

THE ROYALS

1. Facts and events

Harry (Duke of Sussex) and Meghan Markle (Duchess of Sussex) = they announced their decision to step back from royal functions and to become financially independent (the press created the term "Megxit"). They firstly moved to Canada and they are now in Los Angeles, decisions that the Queen did not appreciate to such an extent that **their title is called into question**.

The Royal Family is getting expensive for UK taxpayers = the monarchy costs £67 million in 2018-19, a 41% increase on the previous financial year.

Yet, the **monarchy's annual contribution to the UK economy** is estimated to be around £1.8bn a year, drawing in an additional £550m of tourism revenues a year, and an increase in trade, from the Royal Family acting as ambassadors, supposedly worth £150m a year.

Elizabeth II is also **the Queen of numerous countries** in the world, as Canada, Australia or New-Zealand (to quote the most important of the Commonwealth).

During the **Coronavirus crises**, the Queen gave a speech in order to speak solemnly to the British people. She is **the highest authority of the Kingdom** and the most respected. That was important to keep the order in this context of quarantine with moreover, the contamination of Boris Johnson. The Royal Family **acted as anchor in a time of trouble, as a symbol of unity during pandemic**. They responded to the challenges of 2020 with dexterity and confidence despite the difficulties they faced this year. The Queen and her husband were vaccinated in January 2021.

The Royal family suspended **Prince Andrew's** royal duties following **allegations of sexual abuses and ties to Jeffrey Epstein**. This is the biggest scandal the Royal Family has faced in decades.

Is the British monarchy an anachronistic institution?

- They are important because Great Britain, as a nation, recognises that their symbolic presence is useful. *Ex: In 1919, after the independence of Ireland, the people remained united around the Royal figure.*
- The Queen is the head of the Commonwealth, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, she appoints the Prime Minister

Représenter son pays à l'étranger : *to represent one's country abroad*

Un symbole d'unité : *un symbol of unity*

Un rôle purement symbolique : *a purely symbolic role*

Redorer son blason : *to restore one's reputation*

Restaurer la monarchie : *to restore the monarchy*

Une prérogative royale : *a royal prerogative*

Le discours du trône : *the Queen's Speech*

L'héritier de la couronne : *the heir to the throne*

Les membres de la famille royale : *royalty*

La souveraineté : *the sovereignty*

Un couronnement : *a coronation*

Succéder à quelqu'un : *succeed somebody*

Détrôner un Roi - une Reine : *depose a King - a Queen*

De droit divin : *by divine right*

Majestueux : *regal*

Royal, d'apparence royale : *kingly*