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Symbolism of the Longest Reigning Queen
Elizabeth II from 1952 to 2017

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Dedication

First of all thanks to Allah the most Merciful.

Every challenging work needs self efforts as well as guidance of older especially those who were very close to our heart, my humble efforts and dedications to my sweet and loving parents: Ali and Soumya whose affection, love and prayers have made me able to get such success and honor, and their words of encouragement, support and push for tenacity ring in my ears. My two lovely sisters Manar and Ibtihel have never left my side and are very special, without forgetting my dearest Grandparents for their prayers, my aunts and my uncle.

. I also dedicate this dissertation to my many friends and colleagues who have supported me throughout the process. I will always appreciate all they have done, especially my closest friends Wassila Boudouaya, for helping me, Fatima Zahra Benarbia, Aisha Derouich, Fatima Bentahar and many other friends who kept supporting and encouraging me in everything for the many hours of proofreading.

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Abstract

The British Monarchy is the oldest monarchy in the World. Thus, it is the main focus of researchers, unlike the other World's monarchies, where the Monarchs have all the authorities to govern, the British one is not allowed to rule her monarchy for that she can only reign but cannot make laws by her own. To reach the reliable data, this research instrument used the data collection from articles, books and web sites. Thus, the founding come outs with the conclusion that although Britain is a monarchy, it is a democratic nation too, where its people chose their rulers by vote. While the authority of governing belongs to the Parliament, and the Monarch has such important roles and prerogatives that keep her on throne. She gained a wide respect because she is a sign in the British history.

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General Introduction

The British Monarchy is the oldest form of the United Kingdom's government. It is a Constitutional Monarchy that was ruled by many kings and Queens, among them the Queen with the longest reign Elizabeth II who has been ruling Britain since 1952.

Although she is the Head of the British State but her prerogatives are limited by primarily symbolic roles which focus on national unity, while she represents Britain in ceremonial occasions. In addition to that, she is the Head of the Commonwealth, since she is the Queen of 16 British past colonies, which are now independent nations but still members of the Commonwealth, among them Canada, New Zealand and Australia. But politically she is neutral, she can only reign but cannot govern her nation. On the basis of this statement, the following research question would be addressed:

- 1- What are the prerogatives and roles of the Queen?
- 2- What is beyond keeping her as a Queen?

In this case, this research paper aims to explain the Queen's Symbolism and her importance on throne, as many people think a Monarch without a ruling power has no importance.

It is supposed that even though the British Monarch has no ruling power, but she is a respected symbol in Britain, and she is one of the British signs, thus she has symbolic roles. May be they keep her to strike the balance and avoid political revolutions, and to gain money in each ceremony she attends. To tackle this former research and test the validity of hypothesis this dissertation is based on data collection from articles, books and web sites.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This dissertation is divided into two chapters: the first one is devoted to the Historical Background of Queen Elizabeth II, then the second one that deals with the Symbolism of Queen Elizabeth II.

In the light of the Historical Background of Queen Elizabeth II, so the first chapter starts with the family's name of actual British monarch "House of Windsor", Then the Windsor's rulers before 1952, dealing with King George V, then the other two Monarchs before Elizabeth II, King Edward VIII and King George VI. Moving to Queen Elizabeth II with her biography and the major events during her dynasty, in politics, social and royal events. Also this chapter takes the fact of the Queen with the longest reign by which it was necessary to give the Biography of Queen Victoria who was surpassed by Elizabeth II.

The second chapter which is the Symbolism of Queen Elizabeth II, some lights were shed on the British Political System dealing first with the Parliament, the British Houses and the Political Parties, then moving to the role of the Queen and her prerogatives which is a part of her symbolism of Elizabeth II and discusses the fact of keeping her on throne.

This research gives other opportunities for researchers to look for what would happen after the death of Queen Elizabeth II? Would Britain still be a Monarchy or it would become a democratic nation?

CHAPTER ONE:

***THE HISTORICAL
BACKGROUND OF QUEEN
ELIZABETH II.***

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CHAPTER ONE: THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE BRITISH MONARCHY

1. Introduction

The British Monarchy is one of the ancient monarchies in the world, commonly called the monarchy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; it is based on Westminster system. Thus, it is a constitutional monarchy in which the hereditary successor monarch is the sovereign of the kingdom and its territories, as well as the head of the British state and 16 common Kingdoms.

The actual royal family is the Windsor, who is the famous ruling family after the Tudors, since 1917. This chapter deals with the historical background of Queen Elizabeth II. It seeks to show the reason for changing the royal family's name, and to define the monarchy since the ruling of the Windsor family in both before Queen Elizabeth II and during her reign which leads her to be the longest monarch in the British history surpassing the reign of Queen Victoria.

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2. The Windsor House

Before the First World War Saxon-Cobourg- Gotha was the British Royal family's name, which has German origins. In 1914, Britain was in war with Germany that had a bad reputation, while the Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm was the cousin of the British King George V.

So to prove his Loyalty, King George V changed the name Saxon-Cobourg-Gotha to the house of Windsor on July 17th, 1917. Thus, he officially updated it for all descendants in the male line of Queen Victoria as well as female who were married shall also bear the Windsor name.¹

2.1. The Windsor's Rulers before 1952

Before 1952 Britain was under the reign of Three Kings who were delivered from the house of Windsor.

