, replaced by his elder son. Nevertheless, new King **Edward VIII** caused a national commotion due to his relationship with married American woman, and abdicated after several months of his reign (further explained in chapter 3.2.1). His younger brother Prince Albert took over the reign and became **George VI**.

The World War II brought other problems. Europe faced the threat of Germany and its allies, slowly occupying one country after another. King George VI with The Royal Family showed his support to British people during this whole period. He refused the proposals to leave London for safer place – neither him nor his wife and children were going to abandon the country. [11] The King supported his wife, who opposed to the idea of Princesses going to Canada: “The children won't go without me. I won't leave the King. And the King will never leave.” [12] The royal couple stayed in London, close to the nation. They very often visited areas affected by bombing. Buckingham Palace was also bombed several times, even while King George V and Queen Elizabeth were in their residence. The Queen looked satisfied saying “I'm glad we have been bombed. Now I can look the East End in the face”. [13] During this time, she gained great popularity among the nation.

As well as in the World War I, also in this period some of male members of The Royal Family served in the army, while royal females helped in hospitals. Young Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret tried to make this time more pleasant for all the people, both near - by organizing their evening pantomime shows for whole family and for the staff at Windsor Castle [14], or around the country - by visiting BBC's radio programme *Children's Hour*, supporting all the children who were evacuated from the cities. At the end of the War, Princess Elizabeth also performed national service as a second lieutenant in Auxiliary Territorial Service. [15]

After the World War II, Britain tried to maintain its position of great power. Nevertheless, during the period of decolonization starting in 1940s, Britain lost some of its territories. A large number of countries became independent and joined the British Commonwealth of Nations, founded in 1931, for instance India and Pakistan in 1947, or African territories in 1950s – 1960s, etc. [16] British policy was then concentrated mainly on maintaining the Commonwealth, whose parts were dispersed all around the world.

In the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, **Queen Elizabeth II** had to face a serious threat to the British monarchy. Especially in 1990s, after Royal's divorces and scandals publicized in mass media, reputation of The Royal Family declined. However, The Queen remained popular and led the monarchy into new millennium, when the Royals regain their credibility and become popular again.

Despite all odds of the 20th century, Great Britain was able to cope with obstacles and maintain a leading position in the world. The monarchy has undergone a large number of changes and The Royal Family has limited its luxury, to show that it cares about the nation. They retained the prestige and moral authority, but they lost the political power. First

seemed as a disadvantage, now it can be considered as a foundation of their success and possible reason of the monarchy's survival. [17] In 1981, in a public opinion survey for people over 18 years, to the question whether they are proud of their nation, 55% of Britons answered: "Yes, I am very proud." [18]

### 3 BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY

In contemporary Britain, the *House of Windsor* has been in power for almost a hundred years, and four sovereigns have born the name after the Windsor castle – George V, Edward VIII, George VI and Elizabeth II. However, the reign in Britain was not taken over by a new dynasty at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the current Royal Family changed its name, putting the emphasis on its feeling of belonging to the British nation.

#### 3.1 House of Windsor

The House of Windsor is the royal house of the Commonwealth realms, founded in 1917 by George V as a reaction to the strong anti-German sentiment in Britain during the World War I. He decided to change the German name of his family to more British version the House of Windsor.

Edward VII and later his son, George V, were members of the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, a German ducal family, as descendants of Queen Victoria's husband Albert, Prince Consort. During the World War I, while Germany was the main enemy of Britain and its allies, The British Royal Family faced a large pressure because of their blood connection with the current ruling family in Germany [19]. To emphasize the feeling of belonging to the British nation, King George V changed, by a proclamation on 17 July 1917, the German name of The Royal Family *House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha* into more British *House of Windsor*. All descendants of Queen Victoria living in United Kingdom, except of women who have married into other families, as well as their descendants, adopted this surname. [20] All the relatives of the British Royal Family who fought on the German side were simply cut off. King George V also decided to compensate his men relatives by creating them British peers. For instance his cousin, Prince Louis of Battenberg,

became Louis Mountbatten, First Marquess of Milford Haven, or the Duke of Teck Adolphus became Cambridge, First Marquess of Cambridge. [21] The titling system for members of the Royal Family was also simplified.

George V adopted *Windsor* not only as a name of the house, but also as a surname for The Royal Family, and Queen Elizabeth II confirmed this name after her accession in 1952. Nevertheless, in 1960, she and her husband decided, that their own direct descendants will bear the name Mountbatten-Windsor to be distinguished from the rest of The Royal Family. [22] See the *House of Windsor family tree* as **Appendix 1**.

## **3.2 Important personalities**

### **3.2.1 Edward VIII**

King Edward VIII has played an important role in history of Britain as the first monarch who surrendered the throne voluntarily. After the reign of his father King George V, people put their hope into the young king, followed in few months by a big disappointment.

Prince Edward Albert, called David, was born 23 June 1894. He was brought up in very strict environment by his father King George V. In 1911, after the coronation of his father, he became The Prince of Wales. As an heir apparent The Prince was always held in safety, which was in conflict with his inclinations – battle combats during the World War I, later horse racing or piloting an aircraft. All these activities were forbidden to him by his father, King George V. He wanted him to fulfil the only one role – special ambassador of the throne. Prince David obeyed his father, but performed his function with no pleasure. [23] Nevertheless, during his tenure as Prince of Wales, he quickly became popular. As an attractive man with many women around, he was the first royal star of a new mass media. [24]



After the death of King George V on 20 January 1936, Prince assumed the reign. He was already in relationship with Mrs Wallis Simpson, an American socialite, who was once divorced and presently remarried to American businessman. King Edward VIII had already proposed to her, but he could not marry her, because as Head of Church he was forbidden to marry a divorced woman whose former spouse was still alive. The current Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin argued against the marriage by the fact, that people would never accept a divorced woman with two living ex-husbands as a queen, and subtly tried to suggest the King's younger brother as a solution of whole situation. [25]

The result was that King Edward VIII ceased fighting for his marriage and abdicated after 10 months and 21 days of his reign, on 10 December 1936, to marry "the woman he loved". Nation's disappointment of the king who put his personal happiness above royal duty was enormous. The King seriously undermined foundations of the monarchy.

After his abdication, former king left Britain bearing the title Duke of Windsor. Nation, The Royal Family, and finally King George VI felt resentment about the present situation. The Duke of Windsor was even before his wedding affected by consequences: he would not receive the Civil List, he could not return to his home country without permission, and moreover, his wife and his descendants would not bear the title and the attribute of Royal Highness [26]. For the rest of his life, The Royal Family stayed reserved to whole couple. The Duke of Windsor tried to make some conciliation steps, for instance offering his service during the World War II or visiting the country on special occasions, but first George VI supported by his wife Queen Elizabeth, and then Queen Elizabeth II clearly showed their intransigence. Despite the press campaigns during 1960s fighting for the return of Duke of Windsor and his own effort of return to homeland, they have never approved the Duke's condition of accepting Wallis at a court, so he preferred to surrender the life in

England.

King's relationship with Mrs Simpson was often discussed. She was by some their close friends described as "screeching shrew", who behaved to former king "as to a disobedient child and sometimes with undisguised contempt, which often drove him to tears" (transl. from Czech). [27] Freda Dudley Ward, king's former lover, also confirmed, that Edward VIII was kind of masochist. He preferred dominant partners and "he became a slave of everyone who he fell in love with". [28] Evidently, King Edward VIII found with Mrs Simpson - perhaps the most disruptive element of British monarchy before Princess Diana - exactly what he was looking for. Despite the scandals at the beginning of their relationship, they stayed married for the rest of his life, until 1972, when he died in Wallis's arms.

