



The United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

The National Anthem of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

O lord God arise,
Scatter our enemies,
And make them fall!
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On Thee our hopes we fix,
God save us all!



Thy choicest gifts in store,
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign!
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen!

From every latent foe,
From the assassins blow,
God save the Queen!
O'er her thine arm extend,
For Britain's sake defend,
Our mother, prince, and friend,
God save the Queen!

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II.



Official Portrait of The Queen

The political System of the UK

The UK is a constitutional monarchy. This means that it has a monarch (a king or a queen) as its Head of State. The monarch has very little power and can only reign with the support of Parliament.

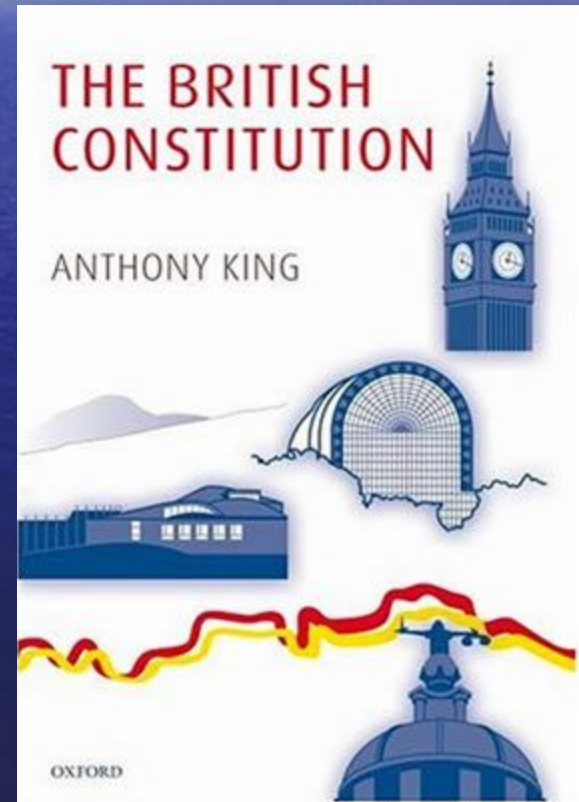


"SHE REIGNS, BUT
DOESN'T RULE"



The political System of the UK

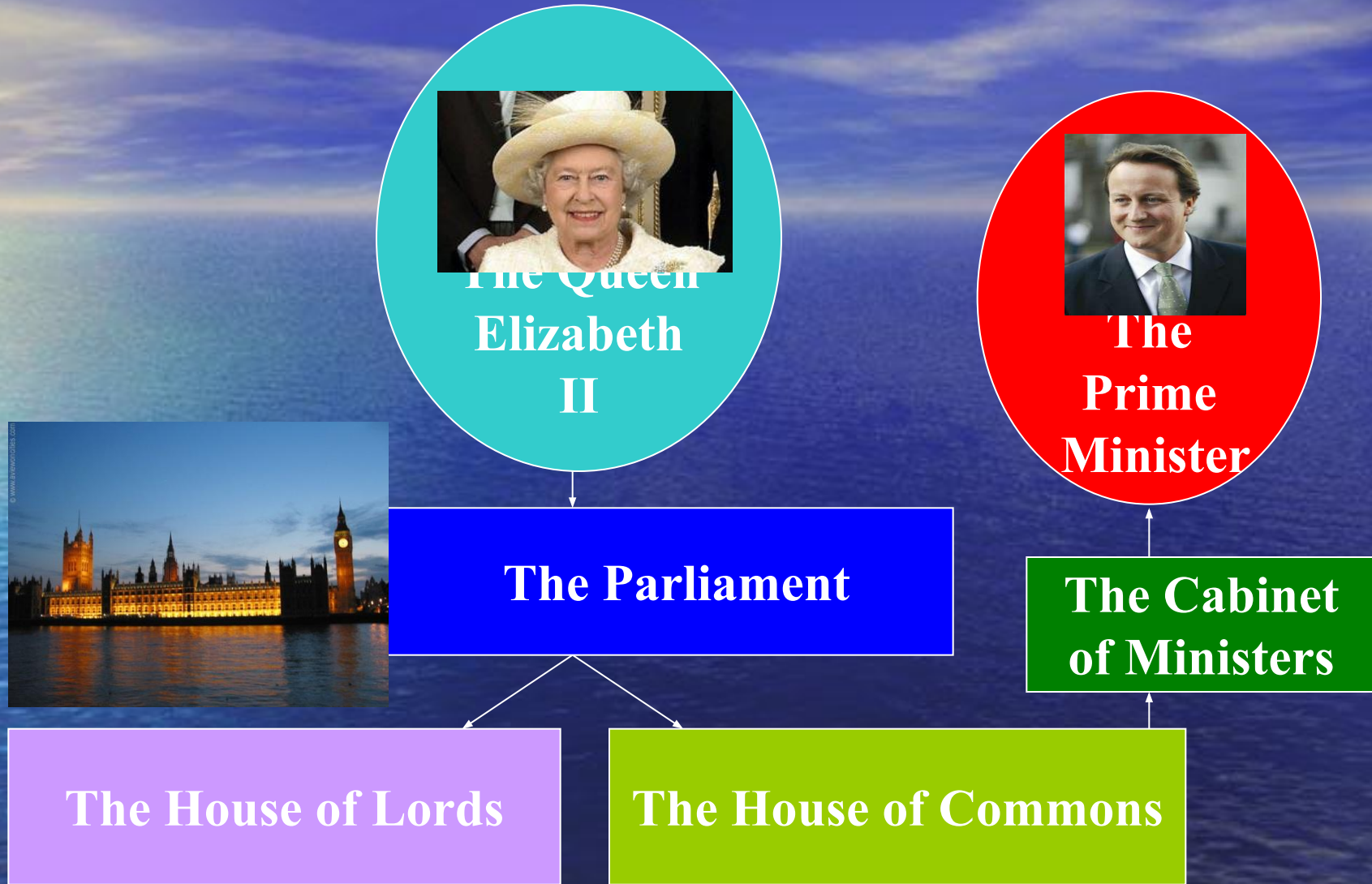
Britain does not have a single document that can be treated as a constitution. That's why they say there is no written constitution in the country. The term "British Constitution" means the leading principles, conventions and laws that are expressed in some documents.



