

The monarchy

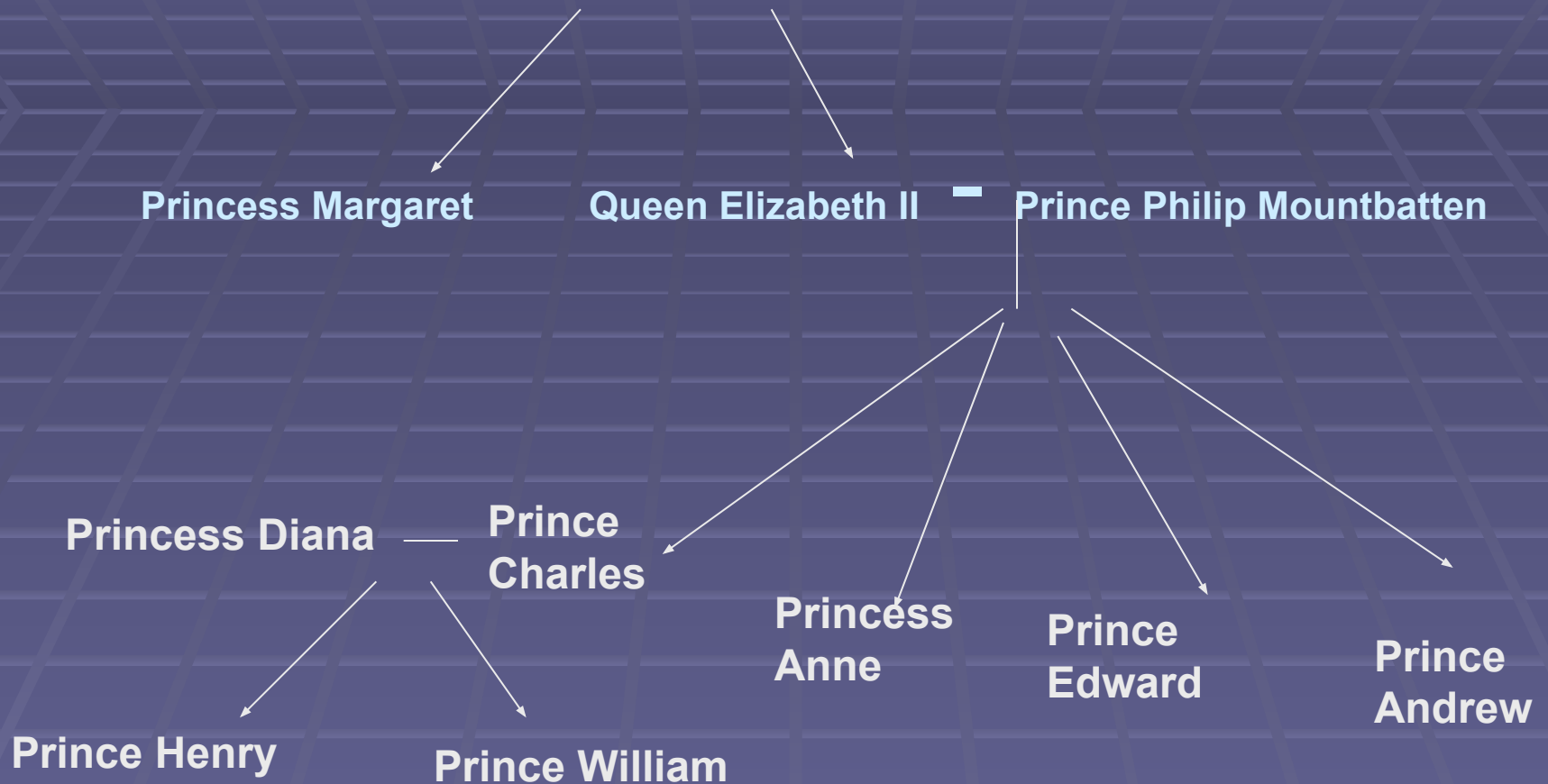


The appearance



The position of the monarch in Britain is a perfect illustration of the contradictory nature of the constitution. From the evidence of written law only, the Queen has almost absolute power, and it all seems very undemocratic. The American constitution talks about 'government of the people for the people by the people'. There is no law in Britain which says anything like that. In fact, there is no legal concept of 'the people' at all.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother - King George VI





Elizabeth the Queen Mother

died at the age of 101 in 2002, the year of the present Queen's Golden Jubilee. Her tours of bombed areas of London during the Second World War with her husband, King George VI, made her popular with the British people. She remained the most consistently popular member of the royal family until her death.



Queen Elizabeth II

was born in 1926 and became Queen in 1952 on the death of her father, George VI, who had reigned since 1936 (when his elder brother, Edward VIII, gave up the throne) She is one of the longest-reigning monarchs in British history She is widely respected for the way in which she performs her duties and is generally popular



Princess Diana

married Prince Charles in 1981 The couple separated in 1992 and later divorced Princess Diana died as the result of a car accident in 1997 She was a glamorous and popular figure during her lifetime



Prince Charles

Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, was born in 1948 As the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, he is heir to the throne He is concerned about the environment and about living conditions in Britain's cities

He sometimes makes speeches which are critical of aspects of modern life



**Princess Margaret, the
Queen's
younger sister, died in 2002**



Prince William (born 1982) and **Prince Henry** (born 1984) are the sons of Charles and Diana. William is next in line to the throne after his father.



Princess Anne

Princess Anne, the Queen's daughter (also known as the Princess Royal), was born in 1950. She separated from her husband after they had one son and one daughter. She married again in 1992. She is widely respected for her charity work, which she does in a spirit of realism.



Prince Edward

Prince Edward, the Queen's youngest son was born in 1964. He is involved in theatrical production. He married Sophie Rhys Jones in 1999. He and his wife are the Duke and Duchess of Wessex.



Prince Andrew

Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, was born in 1960 and is the Queen's second son. He is divorced from his wife, Sarah Ferguson (who is known to the popular press as 'Fergie'). They have two daughters.