Another important aspect of King's life was his relationship with Nazi Germany. Before the World War II, he indicated his positive feelings about this European country by expressing sympathies to German ambassador Ribbentrop. His political inclinations concerned British politicians. In October 1937, former king with his new wife Wallis visited Germany and met leading dignitaries of the Nazi regime – Goering, Himmler, Goebbels and even Hitler himself. The meeting with "führer" lasted over an hour and was held in hearty atmosphere. The King later stated that no political topic was discussed and that the aim of his visit was study of social problems. Nevertheless, publication of the archives of World War II confirmed the expected sympathy of former king to the Nazi regime. Moreover, Wallis was even rumoured to be a Nazi spy. [29] On the other hand, his brother King George VI felt no sympathy for Nazi Germany, and determined by his accession to the throne the position of Britain in the World War II.

Although King Edward VIII has shown a human face of the monarch

unable to rule without love, his deed has never been well regarded neither by public, nor by The Royal Family. Nevertheless, he succeeded in preparing the greatest conditions for future monarchs, George VI and Elizabeth II, who excelled, contrary to him, in special sense of duty.

### **3.2.2 Diana, Princess of Wales**

“Nineteen years old, pretty, with excellent origin, belonging to the Church of England, obviously diffident and compliant, and she likes children” (transl. from Czech) [30] – Lady Diana Spencer and a perfect wife for heir apparent to the throne, Prince Charles. In 1981, 750 million of television viewers watched their wedding in St. Paul’s Cathedral. Princess Diana was an ideal candidate for rejuvenating the British monarchy and she rapidly gained popularity with the public. Next year young Princess gave birth to her first son, Prince William. The whole country was very enthusiastic about it, and *The Sun* wrote: “We won the Falklands war. We are on the way to win the World Cup, and now Princess, who was all that time our favourite, happily gave birth to a skilled guy. What a week! It fills us with happiness that we are British.” [31] Three years later was born also their second son, Prince Harry. However, as it will be explained later, their life was not as idyllic as it seemed to be.

Princess Diana involved herself in many charities and beneficial organizations. As she was very popular with the public, she started to outshine her husband, Prince of Wales, who instead started to focus on politics. To regain his popularity, Charles left his restraint attitude and took his interest in architecture and social problems. During this time in 1980s, conflicts in their marriage started to emerge, as Princess Diana suspected Prince Charles from continuing in affair with his former girlfriend Camilla Parker-Bowles. No matter what were the mistakes of

Diana in this relationship, Charles was perceived as guilty because he married without love a girl who loved him. [32]

During the 1990s, a chain of scandal events very discussed by public took place. In 1991, the press revealed the first of Princess Diana's affairs with James Hewitt lasting since 1989 (followed by James Gilbey in 1992, Will Carling in 1995, Hasnat Khanest in 1996 and Dodi Al-Fayed in 1997). Both Prince and Princess of Wales made their stories public in books. In 1992 *Diana – Her true story* by Andrew Morton, where he described The Princess as a martyr of marriage without love, while in 1994, in an authorized biography *The Prince of Wales* Charles stated that he was forced by his father to marry Diana, even if he was not decided to do so. In 1992 and 1993, the press published transcripts of private telephone conversations of Diana with her lover James Gilbey and Charles with Camilla. In 1994, Charles confessed that he cheated on his wife with Camilla. In 1995, Diana confirmed in Panorama interview the rumours discussed in press about their marriage, her suicide attempts and bulimia. These affairs led at first to official separation of Prince and Princess of Wales in 1992, and then to divorce in 1996. This marriage devastated not only the two of them, but also the whole monarchy. [33] The consequences were the worse, as it cost The Princess's life in 1997. She died in a car crash in Paris, trying to escape from photographers, who incessantly followed her in the last years of her life.

Reaction of Buckingham palace to Diana's death shocked the public. They expected The Royal Family to stay in London, sharing the people's grief. Instead of this, they left and spent several days in Balmoral Castle. As Princess of Wales was not *Her Royal Highness* anymore, they did not intend to arrange a state funeral for her. Instead of this, Spencer family was going to prepare a private funeral ceremony. This fact very disappointed the public, as they supposed that there would be a great memorial ceremony for Diana. Following the public discontent, The Royal

Family came back to London. The Queen Paid Tribute to Princess of Wales, saying: “We have all been trying in our different ways to cope,” [34] and the funeral of Princess Diana took place in Westminster Abbey, in September 1997.

Diana has become an eminent celebrity of late 20<sup>th</sup> century. She was an inspiration for many books, films and documentaries, such as *Diana: Queen of Hearts* [35], or *Diana: Her true story* [36]. As she was involved in many charities, she has shown her humanity and love while touching the patients with AIDS, talking to homeless people or just walking through the minefield. She has inspired many people by her courage, immediacy and determination, so nowadays they celebrate her name continuing in her work, for instance organizations *Princess of Wales Memorial Fund* [37], *Centrepoin*t [38] or *National AIDS Trust*. [39]

She was the people’s princess, as she was very close to them, in contrary to the rest of The Royal Family. She behaved very naturally and she had a great charisma, so that she made almost everyone to love her. Diana revealed another face of The Royal Family. First as a part of it, she tried to rejuvenate the old mechanism, but she was not really accepted. After her divorce, in extreme situations, her strained relation with The Royal Family revealed their very strict attitude to non-standard behaviour in any direction. The situation was very similar to that one of King Edward VIII, who put his personal happiness above the royal duty. However, with one significant difference – in this case, the public was on Diana’s side.

In spite of a fact that Diana was loved by people, she is in many documentaries and monographs described rather negatively. For instance, David Starkey called her as another celebrity after King Edward VIII, who “used media to dismantle edifice of the family monarchy”. [40] Moreover, Isabelle Bricard wrote about her as an “egocentric and

neurotic” wife of Prince Charles, and permanently paranoid about Mrs. Camilla Parker-Bowles. [41]

### **3.3 Royal Finances**

The royal finances play a significant role in evaluation of The Royal Family and the monarchy in general. Very widespread idea about the monarchy is that this form of a government is too expensive. [42] The monarchy is often portrayed as an opulent state form from the time of absolute sovereigns, who used to spend a great amount of money for the court buying the pieces of arts, inviting important people such as alchemists or artists, and organizing great celebrations.