2.1.1. George V

George, Frederick, Ernest Albert, son of Edward VII and Alexandra of Denmark was born on June 3rd, 1865. In 1893, he married Mary, daughter of the Tack's Duke, and had six children; Edward, George, Albert, Mary, Henry, and John.

¹ <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-houses-of-windsor-and-hanover-4069109>

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At the age of 44, George V ascended the British throne after the death of his father King Edward VII on May 06th, 1910. Then, he was crowned at Westminster Abbey on June 03rd, 1911. During the First World War, especially from 1914 to 1918, King George V dedicated most of his time to visit troops and hospitals. He was beside his people; hence he showed them his loyalty when he changed the royal family's name from Saxon-Cobourg-Gotha that has Germanic origins, into Windsor. While in politics, he served as a conciliatory mediator.

On January 20th, 1936, King George V died at Sandringham Norfolk at the age of 70 years, 7 months and 16 days. Thus, he was buried at Windsor, so after he had reigned for 25 years, 8 months and 15 days, he was succeeded by his eldest son Edward VIII.²

2.1.2. Edward VIII

Edward, Albert, Christian, George, Andrew, Patrick David, the eldest son of King George V and Mary of Teck was born on June 23rd, 1894 at White Lodge, Richmond Surrey.

As a Prince of Wales, he seems to be handsome, young, and popular, while his relationship with his parents turned to become worse since he was a famous playboy and field to settle down and had several affairs with married women. After the death of his father King George V, he ascended the throne exactly in January 1936, at the age of 41, but he was never crowned since he abdicated the throne after only 11 months.

² <http://www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/windsor.htm>
<https://www.britroyals.com/kings.asp?id=george5>
<http://www.britannia.com/history/monarchs/mon60.html>
<http://www.britannia.com/history/monarchs/mon60.html>

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He abdicated on December 11th, 1936 in front of people, to marry American divorcee women; Mrs. Wallis Simpson. Moreover, in November 1936, the constitutional crisis arose when he wanted to marry Mrs. Wallis Simpson, who had already divorced her first husband and still married to her second husband when she met King Edward VIII. Her aim was pursuing the King because of his position, so because of her bad reputation, she was unacceptable as a British Queen. Thus they were married in 1937 and became Duke and Duchess of Windsor, while his brother George succeeded him.

Edward VIII lived abroad for the rest of his life without having any child, and then he died on May 28th, 1972, in Paris at the age of 77 years and was buried at Frogmore.³

2.1.3. George VI

Albert, Frederick, Arthur George, the second son of King George V and Mary of Teck from the House of Windsor came into life on December 14th, 1895, at Sandringham, Norfolk. He was Duke of York and seemed to be anxious and brave. He attended the First World War and fought at the Jutland's battle. Also, he was the first monarch who learned to fly. In 1923, he married Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon and had two daughters; Elizabeth (Lilibet) and Margaret.

George VI had a strong sense of duty, but he had never expected to become a king. As a result, he ascended the throne upon the abdication of his eldest brother on December 11th, 1936 at the age of 40 years old. Later he was crowned on May 27th, 1937, to directly restore the confidence in the monarchy.

³ http://www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/windsor_2.htm
<https://www.britroyals.com/kings.asp?id=edward8>

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He was always beside his people even during the Second World War, showing his care and love. He used to work closely with Prime Minister Churchill. Throughout the war, he narrowly escaped the death when the bombs exploded beside Buckingham Palace.

King George VI died on February 6th, 1952, at Sandringham in Norfolk at the age of 56 and was buried at Windsor. Then he was succeeded by his eldest daughter Elizabeth II.⁴

2.2. The Windsor's Ruler since 1952

2.2.1. Elizabeth II

Elizabeth, Alexandra Mary, the eldest daughter of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth was known as Lilibet; the name that her grandfather King George V used to call her with. She was born on April 21st, 1926 in Burton-street London. She was educated in private, at the age of 14 years old, exactly on October 13th, 1940. She made her first public speech on BBC children's hour; the speech aims to in spirit and to give confidence for the children who had been separated from their parents since Blitz.

In early 1942, Princess Elizabeth was selected as a colonel in chief of Grenadier Guards, and then she served in auxiliary territorial during the Second World War. While she reached her 16 years old, she assumed official duties and carried out her first public engagement when she expected the regiment.

⁴ http://www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/windsor_3.htm
<https://www.britroyals.com/kings.asp?id=george6>

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A year later in April 1943, she gave her first Solo public engagement when she spent a day in Grenadier Guards Tank Battalion in South Command. At the time when her duties increased, she was particularly involved with an organization connected with young people, and then she was elected president of both the Queen Elizabeth's Hospital for children in Hackney and the national society for the prevention of currently to children.

In March 1944, Princess Elizabeth companied her parents on their tour of Britain, Thus, in her 18th birthday, she executed for the first time some duties of a head of state while she was delegated a counsellor of state during the King's George VI absence on a tour of Italian Battlefields. In August the same year, she received an address from House of Commons and replayed on behalf of the Throne.

