

Monarchs: *Icons of History*



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Since the Norman Conquest up to the present day, England has been governed by, or in the name of, a long line Monarchs: the Kings and Queens of England.

This short course will explore the lives and careers of a number of these 'icons of history'. We will discuss what it means to be a successful monarch, and how this changed (or has stayed the same) over the course of English and British history. You will learn about royal ceremonies: from coronations to royal marriages, from the opening of parliament to the magnificent feasts these kings and queens presided over.

These ceremonies took place in magnificent buildings. Buildings played an important role in Britain's political, military, social and cultural history. In the Middle Ages, castles were the residencies of the aristocratic elite and focal points of military, social and economic contact. Cathedrals were centres of power that towered above the surrounding towns. Country houses are associated with grand architecture, fine gardens and conspicuous consumption.

Each of these magnificent building projects was the vision of a strong religious, local or national leader. These beautiful structures tell us much about our ancestors, their ways of life and what mattered to them; none more so than those built for the Kings and Queens of England.

This course will give you the opportunity to examine the role that these buildings played in Britain's history. You will visit the magnificent Winchester Cathedral and beautiful Hampton Court Palace.



Glossary of Key Terms

Abdicate: when a **monarch** voluntarily renounces (gives up) his/her throne.

Alliance: a union formed for mutual benefit between two countries or states.

Anoint: rubbing with blessed oils in a religious ceremony, such as **coronation**.

Aristocracy: the highest class in British society and traditional advisors to the monarch.

Ceremony: formal ritual or religious occasion, often celebrating a particular event.

Conquest: invasion and assumption of power through military action.

Consanguinity: being of blood relation.

Consort: the husband or wife of the reigning monarch.

Coronation: the **ceremony** of crowning the sovereign. See, **king's two bodies**.

Depose: remove from royal office with force.

Dowry: amount of property or money brought by the bride to her husband on marriage

Dynasty: 1. a line of hereditary rulers of a country. 2. Succession of people in a family.

Faction: a small political group, usually dissenting within a larger one

Heir: a person legally entitled to the title or property of another person upon their death

Highness: a title given to a person of rank, usually royal. E.g. 'Your Highness'

Household: group of people residing with and working for the monarch (not just family).

King's Two Bodies: theological theory in which the king (or queen) has both a spiritual, political body AND a physical body. The political body NEVER DIES and is conferred upon the king/queen's heir through **coronation**, while the natural body is just a vessel.

Majesty: meaning 'greatness', this is title given to a person of royal rank. 'Your Majesty'

Monarch: head of state, usually a king, queen or emperor.

Papal Dispensation: the Pope can make certain people exempt from laws, usually for the purpose of allowing those closely related to get married.

Parliament: the highest court in the United Kingdom, made up of the House of Commons (elected officials) and House of Lords (hereditary peers)

Regalia: emblems and clothing of royalty, such as the crown jewels, robes of state, orb and sceptre.