However, the financial system of the British monarchy has undergone certain changes. In 1760, King George III agreed to cede incomes of the Crown in exchange for the Civil List [43]. To be more specific, the Crown Estate is since then owned by the sovereign in right of the Crown, but it is not the personal property of The Queen, as she does not have any power of management or control. The Crown Estate is governed by an Act of Parliament, and the Parliament pays in return the Civil List to The Queen. This arrangement persists until 2013. [44]

#### **3.3.1 Royal incomes and expenses**

Since 1990s, Queen Elizabeth II significantly limited the amount of money coming from taxpayers to The Royal Family, as a reaction to increasing public irritation cause by the cost of the monarchy. In 1992, after the fire of not insured Windsor Castle, public outrages were close to their height. Repair works set at £40 - £60 million [45] became a reason for public’s grumbles, according to possibility of financing the repair from the state budget while The Queen did not pay taxes. [46] *The Times* commented the situation: “When the castle is in good condition, it is theirs, and when burned, it is ours,” (transl. from Czech) [47] Elizabeth II

came quickly with a statement that she would pay since then her personal income tax. As a next, she gave up of using the royal yacht Britannia and private planes Queen's Fleet. She also reduced the number of Royal Family members receiving the Civil List only to sovereigns and their spouses. It meant that her children and cousins would be excluded in the next years. [48] Since then, they have received money directly from The Queen's Civil List, in 2000 and later as follows: The Duke of York - £249,000; The Earl of Wessex - £141,000; The Princess Royal - £228,000; The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester - £175,000; The Duke and Duchess of Kent - £236,000; Princess Alexandra - £225,000 (all numbers are meant per year). [49]

In general, the Head of State is supported from three main sources: **the Civil List** provided by Parliament to meet her official expenses, especially staff salaries, garden parties and receptions. With The Duke of Edinburgh (and Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother until 2002), The Queen is the only one who receives the Civil List. She transfers part of this money to her children and cousins. Next source is **the Grant-in-Aid**, covering the maintenance of the royal residences and the costs of official travels. **Privy Purse and Duchy of Lancaster** is an independent source of money used to meet both official and private expenditures of The Queen, especially those not met by the Civil List. [50] Since 1993, The Queen has voluntarily paid her *income tax* and *capital gains tax*. [51]

Prince Charles does not receive the Civil List, but he gains his money from The Duchy of Cornwall Estate. He runs the Duchy, but he has no access to its capital value. Prince Charles receives an annual income generated from the Duchy of Cornwall Estate in order to meet his own expenses, [52] as well as the expenditure of his family, including Princes William and Harry. Despite the fact that the Duchy is tax exempt, The Prince voluntarily pays the 40% income tax. [53]

See the table below summarising the royal finances in the last years:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
<b>The Queen's Civil List</b> (million £)	12,2	12,7	13,9	14,2	13,7
<b>Grants-in-Aid</b> (million £)	20,6	22	22,6	19,3	11,9
<b>Total Head of State Support</b> (million £)	37,3	40	41,5	38,2	32,1
<b>Comparison to the last year</b>	↓ 0,3 %	↑ 2,0 %	↑ 1,5 %	-	↓ 5,3 %
<b>Decrease in real terms</b>	7,00%	3,10%	1,30%	12,20%	10,20%
<b>Revenue from the Crown Estate</b> (million £)	200	211	230	210	-
<b>Cost of the monarchy per 1 person / 1 year</b> (pence)	-	66	69	62	-

Missing data were not provided in the Annual Financial Reports.

See the Financial Summary 2011 as **Appendix 2**.

[54]

This table clearly shows that revenue from the Crown Estate is significantly higher than royal expenses. Unfortunately, the *Total Head of State Support* excludes certain expenses, so it can never be clearly calculated. The Royal Household perceives the change of economic climate and takes action to reduce its expenditures, as it can be noticed since financial report from 2008-09.



The Royal Household is dedicated to make Royal Finances as transparent and comprehensible as possible. Nevertheless, according to republican website <http://republic.org.uk>, the price for the monarchy is much higher than the one provided by official annual reports, as they stated in *The 'Value for Money Monarchy' Myth* report. [55] They estimated total annual cost of the monarchy five times higher than the figures published by the official financial statement, because these numbers exclude important amounts of money spent each year, for instance to arrange the security and the royal visits, or the lost revenue from the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall. They pointed out several important facts: the Civil List has increased by 94% over the last two decades, the Britain's Royal Family is the most expensive in Europe, and the British monarchy costs 112 times more than the Irish President. See the table of their calculation for the total cost of the monarchy in 2009-2010 [56]:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost (£ millions)</b>
Queen's Civil List	14.2
Duke of Edinburgh	0.4
Property Grant	15.4
Communication, media and public relations	0.4
Travel	3.9
Government departments and Crown Estate	3.9
Prince Charles and Camilla (additional costs)	0.5
Lost revenue from Duchy of Lancaster	13.2
Lost revenue from Duchy of Cornwall	24.5
Security	100
Cost to local councils for visits by Queen	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>202.4</b>

Nevertheless, total cost of the monarchy can never be exactly determined. In fact, The Royal Family plays a significant role in tourism income. Monarchy with its traditions, events and buildings annually attracts thousands of tourists and helps to earn a great amount of money. [57] In addition, inflation plays an important role concerning royal incomes. Despite the fact that The Queen's Civil List in 2012 was £14,2 million, The Daily Telegraph reported that partly due to inflation, The Queen's annual expenses exceeded her income by £7 million. [58]

Whatever the cost of the monarchy could be, 53% of respondents in *Populus's* survey from December 2007 agreed with the statement that The Royal Family deliver value for money. [59]

### **3.3.2 Royal Property**

Wealth of The Royal Family often incorrectly includes items, which are held on behalf of the nation and are not its private property. For instance, The Queen does not own her residences. It is the U.K. Government, not The Royal Family, who owns both Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace. It represents a part of the Crown Estate, same as for instance ownership of major hotels Four Seasons and InterContinental, or the Crown Jewels making up part of the Royal Collection. [60] See the calculated list of *The Royal Family property* as an **Appendix 3**.

### **3.3.3 Ceremonies and money spent on them**

Most of the ceremonies or their today's forms come from the twentieth century. [61] This is the reason why public started to ask for their purpose. However, what would be the monarchy without traditional changing the guards, grandiose coronations, famous Trooping the Colour or luxurious royal weddings? Here public enthusiasm meets with concerns about the state budget.

The most popular events, observed even in the world, are the royal weddings. Audience numbers are as high as the numbers on the bill for the entire ceremony. Estimated price of Princess Anne's wedding in 1973 was £35.000, including £9.400 only for honeymoon, £2.800 for her husband's uniform, or £9.100 spent on hospitality. In 1981, an international phenomenon of Prince Charles's wedding earned £305 million from sold souvenirs. [62]

As for the others ceremonies, the coronation of Queen Victoria cost £71.000, while George VI spent £352.000. The ceremonial for Queen Elizabeth II cost £95.000, moreover with £345.000 for adjustment of the Westminster Abbey. [63]

Royal ceremonies accompany the tradition of monarchy. Despite the fact of their high costs, they awaken an enthusiasm in the people and they are still popular.

## 4 ROLE OF THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY

The Royal Family fulfils two important roles. At first, it supports the monarch by undertaking a wide range of public engagements, such as travelling abroad and representing the British nation on state visits, while meeting other head of states. On the other hand, The Royal Family members simply influence the nation by their lives, actions or beliefs, and they represent stability and continuity of Britain.

### 4.1 Official duties and public roles

Every member of the Royal Family has his role to fulfil. Queen Elizabeth II has her official duties stated by law. Other members have to support her in everyday role of monarch and stand for her in many official engagements, as she is not able to undertake all of them in person.

#### 4.1.1 The Queen

According to written law, Queen Elizabeth II may seem as an absolute monarch. However, in practice the situation is different. She has many powers, but in reality, they are rather ceremonial.