Later again, she accompanied her parents to a tour within Scotland, it was her first time when she celebrated the opening ceremony in October, and she opened the recently reconstructed Aberdeen sailor's home. In early 1945, the Princess Elizabeth became a subaltern assistant in the auxiliary territorial service (AST), and on the end of the Second World War, she reached the Rank of Junior Commander and completed her course at mechanical training centre of ATS and passed out as a fully qualified driver besides, she made her first flight by air in July the same time she visited Northern Ireland with her parents.

The Buckingham Palace officially declared on July 10th, 1947, the engagement of Princess Elizabeth to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten of Greece and Denmark. Later they celebrated their wedding at Westminster Abbey on November 20th, 1947. While they had their first child, Prince Charles who was born on November 14th, 1948. Then the only daughter Princess Ann, on August 15th, 1950, after a while they had their two last sons, Prince Andrew who was born on February 19th, 1960, and Prince Edward who was born lately in 1964.

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The Princess' life changed in 1952, when she became Queen of the United Kingdom and 16 other British states, since she succeeded her father upon his death, and ascended the Throne on February 06th, 1952, at the age of 25 years old, and then she was crowned on June 2nd, 1953, at Westminster Abbey. During the coronation, the new monarch Queen Elizabeth II set out and expended tour of the Commonwealth and visits places as well as Australia, Bermuda, and Fiji. Likewise, she made a historical visit to West Germany in May 1965; it was the first German appointment by a British monarch since 52 years. In 1977, Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Silver Jubilee, on the point that each monarch honours it while marking 22 years on the throne, while lately; she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee when she marked her 60 years on the throne. The year 1992, seemed to be the hardest and horrible year that she had ever lived, while she saw the end of her three children's marriages, besides the fire that damaged the Windsor Castle which leads to a popular outcry and complaint.

Queen Elizabeth II is still ruling the British monarchy. In 2002, she became the oldest reigning monarch of the Windsor house, while since 2016 she celebrated her Sapphire Jubilee by which she became the Queen with the longest reign for she ruled for 65 years.⁵

⁵<https://www.bitroyals.com/queens.asp?id=elizabeth2>

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3. British's Major Events Since 1952

Princess Elizabeth was already married to Duke of Edinburgh Philip and they had two children Charles and Ann when they left Britain to have a tour in East Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. While she was in Kenya on February 06th, 1952, King George VI died out of Lung Cancer. Thus, she ascended the throne. During her Reign, Britain crossed many events in all fields; political, social and royal events.

3.1. Political Events:

At the time Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne, Sir Winston Churchill was the British Prime Minister from 1951 till 1955. Then, he was recouped by Sir Anthony from 19 55 till 1957, and Harold MacMillan from 1957 to 1960.

From 1960's through the 70s, most British colonies including African and Caribbean countries witnessed liberation movement and became Sovereign element during the Australian crisis. Queen Elizabeth II decided not to interrupt in the constitutional matter of the country which speeded up Australian Republic.

In 1973, Britain joined the economic European community during Edward Heath's guiding. While in 1975, Margaret Thatcher became the leader of the Conservative Party, and then in 4 years later she became the first British woman as a Prime Minister from 1979 till 1990. Thus in 1991, Queen Elizabeth II addressed a joint session to the United States Congress, hence she was the first British monarch to do so, that was afterward the Triumph of the Gulf War. In 1994, John Smith died; he was the leader of the Labour Party from June 1992 till his death in May.

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Among other political affairs of the 21st century, Britain formed an alliance with the United States against Saddam Hussein and declared the war in 2003. Also in 2007, the Prime Minister Tony Blair was replaced by Gordon Brown who was also replaced by David Cameron since 2010 till nowadays.

3.2. Social Events

All along the reign of Elizabeth II Britain witnessed a noticeable social advancement. So during the Queen's coronation in 1953, most British citizens bought televisions in order to watch the crowning ceremony, also in 1954, Roger Bannister the British middle distance athlete broke the four minutes of the mile. Again in 1966 Britain gained the World Club. Thus in 2004, the British middle distance Athlete specialized in 800 and 1500 meters Dame Kelly Holmes won a double Olympic Gold in Athens.

On the other hand, Britain passes too with hard events, starting by the massacre of the Manish air killed 8 Manchester's united players in 1958; likewise, in 1987 a great storm swept South England which caused disasters. The next year on December 21th, 1988 a suitcase bomb in New York's bound Pan Am flight 103 exploded abroad Lockerbie Town in Scotland, and about 258 passengers were all killed.

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3.3. The Royal events

Through the time, Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne and 3 months before she was crowned, her Grandmother Queen Mary died on March 24th, 1953 out of a lung cancer. The Wode Queen of King George V was known as Mary of Teck, lived for 86 years, she was admired for her loyalty, constancy and her strong sense of duty.

While the Queen was celebrating her official Birthday on June 03rd, 1981 and during the trooping colour ceremony a teenager of 17 years old named Marcus Sarjeant attempted to kill her by shooting gun throw her, fortunately it turned out to only fire blanks, and then he was jailed for 5 years after planting to a charge under the treason act.