Residence: establishment where a member of the royal family lives

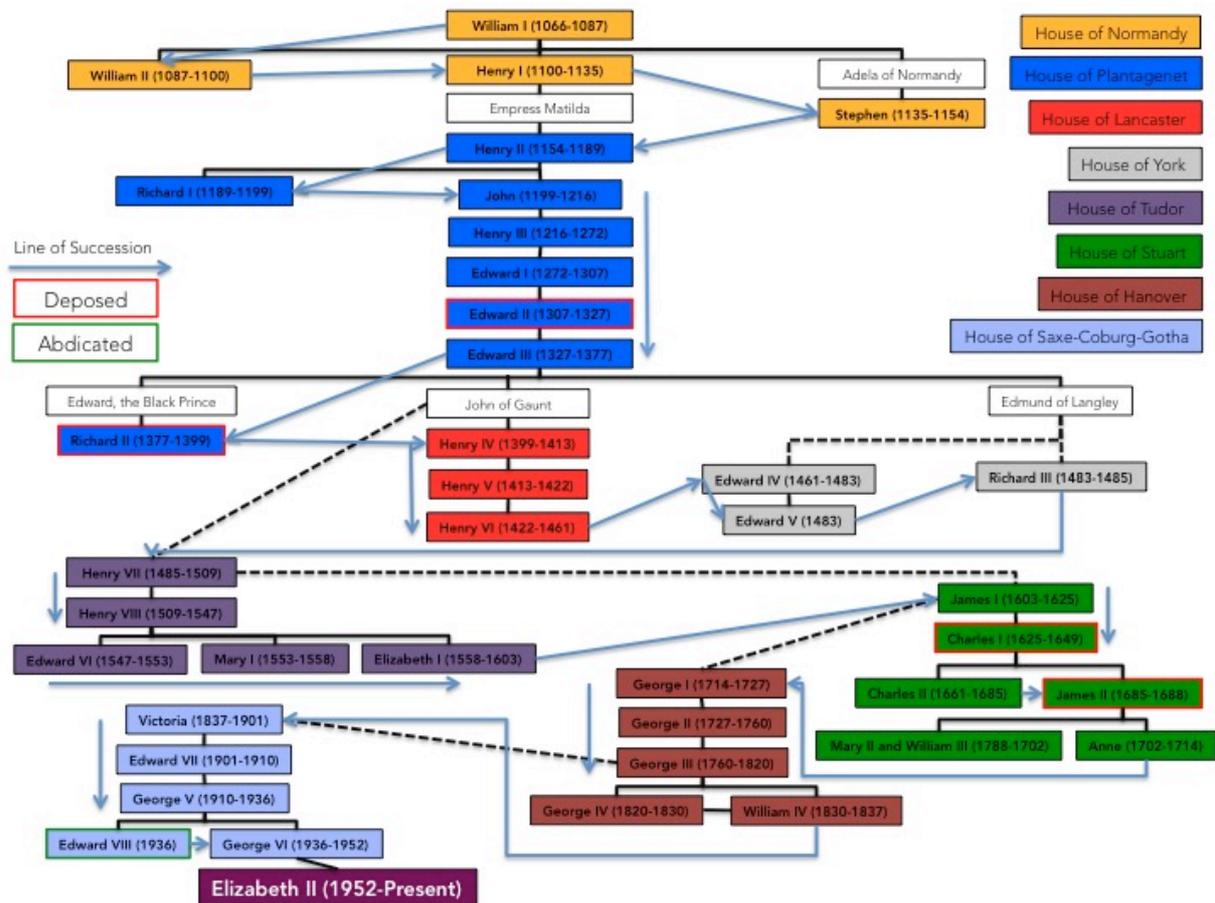
Treason: the crime of betraying one's monarch and/or country

Treaty: formal agreement between two states, usually to end a war and create peace.

Truce: an agreement between enemies to stop formal conflict.

Usurpation: taking another person's property, or throne, by force.

What makes a Monarch?



Royal Family Tree from William the Conqueror to Elizabeth II

Some monarchs came to the throne by right of birth, others by conquest, and some by act of parliament. At least five English kings have been deposed and murdered, two have given up their throne and been allowed to live and one was executed by the people. Some monarchs died without a male heir and some without an heir of the body, causing a succession crisis. Most of them made important dynastic alliances when they married, while some chose never to marry, bringing about the end of their dynastic house. But one thing unites all English Kings and Queens: **Coronation**.

In our first lesson, we will explore the coronation ceremony.



Richard II (1377-1399)



Elizabeth II (1952-Present)

Reading Material:

1. Dan Jones, 'How to be a Successful Monarch', *History Extra*:
<http://www.historyextra.com/article/elizabeth-i/how-be-successful-monarch>
2. Hugh Costello, 'Becoming Queen: Elizabeth II's Coronation', *History Extra*:
<http://www.historyextra.com/article/bbc-history-magazine/queen-elizabeth-ii-coronation>
3. *Richard II's Life and Reign*: <https://www.history.ac.uk/richardII/richardII.html>
4. Jessica Hope, 'Queen Mary I', *History Extra*:
<http://www.historyextra.com/article/tudors/life-week-queen-mary-i>

IMPORTANT: Before the first class read articles 1 & 2, and watch the youtube video attached below.

The coronation of Elizabeth II: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inKSvLk7kiI>