The Queen fulfils two important roles: *Head of State* in the United Kingdom and *Head of Nation* (explained below). As the Head of State in constitutional monarchy, she undertakes important ceremonial and formal roles with respect to Government, but she does not rule the country. Among her powers belong for instance state opening of Parliament, choosing and appointing the Prime Minister, summoning and dissolving the Parliament, or giving her royal assent. In reality, her powers are practically obligations. The Queen cannot choose anyone to be the Prime Minister, she must appoint the one with majority support in the House of Commons. Similarly, no monarch has refused the royal assent to a bill passed by Parliament since 1708. [64]

The Queen's less formal but not less important role is *Head of Nation*. This includes "providing a focus for national identity, unity and pride; giving a sense of stability and continuity; recognising success and excellence; and supporting service to others, particularly through public service and the voluntary sector." [65]

The Queen's year is full of her duties and responsibilities when accomplishing the role of head of state. With the exception of international or internal visits, she has also other "everyday" obligations.

#### **4.1.1.1 Day in life of The Queen**

The Queen has many duties to perform every day, whether it is in front of cameras or not. She receives and reads letters from the public, official papers and briefing notes to be still fully briefed on matters affecting herself and her country. She also meets political ministers or ambassadors, and of course her Private Secretaries to discuss daily business and her future plans.

The Queen starts her work at a desk, reading daily British newspapers and reviewing her correspondence. She receives 200 – 300 letters from the public every day (and sometimes even more) [66], and reads herself a selection of them to tell members of her staff how they should be answered. In fact, every letter is answered by staff in her Private Secretary's office or by a lady-in-waiting.

Every morning The Queen's two Private Secretaries comes with the daily quota of official papers and documents. After that, Elizabeth II receives – every day in every year and wherever she is - from government ministers and from her representatives in the Commonwealth and foreign countries, information in the form of policy papers, Cabinet documents, telegrams, letters and other State papers, sent up to her by

the Private Secretaries in her famous “red boxes”. She reads all of those papers, and if need she approves them or sign them.

In most cases, a series of official meetings or audiences follows. Elizabeth II will see a number of important people, such as overseas ambassadors and high commissioners, English bishops and judges on their appointment, or people who have won prizes or awards in a variety of fields, to present them individually with their prize. [67]

The Queen often lunches privately, but every few months, together with The Duke of Edinburgh, they invite a dozen of guests from a wide variety of backgrounds to an informal lunch.

In the afternoons, The Queen usually goes out on public engagements, such as visits to schools, hospitals, military units, art galleries, hostels for the homeless and other British and Commonwealth organizations. Such visits are properly planned in advance and carefully selected to make effective use of The Queen's time. Elizabeth II undertakes approximately 430 engagements a year [68] – to meet people, open events and buildings and to make speeches.

Every Wednesday in the early evening, The Queen takes the Prime Minister for audience. What is discussed between them always remains confidential; no written record is made of such meetings. But each Prime Minister “praised her ability to listen and understand the problems, her knowledge of the files contained in her well-known “boxes”, which accompany her in all her travels.” (transl. from Czech) [69]

After 7.00 pm she receives a daily report from Parliament today’s proceedings and she always reads it in the same evening.

On some evenings, The Queen may attend a social event, such as the performances in aid of a charitable cause, or a reception linked to organizations of which she is Patron, or she may host official reception.

Elizabeth II makes a point of doing her public and private work. She has met many more people from all walks of life both in this country and overseas than her predecessors. This takes time and effort. “Often, one of the last lights on in the Palace at night is The Queen finishing her 'red box' of official papers.” [70]

#### **4.1.2 Close family**

Members of The Royal Family support The Queen in all her roles, as she cannot undertake many of the engagements in person. For instance carrying out important work in the areas of public and charitable service, and helping to strengthen national unity and stability. The Queen’s close family – her children or grandchildren and their spouses – undertakes official duties. Younger members of The Royal Family, such as Prince William and Prince Harry, who are presently in education or military training, do not undertake their official duties full-time, but play a significant role in national events and commemorations.

Members of The Royal Family often represent The Queen and the nation by travelling abroad, especially to Commonwealth, at events such as state funerals or national festivities, or to strengthen Britain’s diplomatic or economic relations. Members of The Royal Family support The Queen also in Britain, while they undertake local or specialist engagements, as The Queen is unable to attend each of them, so otherwise they would be declined. When receptions, State banquets or other official events are held, The Royal Family supports The Queen in making her guests welcome.

His Royal Highness **The Duke of Edinburgh** – HRH Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II – has played a prominent part in many aspects of national life since The Queen’s accession. He accompanies Elizabeth II on her every state visit in Commonwealth or in other countries. He also travels abroad for his own engagements. Prince Philip

plays the role of patron or president of approximately 800 organizations with many different interests – science, technology, sport, welfare or environment. The Duke of Edinburgh has launched two awarding programmes, *The Prince Philip Designers Prize* [71], *The Duke of Edinburgh's Award* [72]. Although Prince Philip gave up his active naval career in 1951, he is still lively connected to it until today, bearing the titles such as *Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force*, *Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Air Training Corps* or *Captain-General of the Royal Marines and Colonel-in-Chief* etc. [73]

As **The Prince of Wales** – HRH Prince Charles, first son of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh – has no constitutionally established role, he tries to find the field where he could be helpful and improve his position, same as the position of United Kingdom internationally. His activities can be divided into three areas: undertaking royal duties in support of the Queen, working as a charitable entrepreneur, and promoting and protecting national traditions, virtues and excellence. [74] In the first part, Prince Charles supports the Queen in her role of the monarch and they both bring people together throughout the different classes of society, and represent the stability and continuity for British nation. In the field of beneficial activities, the Prince's organizations represent largest charitable enterprise in United Kingdom with £120 million earned every year for its needs. [75] In the last area Prince Charles tries to promote and support tolerance and better understanding between different faiths and communities. Concerning the army, Prince of Wales nowadays holds the ranks of *Admiral in the Royal Navy*, *Air Chief Marshal in the Royal Air Force* and *General in the Army*. **The Duchess of Cornwall** supports her husband, The Prince of Wales, in all his activities as Heir apparent to the Throne. She accompanies him on all his travel abroad “to further British diplomatic interests, raise the UK's profile in the country visited and highlight British excellence”. [76] Their Royal



Highnesses are among the United Kingdom's most important ambassadors. The Duchess of Cornwall also undertakes different activities on behalf of her own organizations and charities. In the years 2007 – 2008, she made 50 overseas visits in Uganda, Turkey, Trinidad and Tobago, St Lucia, Montserrat and Jamaica.

**The Duke of York** – HRH Prince Andrew and the third child of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip – undertakes a wide range of public duties in the United Kingdom and abroad, the majority of them as the *UK's Special Representative for International Trade and Investment*. Some of his duties are carried out in support of the Queen and others are related to the associations in which The Duke of York is involved. Many of them are connected with his career in Royal Navy and his profession of a pilot, such as positions of *Commodore of the Royal Thames Yacht Club*, *President of the Royal Aero Club of Great Britain* or *Patron of the Tall Ships Youth Trust*. Thanks to his love of art, he has taken on the patronage of the *English National Ballet* after Princess of Wales, or he is *Patron of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra*. He also shows his interest in education and health care. After his naval career he has been undertaking several official duties, and he is currently *Honorary Captain in the Royal Navy*. [77]

**The Earl of Wessex** – His Royal Highness Prince Edward, the fourth child of current British Queen – performs many activities. Except of those in support of The Queen, he also works on behalf of many organizations or charities, especially those connected with young people, art or sport. He also plays an active role in *The Duke of Edinburgh's Award*, the programme set up by his father. **The Countess of Wessex** – born Sophie Rhys-Jones – except of supporting her husband runs several her own charities, especially those relating to children, disabilities and communication problems. Since her return from maternity leave in September 2008, Her Royal Highness undertook over 60 official

engagements during the rest of the year. [78] Naming her military appointments, it would be *Colonel-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps Colonel-in-Chief* and *The Lincoln and Welland Regiment*. Both Earl and Countess of Wessex has successfully run their own companies, but in 2002 Prince Edward announced, that he and his wife are going to concentrate on supporting The Queen in the time of her Golden Jubilee and beyond, and on help to whole Royal Family into the future. After that they withdrew from their companies and started to concentrate themselves on charities and other organization.