The same year Prince of Wales Charles married Lady Diana Spencer, and a year later in 1982, they got their first son Prince William the second on the line to throne. In this year too, an intruder named Michael Fagan broke into the royal palace and got into the Queen's bedroom, he was a poor man while he entered the castle he ate only some food but he did not aim to stole or hurt anybody, and since he was a civil rather than criminal, so he spent 6 months in a psychiatric hospital.

Again, the Queen spent a terrible year she described as "Annus Horribilus" in 1992, so in addition to the fire that affected the Windsor Castle, three of her children's marriage ended. Moreover, Princess Ann and Captain Philips divorced, Duke and Duchess of York separated as well as Charles Prince of Wales and Princess Diana did so. A year later, Prince Charles started dating Camilla Parker Bowles and married in 2005, while on August 28th, 1996 he officially announced his divorce from his previous wife Princess Diana, who was killed in a terrible car crash in Paris on August 31st, 1997.

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This event followed a royal ceremony in which Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Silver Jubilee on June 7th. While on April 2002, she celebrated too her Golden Jubilee, this ceremony was presided by two losses; the death of her sister Princess Margaret on February 9th, 2009, Then after a month the Queen lost her mother Queen Elizabeth who died on March 30th.

On April 29th, 2011 Prince William the Queen's grandson who is selected to succeed her to the throne married Kate Middleton and got their first child George on July 22nd, 2013 who is the third in line to the throne, and the fourth in the line Princess Charlotte on May 2nd, 2014.

Again, the Queen celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 2012, and marked 63 years on the throne so that she becomes the longest reigning monarch in the British history, she surpassed the reign of Queen Victoria. Thus, she lately celebrates her Sapphire Jubilee on December 26th, 2016.

Besides all the British events during the Queen's reign, the world saw some other events starting with Tim Burners who invented the world Web Wide in 1989. While in 1990, Wilson Mandela was released from prison. Without forget the terrorist attack in the USA on September 11th, 2001. At the time the Queen marked her 53 years on the throne, Barak Obama was elected to become the first African American president of USA. A year later the world marked the loss of the famous American singer Michael Jackson.

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4. The Queen with the Longest Reign

At the age of 25 years old, Princess Elizabeth ascended the throne upon the death of her father King George VI to become the British Queen and Head state, while lately in September 2016. At the age of 90 years old, she exceeded her Great Great Grandmother Queen Victoria who reigned about 64 years, from 1837 till her death in 1901. Whereas in October 2016 she made history by becoming the longest living monarch in the world after the death of the Thailand's King Bhumibol Adjuly-Adeje.

4.1. Queen Victoria

Alexandrina Victoria the daughter of Prince Edward and Victoria of Saxe-Cobourg- Saalfeld, was born on May 24th, 1819 at Kensington Palace, House of Hanover. She was the only daughter of Edward Duke of Kent and the Granddaughter of King George III, while she is the Great Great Grandmother of the actual British Sovereign Queen Elizabeth II. Her father died on January 23rd, 1820, when she was only one year old and her mother kept her away from her Uncles till she reached the 18th years old, while she succeeded her Uncle King William IV (1830 – 1837) upon his death. She ascended the throne on June 20th, 1837, and she was crowned on June 28th, 1838 at Westminster Abbey.

At the time she ascended the chair of royalty, she counted on the advice of both the Prime Minister Lord Melbourne and her Uncle King Leopold of Belgium. Thence after she married her Cousin and the love of her life Albert son of Duke of Saxon-Cobourg Gotha in 1840, she relied on his advice. They had four sons including Edward VII and five daughters.

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During the Queen's Victoria period of reign, the British Empire was on its highest power, she ruled over 450 million people, the quarter of the world's population at that time, since The British Empire covered so far around the Globe, from Canada to the Caribbean, Africa, India, New Zealand and Australia. The Empire was known as the land that the sun never sets on. Moreover, during the Victorian era, Britain has seen boundless progress and immersion flourish in several areas such as politics, economics, literature, science and military. Besides that progress, the constitutional monarchy was an important factor contributing the development which allowed it to emerge in the political system with the Commonwealth. This stable authority had advanced the unparalleled achievement on politics, economy, and society.

Queen Victoria was the grandmother of Europe since her nine children were married to royal families across Europe. Likewise, her daughter Victoria was the mother of the German Kaiser Wilhelm II whom later was in battle during First World War against his cousin King George V the son of King Edward VII and the grandson of Queen Victoria. As well as his her granddaughter Alexandria who married Nicholas II the last emperor's Tzar of Russia.

By the death of Prince Albert in 1861st, out of Typhoid, The Widow Queen Victoria left the castle and the public life to fall in a mourning and grief in the Palmore Palace of Scotland and she wore Black for the rest of her life. That led to several assassination experiments.

