

Topic: Should the British monarchy be abolished?

Facts:

- The monarch is the Head of State and has many representational or ceremonial functions, e.g. the State Opening of Parliament.
- However, the power to make and pass laws resides with Parliament as the elected legislative.
- The monarch is, among other functions, the Head of the Church of England, the Head of the Armed Forces and the Fountain of Justice. However, in these functions (s)he always has to act on the advice of e.g. the Prime Minister, other ministers or a church commission.
- The monarch gives a weekly audience to the Prime Minister in which (s)he has the right and the duty to discuss current government matters.

Data extracted from: <https://www.royal.uk/>, [The Independent](#); [Republic](#) ; [The Independent \(2\)](#)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The monarch does not really have any real political power. Her/his functions are mainly formal and could easily be taken over by other political bodies or an elected president. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All the Prime Ministers since the 1950s have valued the weekly audiences with the Queen as a unique opportunity to discuss government matters outside a party environment with a person who can draw on a wealth of experience and political knowledge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Britain is a hereditary monarchy, which means that the successor to the throne will take the crown regardless of his/her suitability, character, previous scandals etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The monarch is seen as someone who stands above party politics and can thus act as a real representative of the country regardless of short-term political interests and strategies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In a modern democratic state the people should also be able to exercise democratic control of the head of the executive. This includes both electing the head of state as well as instruments to check or even impeach him/her. None of this applies if the head of state is a hereditary monarch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As a consequence, the monarch is seen as a nonpolitical figure symbolizing Britishness and national values.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The monarchy would not work as a kind of constitutional barrier against a dictatorship. The monarchy simply would not have the political power to stop a potential dictator (or may not even want to – it is a fact that King Edward VIII was sympathetic to Hitler and National Socialism). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The British monarchy has shown that it is able to reform itself and adapt to modern times (e.g. the Queen and Prince Charles have been paying de-facto taxes since 1993; Prince Charles was allowed to marry a divorced woman etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The British Sovereign is the most expensive monarch in Europe (£40m per year). In comparison, the Spanish monarchy costs £6.15m. Sweden pays £11.6m for their monarchy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Queen may be the most expensive monarch in Europe, but this does not mean that a president would come any cheaper. The most expensive head of state in Europe is the French president with £103.5m – more than twice as expensive as the British monarchy!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The per capita cost of the monarchy rises dramatically if you include "hidden costs" (like £100m for Royal security) recorded in other parts of the budget. Everything included, the cost of the monarchy would come out at £11.24 per year and per taxpayer. Now that the government has agreed to foot the bill for a £396m renovation of Buckingham Palace, the taxpayer funding of the Royal Family is set to soar by up to 66%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The positive image of the British monarchy around the world helps to secure trade deals, especially when they are made in the wake of a Royal visit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Although the Queen is the third wealthiest monarch in Europe the monarchy still receives public funding. Public funding also includes less important relatives of the Queen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With the new generation of Prince William, Kate and babies George and Charlotte, the monarchy has gathered new momentum and enjoys widespread sympathy in Britain.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Although many members of the Royal Family head charities they do not really engage in practical work for those charities but rather serve as a kind of figurehead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The members of the Royal Family have important functions heading all kinds of charities. Their image and popularity help charities to continue their good work.

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