**The Princess Royal** – Her Royal Highness Anne, the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip – started to perform alone her official activities at the age of eighteen. As she is interested in equestrian sports, she involves herself in many organizations connected with this discipline, for example *Riders for Health*. However, her first great cooperation with charity was *Save the Children Fund* of which she is the president. The Princess carries out up to three overseas tours each year for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in support of British interests overseas. She also undertakes a very wide range of official duties and visits in the United Kingdom. For a better idea, in 2008 she carried out 530 engagements in the United Kingdom or abroad. [79]

**The Duke of Cambridge** – His Royal Highness Prince William, eldest son of Prince of Wales and departed Diana, Princess of Wales – is now focusing on his military career, but still he reserves for himself the space to support many organizations that reflect the topics he cares about. In 2009 he creates with his brother Harry their own organization, which has three main aims: help to young people in society, raise awareness and support for servicemen and women, and to develop sustainable model of living considering climate changes and dwindling natural resources. [80] He also takes patronage of other organizations, such as *Centrepont* (after his mother Diana, Princess of Wales who was also patron of this

charity), *Task Trust* or *The Queen Elizabeth II Fields*. As second in line to the Throne, Prince William attends a number of important royal occasions, such as Trooping the Colour or Remembrance Day. He carries out royal duties in support of and at times on behalf of The Queen. The role of **The Duchess of Cambridge** resides essentially in supporting her husband in his everyday role and in undertaking official duties, and accompanying him on his business travels. Like any other member of the Royal Family, she supports the Queen at home and abroad.

Although **Prince Harry** – His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales, the second son of Prince of Wales and departed Diana, Princess of Wales – same as his brother William, is focusing on his military career, he takes number of patronages in charities whose work he wants to support. Except of his and William's charity, Prince Harry is very keen to continue the work of his mother, the late Diana, Princess of Wales, who worked to support people with AIDS. It is for example organization *Sentebale*, the charity to help children orphaned by the Aids pandemic in South Africa, where he spent some time looking after those children. [81]

**Other members** of The Royal Family, such as The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke and Duchess of Kent, Princess Alexandra or Prince and Princess of Kent, also undertake a large number of public engagements, representing The Queen abroad or running their own charities.

Undertaking the official engagements in most cases does not cause any difficulties. The Royal Family members pursue their public activities, and their visits are greatly welcomed in many different occasions. If no scandal from their private life appear and they retain their face, they will become an important public figures and they will be highly appreciated for their achievements, such as Queen Elizabeth II.

## 4.2 Family Monarchy

Except of official roles and duties, which help to improve the position of The Royal Family in Britain and Commonwealth, and to promote the country abroad, members of The Royal Family have their other purposes. They represent an ideal of stability and the family monarchy.

Queen Elizabeth II has always intended to continue in tradition of her parents and grandparent, emphasizing three main factors - family, service and duty. The family monarchy was a symbol of British nation. The Royal Family was supposed to fulfil its role and represent the British nation, even to become the embodiment of the nation. However, at the end of the twentieth century, The Royal Family failed to fulfil its role in this direction. [97]

Marriage in the last decades did not have the weight as it used to have so that the divorces have become a common part of our lives. Even The Royal Family has experienced upheavals in most of its marriages, starting with divorce of Princess Margaret in 1978, or Prince Andrew in 1996, Princess Anne 1989 and finally perhaps the most famous royal divorce of Prince and Princess of Wales in 1996. It can seem that the monarchy of Elizabeth II was collapsing, as she was not able to keep the family together. For overview of the royal weddings and divorces since Queen Elizabeth II, see the table below.

	<b>Wedding</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Divorce</b>	<b>Remarried</b>
<b>HRH The Princess Elizabeth</b> Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten	20 Nov. 1947	4	x	x
<b>HRH The Princess Margaret</b> Antony Charles Robert Armstrong-Jones	6 May 1960	2	May 1978	x

<b>HRH The Princess Alexandra of Kent</b> The Hon. Augus Oligvy	24 April 1963	2	x	x
<b>HRH The Princess Anne</b> Captain Mark Anthony Peter Phillips	14 Nov. 1973	2	April 1992	December 1992
<b>HRH The Prince Charles, Prince of Wales</b> Lady Diana Frances Spencer	29 July 1981	2	May 1996	April 2005
<b>HRH The Prince Andrew</b> Miss Sarah Ferguson	23 July 1986	2	May 1996	x
<b>HRH The Prince Edward</b> Miss Sophie Helen Rhys-Jones	19 June 1999	2	x	x
<b>Mr Peter Mark Andrew Phillips</b> Miss Autumn Patricia Kelly	17 May 2008	2	x	x
<b>HRH Prince William of Wales</b> Miss Catherine Elizabeth Middleton	29 April 2011	x	x	x

[98], [99]

This summary shows that in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, four of the seven marriages came to an end. Three of them were those of The Queen's children, one of her sister. As a first sign of threat to the family monarchy, in 1976, press announced the separation of Princess Margaret from Lord Snowdon, without the intention to divorce. [100] Nevertheless, in 1978, the couple was divorced and Princess Margaret became the first divorced Royal since the time of King Henry VIII. [101] Her niece, Princess Anne, the only daughter of The Queen, divorced her husband in 1992, after sixteen years of marriage and three years of separation. At the end of the same year, she remarried Navy Cmdr. Timothy Laurence in private ceremony and became the first remarried Princess. [102]

Perhaps the most famous royal marriage and divorce was the one of Prince and Princess of Wales. After the fairytale wedding, couple started to have certain problems in their relationship, which quickly became a basis for scandals. The couple announced separation in 1992, and in 1996, Prince and Princess of Wales were divorced.

These breakups shook the monarchy. The Royal Family failed in its basic role to represent the national stability and fulfil the example of the family monarchy. Although, The Queen was not blemished by any scandal and she remained popular, retaining her face.

### **4.3 Importance for the nation**

The importance of the British monarchy is perhaps less involved in the system of government and is much more related to social psychology. The Royal family represents the symbol of continuity and expression of national pride.

The Royal Family and its status have changed during the twentieth century. At the beginning, they represented the moral idols for the nation, standing highly above the people, unreachable and unknown. However, with a change of time and the expansion of mass media, they began much more accessible to commoners.