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Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1887, while Royals from 14 monarchies visited London to attend the ceremony. Like so she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1897, in which Charles Bullock writes: "Queen Victoria has remained the central, the most prominent, and permanent figure gathering to her, as the years passed, more and more of the loyalty and affection of the people over whom she rules". [Bullock Charles. pp 16].⁶

The Queen made history. Hence she became the first longest British Monarch for she reigned about 63 years and 7 months. Besides all the development in every field during her dynasty, the democratic government had also increased and the living standards moved up. Thus Charlotte Yonge praises the loyalty of the queen in her book (The Victorian half century) she said:

"Maybe thankful that through this critical period, when every throne around us has been shaken and many overthrown, that we should have been blessed with a sovereign whose personal character commands not only loyalty but love and reverence whose heart beats for all is high and noble. Who sympathises with all suffering, guides all wholesome effort, and discourages all that is foul or cruel". (Charlotte Yonge, p 114).⁷

On January 28th, 1901 Queen Victoria died at Osborne, Isle of Wight at the age of 81 years 7 months and 29 days. She was buried at Frogmore, and was succeeded by her son Edward VII.

⁶Bullock, Charles, B.D. The Queen's Resolve: "I will be Good" and her "Doubly Royal" Reign: A Gift for "the Queen's Year". London: "Home Words" Publishing Office, 1897, p. 16

⁷ Yonge, Charlotte M. The Victorian Half Century: A Jubilee Book. London: MacMillan and co., 1887, p. 5.

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5. Conclusion

This chapter aims to give an overview of the historical background of Queen Elizabeth II, whence defined the birth of the Windsor house in which the British sovereign shows his loyalty to his people and nation during the war with Germany. Furthermore, it deals too with the Windsor's monarchs; King George V who changed the royal family's name, Edward VIII who abdicated from the throne to marry a divorced woman, and George VI the monarch who was admired because of his sense of duty and loyalty, and the father of the actual monarch Queen Elizabeth II who is ruling Britain for 65 years with such political, social and royal movements.

Also moving to the Victorian dynasty of the longest reign in the British History, and the greatest period of stability and progress that the British monarchy had ever known until the Queen's Elizabeth II era, when she exceeded the reign of her Great Grandmother Queen Victoria in 2017, and she became the longest sovereign in the British history, and the oldest monarch in the world, through more than five decades of enormous social changes and developments.

CHAPTER TWO:

THE SYMBOLISM

OF QUEEN

ELIZABETH II.

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CHAPTER TWO: THE SYMBOLISM OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

2.1. Introduction

Although Britain is a Monarchy but the Monarch does not rule, she only reigns. Otherwise, Elizabeth II is the Queen of the United Kingdom and the Head of state and 16 Commonwealth nations, but in Politics she is neutral, since Britain is a Constitutional Monarchy whereas the Sovereign reigns but does not have the authority to rule.

Moreover, the Constitutional Monarchy is a monarchy whose Monarch is the Head of State while the Parliament is a legislative organ with the upper Chamber of Lords and the lower one of Commons, which selects the governor of the nation and from one of the political parties. It makes laws. In addition to that, unlike the most of the World's nations, Britain has an unwritten constitution; i.e, each field has its own laws but it is not limited and confined in a single record.

For more explanation, this chapter aims to show the symbolism of the British Sovereign, by dealing first with the British Political System, in which there are two Houses, and many parties which belongs to the Parliament. Hence the role the Queen and her Prerogatives, and since she is neutral in politics so who rule the country? And since the Queen is just a symbol for that she cannot rule her nation, so why do they keep her on the throne?

CHAPTER TWO: THE SYMBOLISM OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

2.2. British Political system

Britain is a Constitutional Monarchy with Elizabeth II as a Head of the state, but she does not rule her country. She only reigns with the support of the Parliament and the advice of Ministers. While the authority to govern is done by the Prime Minister, who is elected after the General election of the Parliament by people, and was appointed by the Queen. Otherwise, the leader of the party that secures the most seats in the House of Commons automatically becomes prime Minister.

So, the British government is formed by the Party which has the majority in Parliament and the Queen appoints its leader as Prime Minister.¹

2.3. The British Parliament

The Parliament is the highest legislative authority in Britain; which makes laws, gives the authority to for the government and controls its activities. In addition to that, it gives the expert for the legislature to raise and to invest money.

The official residence of Parliament is the Westminster Palace, which is known as the House of Parliament. It consists of two chambers, which are the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

Only the Parliament can make new laws or change the subsisting ones that affect the whole of the Kingdom by the regime and by individual members of the parliament. These proposals are named Bills. That must be passed in the same Parliamentary session and by which they are introduced. Thus, only a small number of them are successful, and most of them are Public others are either Private or Hybrid types. Moreover, the Public Bills Change the law as it applies to the general and are the most common types of Bills introducing in Parliament.

¹ <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/>
<https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/relations-with-other-institutions/parliament-government/>

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While the Private Bills can change the laws as it applies specific individuals and organizations. They are promoted from time to time by local authorities and private companies to have powers in front the conflict with the general law. Hence the Hybrid Bills is a mixture of both Public and Private Bills and its changes affect both the General Public and the Private interest.

So the Private and the Hybrid Bills can be carried from one session to another and can take several years to be completed unlike the Public Bills which require a special motion to be passed by the House of Commons if they are to be allowed much time.

So the Parliament is formed by the House of Commons, House of Lords and the Queen. Thus, the government is made up of approximately 100 members of seats in the House of Commons after a General Election. Along with the Parliament which is the supreme authority in British monarchy is made up of 1400 elected and unelected members with the Queen, it also has the ability to limit the activities of the activities of the government and prevent it from becoming too dominant.²

2.4. The British Houses

The British Monarchy has only two Houses, with the Monarchs it form the Parliament.