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, every citizen had a possibility to look under the veil of the British monarchy and see the members of The Royal Family working during their everyday life. The grandeur and opulence seemed to be disappearing and the gap between Royals and the nation was reduced. [103]

Nevertheless, in 1980s and 1990s, decline in public opinion started. In 1981, Prince Charles married lady Diana Spencer and it seemed to be a fairytale marriage. However, during next years the couple's problems in relationship transpired. Prince of Wales was blamed by public for

destroying the marriage of Lady Di, as he was having an affair with his former girlfriend Camilla Parker-Bowles. The public criticised the attitude to Princess Diana taken by The Royal Family, and after her death, they expressed their feelings in front of the Buckingham Palace leaving there flowers and messages. Although Princess Diana was not able to fit into The Royal Family, she was very popular with public. "She was the people's princess. And that's how she will stay, how she will remain in our hearts and in our memories forever," said the Prime Minister Tony Blair as a tribute to Princess Diana. [104]

Fortunately, the scandal times of 1990's were gone. Nevertheless, in the next millennium, press still had the topics to discuss. In 2002, seventeen years old Prince Harry was caught smoking marihuana and heavily drinking. St James's Palace confirmed Prince's experimenting and young Harry was, as a bad child of a family, sent to a drugs rehabilitation. [105] In 2005, another great opportunity for the press occurred. Charles married Camilla Parker-Bowles, the woman responsible for Diana's unhappiness. Camilla faced the problems of Diana's shadow, as she could never achieve the popularity, which the Princess of Wales had. To calm down the public opinion, she bears only the title HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, and in the case of Charles accession to the throne she would be known as HRH The Princess Consort. In 2007, Camilla did not visited Diana memorial service on the advice of The Queen, as her presence may cause certain resentment. [106]

In the last years, The Royal Family is regaining its popularity. After the years of scandals and divorces, they have become likable again. [107] The wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton brought new hopes for the future monarchy, and in the year of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, The Royal Family continues in the tradition of the family monarchy again.

## **4.4 British Royal Family in Mass Media**

During the 20th century, the sovereigns came with a modernization of the old system of government. They started to use the mass media as a technology of communication between The Royal Family and the public in the whole world, making The British Royal Family easily accessible to anyone who wants to see them closely. [82]

First mass communication ever used by reigning British monarch was in 1918 by King George V, who sent a letter to all returning war prisoners using lithography. The same King made in 1932 his first Christmas speech broadcasted in radio. His son George VI was the first monarch whose coronation was filmed. Moreover, Elizabeth II, the next sovereign, has increased the number of mass media used by Royal Family by adding television and internet. [83]

### **4.4.1 Newspapers**

The attitude and the policy of newspapers have significantly changed during the twentieth century – from reserved press into the sensation hunters. When in 1936 King Edward VIII asked the press not to write about Mrs Simpson's divorce, the British newspapers respected the code of honour, despite of the fact that the foreign press was not so discrete. In fact, until this time any discussion about private behaviour of The Royal Family members was unthinkable, because "it was not worthy of a gentleman to attack a member of the royal family, as etiquette prevented him to answer this attack" (transl. from Czech). [84].

However, in 1990s, the effort of the press to capture as many of The Royal's private life as possible reached its peak. Newspapers coming every day with new scandal practically dismantled The Royal Family. The fight of Charles and Diana was immediately projected into the world. The transcripts of their private phone calls were published, same as



discrediting photos etc. [85] Public could see under the veil of a perfectly functioning monarchy, which greatly reduced their meaning about The Royal Family, who lost its grandeur. This period marked the end of the family monarchy (further explained in chapter 4.2), and The Queen with her husband were one of the few who maintained their dignity and little secrecy in their lives.

Princess Diana was extensively chased by the press in 1990s, a group of photographers followed her every step. That was the reason why she decided to withdraw from public life for some time in 1993. Nevertheless, she was finally caught up by paparazzi, who caused her death in a car crash in Paris.

Nowadays, journalists are still interested in The Royal Family, as they know that scandals are selling the best. Headlines such as *Queen devastated by corgi death* [86], *Kate Middleton is related to Madonna's ex-husband!* [87], or *Body found on queen's estate was missing 17-year-old* [88] occasionally occur. However, as the poll showed, nowadays people are not that interested in Royal's private lives. [89]

#### **4.4.2 Radio**

Using radio was a great step forward in talking directly to the entire public, so since the first use British monarchs have continued to take advantage from this way of entering people's homes.

In 1932, King George V comes for the first time to radio microphone to begin the tradition of *King's Christmas Message*. He was at first hesitant about the idea of Sir John Reith from British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), to use the relatively untested medium of radio. However, after the visit in BBC, he agreed to read his speech from temporary studio created in Sandringham House. *"I speak now from my home and from my heart to you all; to men and women so cut off by the*

*snows, the desert, or the sea, that only voices out of the air can reach them.*" [90] His descendants continued in this manner, and contemporary Queen Elizabeth II uses even both television and internet to broadcast the *Queen's Christmas message* nowadays.

In December 1936, King Edward VIII used the radio to give his abdication speech. After the weeks of uncertainty, he explained to British people the reason why he was not capable to remain the head of state. "*I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as king as I would wish to do without the help of the woman I love.*" [91]

In 1940, Queen Elizabeth II (at that time Princess Elizabeth), with her sister Margaret, made her first broadcasted radio speech ever. They visited radio programme *Children's Hour* on the BBC: "*In wishing you all 'good evening' I feel that I am speaking to friends and companions who have shared with my sister and myself many a happy Children's Hour*". [92]

#### **4.4.3 Television**

From the advent of television benefited mainly the royal ceremonies. The coronation of King George VI was the first British royal ceremony ever televised. [93] His daughter Elizabeth II led the use of mass media to perfection. In 1953, the Queen allowed cameras inside Westminster Abbey to film the ceremonial of her coronation for television. She even agreed to paint her lips on blue for looking redder on a screen. Three hundred million viewers saw this recording. Many households bought a TV set especially to this occasion. David Starkey described this event: "It was the first time that I've seen television or a monarch, and I've never forgotten it". [94] The royal ceremonies became popular, especially the royal weddings, but above all they became accessible to everyone throughout the mass media.

In 1957 Elizabeth II had her first Christmas Broadcast on television, where she says: "*That it is possible for some of you to see me today is just another example of the speed at which things are changing all around us ... television has made it possible for many of you to see me in your homes*". [95] In 1969, she gave her permission to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) to make a movie about everyday life of The Royal Family. Almost forty million of Britons have seen this document familiarly called "Corgi and Beth", because it was full of Elizabeth II's fourteen corgis in every take. [96]

By these documentaries and broadcasts, Royal Family became very close to the nation. The gap between The Royals and their subjects seemed to be reduced, when the public could see the Royals on their working day or entertaining during the family barbecue.

#### **4.4.4 Internet**

Contemporary Queen Elizabeth II intends to keep pace with the time. In today's world fulfilled with internet, the British monarchy owns its official website [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk) since 1997. In the same year, the first Christmas speech was published on internet. In 2007, the Queen launched the first Royal Channel on *YouTube*, followed by *Twitter*, *Flicker* and *Facebook* account of the British Monarchy in 2010. All this enables to people all around the world to gain great amount of information about the British monarchy.