2.4.1. House of Lords

The House of Lords is the Upper chamber of the British Parliament. Otherwise, it is the second chamber of Parliament, and it has an important role in making laws and checking the government.

² -An Introduction to the Parliament. Parliamentary educational service. Pp 01
-<http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/relations-with-other-institutions/parliament-government/>
- House of Commons- Making Laws. A Brief Guide. (WWW.parliament.UK)
-Spotlight on Britain. Second edition. By Susan Sheering, Jonathan Seath & Gillian White.Pp5. Oxford university press.1985-1990

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For over a hundred of years it plays an important role in the Kingdom. Its origins dates back to the 14th century and it continues to change and develop.

The House of Lords has the authority to make laws and devotes two-thirds of its time to revising and amending legislation. Also, it checks on the activities of the government, and it provides independent and wide ranging expertise of its members and through its committees which gain an international respect in several topics. Also, the House of Lords carries out the judicial work since it is the highest court of appeal in the Kingdom.

The Lord's members come from many places with their experiences and wide knowledge for different occupations. They work on behalf of the British people contributing their judgments and past experiences to work of the House of Lords.

So the House of Lords completes the work of the House of Commons and shares the responsibility for the new laws and controls the activities of the government and brings the breath of experiences of its members to bear on the issues affecting the British Public. While the Commons alone is responsible for making decision on financial Bills, such as proposed new taxes and the Lords can consider these Bills but cannot block or even amend them. So the Bills pass through both Houses, but a House can propose the amendment to a Bill before it gains the royal assent.³

2.4.2. The House of Commons

The House of Commons is a popularly elected legislative Body of the British Parliament. It is the Lower chamber of Parliament, and thus it is predominant over the House of Lords. The Parliament is often used to refer to the Commons House.

³ -House of Lords- Briefing. Role and Working (www.parliament.uk/lords)

- Political Studies association. House of Lords Reform. A briefing paper by Dr Alan Renwick (www.psa.ca.uk)

-House of Lords. Parliament Educational services. Parliament explained 6 Spotlight on Britain. Second edition. By Susan Sheering, Jonathan Seath & Gillian White.Pp5. Oxford university press.1985-1990

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Its origins date from the second half of the 13th century. It consists of 646 Member of Parliament who are democratically elected by vote; each member represents areas into which the Kingdom is divided in order to represent the citizens' interest and concerns. Otherwise, it is a democratically elected chamber that debates important matters and decisions, mainly the Commons focuses on passing laws and providing the means of carrying on the work of government. In addition, it secures the government policy and administration including proposals for expenditure and it debates the major issues of the day.

The House of Commons makes decisions about things that affect the British government, such as the environment, the social services like transport, health, job and schools. So that the government is enable to change laws or renew taxes until they are approval by the Commons, while the Members of Parliament in the Commons work on behalf of the people in order to check that the government is run properly and the public money is spent wisely.

There are general elections every year so that the voters decide who should represent them in the Parliament, since although the House of Commons is the Lower chamber but it is the one with the most authority.⁴

2. 5. British Political Parties

The British Political Parties are a special form of a social organization. Only the Parties insure that the citizens are permanently able to act politically. They integrate different interests and opinions. Also, they are the origin of the requirement of the political elites. The parties always are in competition for influence and power to enforce political vision to organize a society.

⁴ - Spotlight on Britain. Second edition. By Susan Sheering, Jonathan Seath & Gillian White.Pp5. Oxford university press.1985-1990

- House of Commons. Parliament Educational services. Parliament explained 2.

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The scientist Anton Downs said in his economic theory of democracy: “A political Party is a team of men seeking to control the governing apparatus by gaining office in a duly constitute election.” (1957, pp25)⁵

Each Political Party has its methods and ways but they all participate in elections to gain offices and mandates.

The party which gains more seats, its leader becomes the British Prime Minister. Also, Britain has about 12 ,which are Conservative Party, Co-operative Party, Democratic Unionist Party, Green Party, Labor Party, Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru, Scottish National Party, Sinn Féin ,Social Democratic and Labor Party, UK Independence Party, Ulster Unionist Party.⁶

But the most well known, powerful and the major ones and who had ruled Britain since years are the Conservative and the Labour Parties.

2.5.1. The Conservative Party

It is the centre right party called the Tories It was led by David Cameron from 2010 to 2015. Then, Theresa Mary since 2015 till nowadays. It is the only party with a proven economic records and low taxes and with a balanced budget plan for the future. It was well known since 1830 as the Tory party, and it is the oldest political party in the world. Its origins date to the 17th century. At that time they were often called the royalists, while public called them “persons inimical to the liberties of America”, these Tories were opposed by the patriots who supported the revolution during the British war with America.

⁵ - Anton Downs, Economic Theory of Democracy, New York. Harper and Brothers. 1957. pp 25 ./
- Political Parties .Function about organisation in democratic Societies. Wilhelm Hofmeister & Karsten Grabow. PP 11.