## 5 FUTURE

It seems that the monarchy as an institution has not been questioned during the last centuries. Even if there are in Britain few people tending to the republic, they do not consider themselves as real republicans or anti-monarchists [108]. According to *Populus* monarchy survey in December 2007, to the question: "Would you favour Britain becoming a republic or remaining a monarchy?," 76% of respondents answered "Monarchy", and only 16% "Republic". Remaining 8% tented to the answer "Don't know". [109]

However, the type of monarchy in Britain provokes debates. In the last century The Royal Family represented a model of Christian family life, but in its two last decades, some of The Royal Family members has failed to fulfil their roles in this direction (as it was explained in chapter 4.2). Even if The Queen remained popular, other Royals have lowered the prestige of The Royal Family and the public opinion about them has declined. This was not a personal matter, as The Queen herself was still admired. She was considered as the hardest-working member of The Royal Family. [110]

However, this situation has also certain advantages for The Royals. As they had to deal with divorces and scandals, public now perceives them as more human and accessible to the whole nation. Press published articles with titles such as "How the royals became cool" [111], describing Princes William and Harry as "regular guys". The author indicated the new implemented policy to make the Royals seemingly ordinary and likable. In addition, the surveys proved that people relate better to The Royals than they did before, as they are dealing with similar situation as the rest of the nation (57% agree, 38% disagree), and that they consider them as more "human" when they face death, divorces and scandals (73% agree, 22% disagree). [112]

## 5.1 Future monarch

The question of the next sovereign remains open. It seems that Queen Elizabeth II will not surrender the throne, neither in favour of her son Prince Charles, nor in favour of her grandson Prince William. Only 16% of respondents, according to public opinion survey in 2007, would support her in abdication, while 81% want her to stay. [113] The same poll showed that the Prince William would be preferred as a next King (54% of respondents) rather than his father Prince Charles (37% of respondents). Charles with Camilla does not have such support of the people - both already divorced, to become The King and The Queen of United Kingdom and Commonwealth. Charles would have to surrender the title *Head of Church* and become a new epoch of monarchy separated from the church.

## 6 CONCLUSION

The purpose of this thesis is to outline the contemporary situation of The Royal Family in Britain and to determine its role.

The author of the thesis provided the brief summary of the situation in Europe during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The study showed that the Royal Family in Britain played an important public role throughout this period.

By choosing two important personalities – King Edward VIII and Princess Diana – and describing their lives, the author proved the massive impact of The Royals on the nation. Through his relationship with married American, Edward VIII cause public indignation. On the other hand, Princess Diana was able to captivate the whole world by her behaviour and her activities.

As indicated in chapter 3.3, the royal finances are still delicate topic. The Royal Household tries to present its royal incomes and expenses as clearly and comprehensibly as possible, but opponents of the monarchy show the opposite. However, the public opinion of “the monarchy value for money” still prevails.

The research on the official website of The British Monarchy gathered information about The Royal Family members and their official duties and engagement, described as a perfectly managed public roles. On the other hand, data discovered in mass media, especially in the press, showed the other side of the monarchy. It was the source of public opinions and Royal’s imperfections.

At the end of the thesis, the author provided a brief summary of public opinion survey from 2007, from which the public’s opinion about the Britain’s future was found out. Monarchy seems to be still favoured, same as Queen Elizabeth II, who, with encourage of the nation, does not intend to abdicate in favour of her descendants.

In further research and the extension of this work, the topics such as *The role of The Royal Family in Commonwealth* or *The Royal Family in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland* could be also examined, same as some other *important personalities* of the House of Windsor, for instance Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother or Charles, Prince of Wales.

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## **9 ABSTRACT**

The objective of this thesis is the introduction of the reader into the context of contemporary Royal Family in Britain and mainly into its role.

The work consists of a theoretical part, where the author describes the development of the British monarchy throughout the twentieth century, and clarifies the role played by The Royal Family to maintain the monarchy in United Kingdom. In practical part, the research of two fields is elaborated, as The Royal Family plays a significant role there. At first, these are the official functions held by The Royal Family members in support of the monarch, for instance representing Britain on state visits abroad. The second, not less important, is the impact of The Royal Family on British nation through their lives, actions or beliefs. In the end, the author indicates contemporary position of The Royal Family in Britain and indicates possible options of the kingdom.

## 10 RESUMÉ

Cílem této bakalářské práce je uvedení čtenáře do kontextu současné královské rodiny v Británii a především její role.

Práce se skládá z části teoretické, kde autorka uvádí vývoj Britské monarchie v průběhu 20. století, a objasňuje roli, kterou královská rodina sehrála při udržení monarchie ve Spojeném království. V praktické části pak provádí průzkum dvou oblastí, ve kterých královská rodina sehrává klíčovou roli. V první řadě jsou to oficiální funkce, které jednotliví členové zastávají v rámci podpory královny a monarchie, například reprezentováním Británie na státních návštěvách v zahraničí. A neméně důležitý je i vliv královské rodiny na Britský národ, který na něj dopadá skrze jejich životy, jednání či přesvědčení. Závěrem autorka nastiňuje současné postavení královské rodiny v Británii a naznačuje možnou budoucnost království.

## 11 APPENDICES

### 11.1 House of Windsor family tree

Available from:  
<http://www.royal.gov.uk/pdf/Windsor%20family%20tree.pdf>. [Retrieved 30 March 2011]

### 11.2 Financial Summary 2011

Available from:  
[http://www.royal.gov.uk/pdf/annual%20report%201011/66862\\_2pg%20Summary.p1.PDF](http://www.royal.gov.uk/pdf/annual%20report%201011/66862_2pg%20Summary.p1.PDF). [Retrieved 30 March 2011]

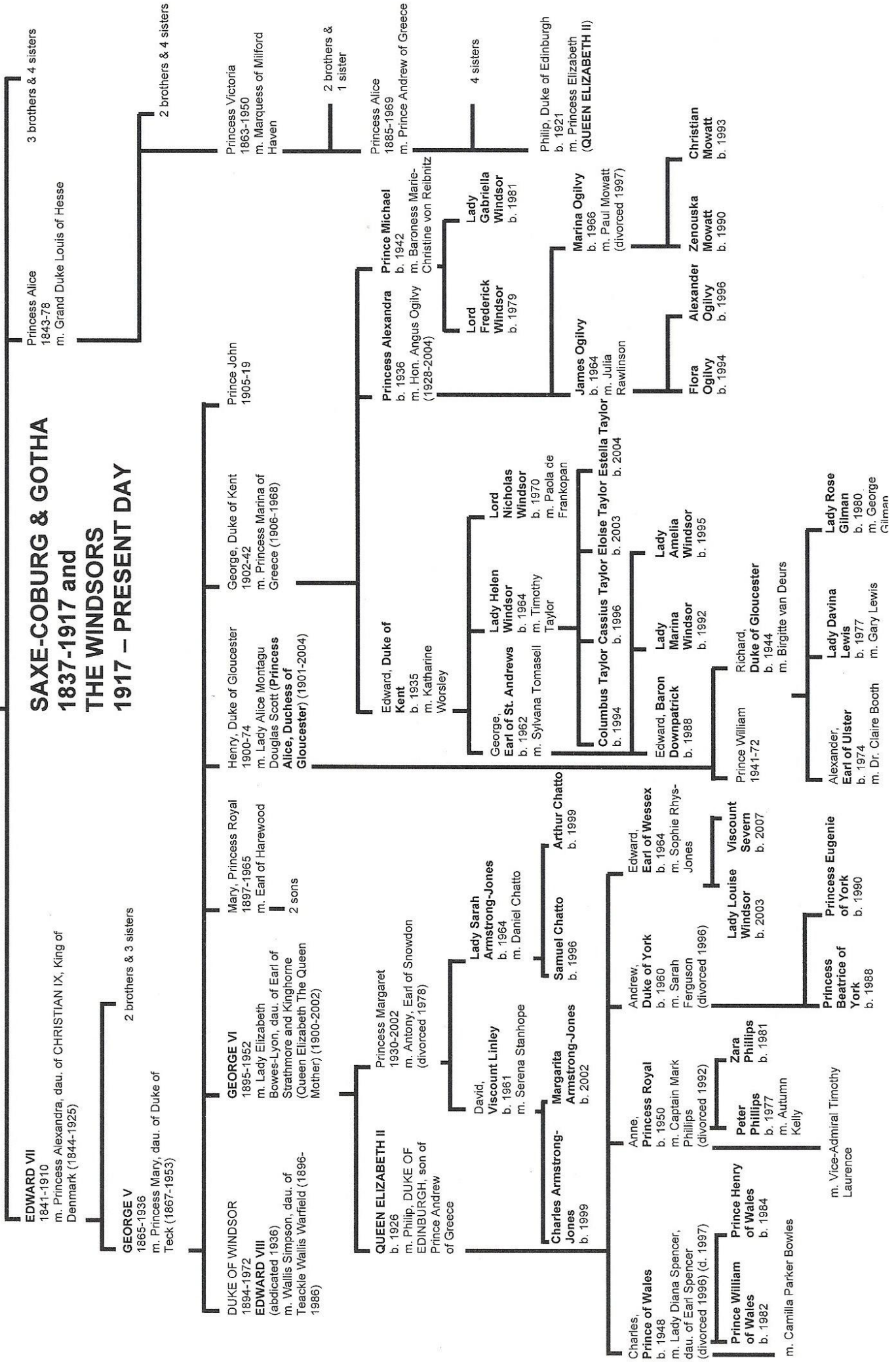
### 11.3 The Royal Family property in 1999/2000