⁶ <http://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/parties/>

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During the ruling dynasty of Queen Elizabeth II, many Conservative leaders governed Britain, starting by Sir Winston Churchill from 1940 to 1945, and again from 1951 till 1955. Then, he was preceded by Sir Anthony Eden from 1955 to 1957, followed by Harold MacMillan from 1957 to 1963, and Sir Alec Douglas Home from 1963 to 1964, and Sir Edward Heath from 1970 to 1974.

During the 70's, the party's leader Baroness Margaret Thatcher was elected as the British Prime Minister from 1979 to 1990, and was the first woman as the party's leader and the first woman Prime Minister in British history. She has also the longest governing era. Then, she was preceded by Sir John Major from 1990 to 1997.⁷

2.5.2 The Labor Party

The Labor Party is the centre left party, which was last in government from 1997 to 2010. But unlike other British parties, it was not created by people; it was set up by the trade unions in order to act with the interest of those unions. For its early days, it made no claim to be a socialist party for the fact that it has never been a socialist party.

It was officially formed in 1906, but its roots date back to the 1860's since the creation of the first trade union in Britain. For that, Britain was a capitalist nation. Its purpose is to organize and maintain Parliament. It takes the responsibility to give effect as far as practicable to the principles which are approved by the party's conference.

⁷ - Spotlight on Britain. Second edition. By Susan Sheering, Jonathan Seath & Gillian White. Pp6. Oxford university press. 1985-1990

- The Conservative Party and Thatcherism, 1970-1979:- A Grass-Roots Perspective- By Daniel Anthony Cowdrill B.A (Hons) M.Phil- A thesis submitted to The University of Birmingham for the degree of Master of Philosophy.

-<https://www.gov.uk/government/history/past-prime-ministers>.

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So the Labor Party is a political party which adopts the ideology of democratic socialism and social democracy. Harold Wilson was the first Labor leader who became Prime Minister during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. He was elected in 1974, and then he was followed by another Labor leader James Callaghan from 1976 to 1979. Later, the Labor Leader Tony Blair was elected to govern from 1997 to 2007, and he was replaced by Gordon Brown from 2007 to 2010. Thus, he was the last Labor governor till nowadays.⁸

2.6. The Symbolism of Queen Elizabeth II

Despite the fact that Queen Elizabeth II is the British Head of State and the Head of the Commonwealth, her roles are limited even her speeches are written for her. Thus, she can only replace simple words, but she has specific rights as prerogatives. Otherwise, the British Monarch is politically neutral, she cannot govern her nation but she has such symbolic roles and prerogatives that lead her to stay on throne and cannot be removed from it.

2.6.1. Roles of Queen Elizabeth II

The British Monarch has some extensive, stressful and time consuming roles. Thus, her responsibilities are not composed of travels and investitures, but she controls the army, makes political appointments, calls and dissolves the House of Commons whenever she wants, and she has all the highest offices of the state in her gift. She also controls the Church.

⁸ - Spotlight on Britain. Second edition. By Susan Sheering, Jonathan Seath & Gillian White. Pp6. Oxford university press. 1985-1990
-<https://www.gov.uk/government/history/past-prime-ministers>

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The Sovereign performs several roles, since her powers are largely ceremonial. For instance; she opens and dissolves Parliament as well as approves and agrees Bills of the Parliament to become laws. She even appoints the Prime Minister and members of the House of Lords.

In addition to that, she is not only the Head of State, but the Head of the whole Nation, whereas her role is a little bit complex concerning the constitution, since she is inactive and neutral in politics, but her roles are not limited to her active duties in government.

So her executive powers are limited by constitutional laws, but she is the Queen of 16 British colonies, while she focuses on national unities and represents Britain in ceremonial occasions.

The Political powers are reserved for the elected Parliament and the Prime Minister. Thus, the Monarch focuses on national identity and gives sense to stability and continuity, and she supports the ideal of voluntary service. She also opens the Parliament every 5 years, signs off all laws and services and pardons the criminals and declares war.

Even though she is not meant by governing the nation, but she has some tasks that she must complete. She visits British states and makes tours to the world's nations and invites their leaders to visit the Kingdom. As the Head of the English Church, this role had been held to the British monarch since King Henry VIII in 1530's, so she appoints the Archbishops and Bishops on the advice of the Prime Minister in consideration.⁹

⁹ <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/topic/Queen-Elizabeth-II>

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2.6.2. The Queen's Prerogatives

The Monarch's prerogatives are such numbers of powers and privileges that are controlled by the Queen as a part of the British constitution. Moreover the prerogatives are characterized as rights held only by the Queen, she has the right to be consulted, to encourage and to warn, which means the protection democracy in the nation, and these are very simple rights while the most important rights are characterized in many fields which are:

2.6.2.1. Political Prerogatives

The Monarch's political rights are in great extent and affectively utilized by the monarch. For instance, like the General Elections or in accessible time of emergency, and some are utilized by the Prime Minister for practically when requires.

The Queen has the power to suspend the parliament and that would happen at the end of the Parliamentary session. She has also the right to call it back after attending the State Opening of the Parliament. Besides, she has the right and responsibility throughout the royal assent, which means that the Sovereign gives consent to Bills from Parliament marking them into laws, while in principles the Monarch could choose to refuse assents but Queen Elizabeth II never did so, since the last monarch who refused the Assents was Queen Ann in 1708.