BRICARD, Isabelle. *Monarchie moderní Evropy*, p. 192 - 194.

MEYER-STABLEY, Bertrand. *Tajnosti Buckinghamského paláce*, p. 158 - 165.

VICTORIA  
1819-1901  
m. Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha  
(Prince Consort) (d. 1861)

# SAXE-COBURG & GOTHA 1837-1917 and THE WINDSORS 1917 - PRESENT DAY



# ROYAL PUBLIC FINANCES

Year to 31 March 2011



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<i>Year to 31 March</i>	<b>2011</b>	2010
	<b>£m</b>	£m
The Queen's Civil List <sup>1</sup>	<b>13.7</b>	14.2
Grants-in-aid:		
Property Services	<b>11.9</b>	15.4
Communications and Information	<b>0.5</b>	0.4
Royal Travel <sup>2</sup>	<b>6.0</b>	3.9
	<hr/> <b>32.1</b> <hr/>	<hr/> 33.9 <hr/>

The Queen's official expenditure is met from public funds in exchange for the surrender by The Queen of the revenue from the Crown Estate. In the year to 31 March 2010, Crown Estate income surrendered amounted to £210 million (2008-09: £230 million). Official expenditure for 2010-11 has decreased by 5.3% in absolute terms and by 10.2% in real terms compared to the previous year. The decrease is mainly due to increased income generation, the deferral of property maintenance expenditure and the implementation of a pay freeze. Over the past 5 years official expenditure has reduced by 19.0% in real terms.

## THE QUEEN'S CIVIL LIST

The Civil List is the funding provided by Parliament, on a 10 yearly cycle, to meet the central staff costs and running expenses of Her Majesty's official Household. Civil List expenditure reduced by 8.5% in real terms in the year to 31 December 2010.

## GRANTS-IN-AID

Grants-in-aid are provided to the Royal Household annually by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport for Property Services and Communications and Information, and by the Department for Transport for Royal Travel. Property Services meets the cost of property maintenance, and of utilities, telephones and related services at the Occupied Royal Palaces in England. Communications and Information meets the cost of such services for official royal functions and engagements in England and Scotland. Royal Travel meets the cost of official royal travel by air and rail.

<sup>1</sup> Figures are for calendar years 2010 and 2009

<sup>2</sup> The sale of The Queen's Helicopter in 2009-10 resulted in lease repayments of £1.5 million to Royal Travel. Excluding this income, expenditure on Royal Travel would have been £5.4 million.



## REPORT OF THE ROYAL TRUSTEES AND SOVEREIGN GRANT

Section 5 of the Civil List Act 1972 requires the Royal Trustees (the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Keeper of the Privy Purse) to report on Civil List expenditure at least once every ten years. The Royal Trustees Report for the period 2001-10 was published on 22 June 2010 and set out Civil List expenditure since the last report on 3 July 2000. It made recommendations for the amount of the Civil List and expenditure to be met from it for the year to 31 December 2011 after taking into account the anticipated balance on the Civil List Reserve at 31 December 2010. The Chancellor of the Exchequer as part of his Spending Review Statement on 20 October 2010 announced that funding for the Civil List and Grants-in-aid would remain fixed until 31 March 2012 when, subject to primary legislation, the funding provided to meet The Queen's official expenditure under the Civil List will be consolidated with the funding provided by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport for the Maintenance of the Occupied Royal Palaces and Communications and Information and that provided by the Department for Transport for Royal Travel under a single Sovereign Grant. The Sovereign Grant will be set at £31.0 million for 2012-13 and thereafter will be calculated based on a percentage of the net income surplus from the Crown Estate.

### EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM OTHER SOURCES

#### **Duchy of Lancaster**

Income from the Duchy of Lancaster funds the Privy Purse. It is The Queen's private income which after tax is largely used by Her Majesty to meet official expenditure. Accounts for the Duchy of Lancaster are presented to both Houses of Parliament annually.

#### **Duchy of Cornwall**

Income after tax from the Duchy of Cornwall funds the official duties of the Prince of Wales. Accounts for the Duchy of Cornwall are published and laid before Parliament annually.

#### **The Royal Collection**

The Royal Collection receives no funding from the Government or the National Lottery. It consists of works of art of all kinds and is held by The Queen as Sovereign in trust for Her successors and for the Nation. All costs, except for some building occupancy costs, are met by The Royal Collection Trust from visitor admissions to the Occupied Palaces and from related activities. Around five million people saw items from the Royal Collection in royal palaces during 2010-11 and many more people saw items from the Royal Collection on loan to museums and galleries around the world. An annual report is published by The Royal Collection Trust, copies of which are available on-line at [www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk).

*A detailed Royal Public Finances annual report for 2010-11 is available on-line at [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk) and in print from the Deputy Treasurer to The Queen, Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA.*

## The Royal Family property in 1999/2000

### Private residences

Sandringham Castle

Balmoral Castle

Mey Castle

Highgrove

Gatcombe Park

Bagshot Park

Sunninghill House

### State residences

Buckingham Palace

Windsor Castle

Holyrood House

Saint-James Castle

Hampton Court Palace

Kensington Palace

Clarence House

Marlborough House

### Personal Property (€)

Queen Elizabeth II	450 000 000
Prince Philip	24 000 000
Prince Charles	460 000 000
Prince Andrew	8 000 000
Prince Edward	6 000 000
Princess Anne	14 000 000
Princes Margaret	55 000 000
Queen Mother	60 000 000
Prince William	7 000 000
Prince Harry	6 000 000



<b>Total personal property</b>	<b>1 090 000 000</b>
<b>Total property</b>	<b>3 060 000 000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4 150 000 000</b>