In addition to that, the Queen has the power for the secondary legislation. For that, she can make requests in gathering and letters that manage parts to do with the crown, such as priority titles and orders of gathering which are frequently used by Ministers to bring acts of parliament into laws.

Other responsibilities include, she has an important power to appoint or to remove Ministers of the Parliament, and appoints the Prime Minister.

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Thus it is her responsibility after the General Elections, while after this general race she delegates the competitors who are going probably to have the most support in the House of Commons, but in case of abdication the Queen should listen to the advices of who should be designated as the successor.

Furthermore, Queen Elizabeth II has the power to declare war against other nations and stops it. More than that, she is free from the civil action and she is above the laws that are applied by everyone else and cannot be arranged.

Besides the political powers, the Queen has only one single judicial power, which is the Royal Pardon that was initially used to retract death sentences against the wrongly and now it is used in right blunder in sentences.

2.6.2.2. The Armed forces

The British Monarch has prerogatives in Military forces that are used on the advice of the commanders and Parliament. However, few capacities are held by the Queen. Thus she is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces while all the members swear an oath of dependability to the Monarch as soon as they join and become her militaries, including the commissioning of officers and removing them. Besides, she has the power to dispose the forces because the dispositions and associations of the armed Forces are a piece of the Royal rights, so that the Queen controls how the Armed Forces are used.

Along with the prerogatives added to the political and the Armed Forces powers, Queen Elizabeth II has the Honor's power. This is the main power of the Queen as all distinctions get from the Crown, the Monarch has the last say on knighthoods, peerages and the forth, and only she who can create orders of knighthood and grant any citizen Honors.

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Moreover, she has the authority to create peerages for any person either a simple peerage or hereditary, thus for decades all the peerages were derived from the royal Family.

Also, she has the authority to stem passports and requisition of ships.¹⁰

2.7. Conclusion

So it is obvious that Britain is a constitutional Monarchy and its Sovereign is symbolic and the ruling power is for the Parliament as the highest authority, and the governing power is for the Prime Minister who is already one of the British Parties, but for decades and especially the dynasty of Queen Elizabeth II only the Labors and Conservatives were the major parties that are in a competence upon the Government, since from 1952, all the British Prime Ministers are either Conservatives or Labors.

Hence, although Britain is a Monarchy but it is a democratic nation where the public choose their leader who presents them and provide their requirement by the voting election. In addition to that, although The Monarch is neutral politically, but she has an important role in the Government that she gains respect and cannot be removed from throne. So as a monarchy does not mean the absence of democracy, but each one plays an important role in the British Nation.

¹⁰ The Governance of Britain. Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor by Command of Her Majesty- July 2007

-The Governance of Britain- Review of the Executive Royal Prerogative Powers: Final Report

- Royal Prerogatives- Lucinda Maer and Oonagh Gay- Parliament and Constitution Centre- December 30th, 2009.

General Conclusion

The British Kingdom is the monarchy on which the sun never sets. It is too one of the oldest monarchies in the world and it still exists. But unlike the other monarchies where the Monarch has all the powers and authorities to rule and make laws, the British Monarch has not such powers, since Britain is a Constitutional Monarchy, where the Sovereign is politically neutral and has no authority to rule the Kingdom.

So, although Queen Elizabeth II has the longest reign in the British history, but she has never made a law or gave decisions by her own. For that, she can only reign but cannot rule. So, why is she still on throne? Otherwise, why Britain is still a monarchy and not a republic?

It was hypothesized that the British Queen is still on throne without the ruling power, because she is a respected symbol in Britain, and one of the British signs. Thus, she has symbolic roles, and they keep her to strike the balance and avoid political revolutions. The present research is divided into chapters. The first chapter is devoted to the historical background of the British Monarch. Since, the second chapter is the discussion of her symbolism.

To tackle effectively the research problem, only one research instrument was used which is data collection from articles, books and web sites. Therefore the results revealed that the governing authority is led to the Parliament which is composed by the Queen, House of Lords and House of Common. While the British citizens choose the members of the Parliament to represent them and express their needs, this can be only by the election vote for the Prime Minister to govern the nation. So the British people have a role in the government by which they choose their leader.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

Hence, the Queen Elizabeth II is not just a symbol, but even she has some prerogatives. Thus, the laws cannot be done till she agrees, even though, she has the authority to appoint the Prime Minister. In addition to that, she is not only the Head of the British State, but also the Head of the nation, Head of the Commonwealth and the Head of the British Church. Also, she opens the Parliament every day, and celebrates ceremonies on her honor each year. Besides all these authorities, she even rules the Armed forces, declares war and stops it, she controls passports, she pays taxes and she owns lands. And the most important one is that she gains the respect of her public. So the collected data confirmed the hypothesis.

To conclude, although Britain is a Monarchy, but also a democratic nation, it allows its people to show their voices and choose their leader. But is it possible that after the death of Elizabeth II, Britain would become a republic? Or it will keep the Monarchy's system? So what would happen? Time will tell.

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