The political System of the UK

The British parliament is one of the oldest representative assemblies in the world. Parliamentary government in the United Kingdom is based on a two-chamber system. The House of Lords (the upper House) and the House of Commons (the lower House) sit separately and are constituted on entirely different principles. The legislative process involves both Houses.

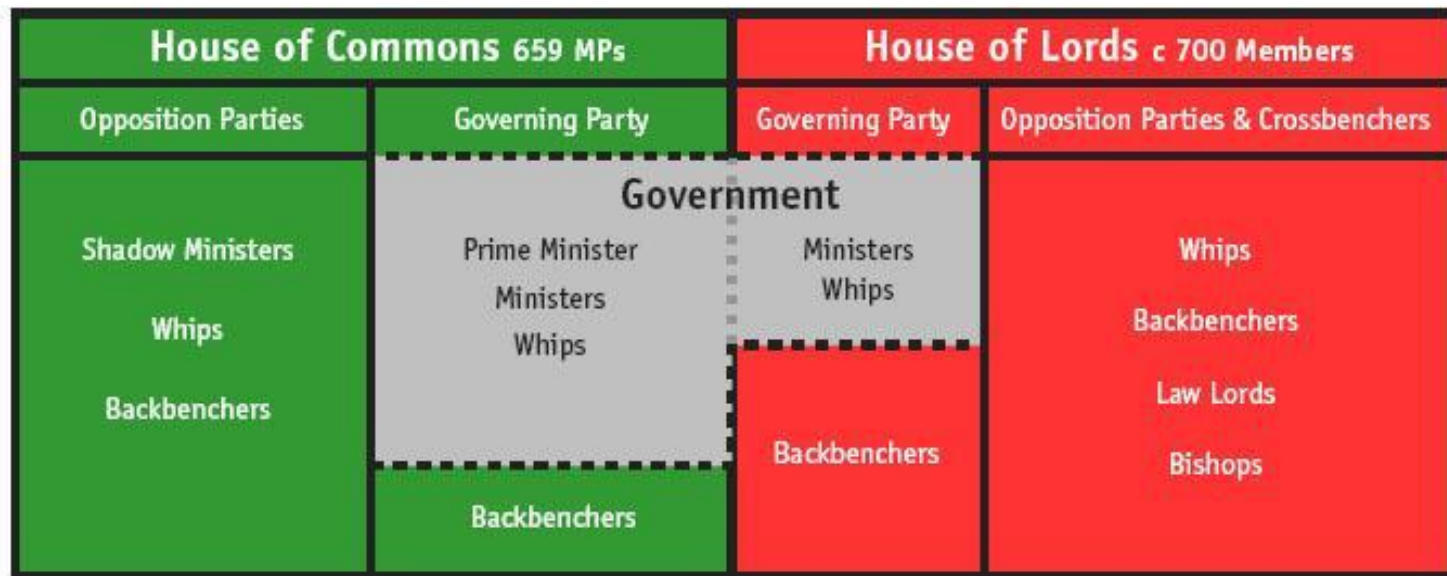
The Constitutional Monarchy



The British Parliament is one of the oldest representative assemblies in the world. Parliamentary government in the UK is based on a two-chamber system.



Parliament

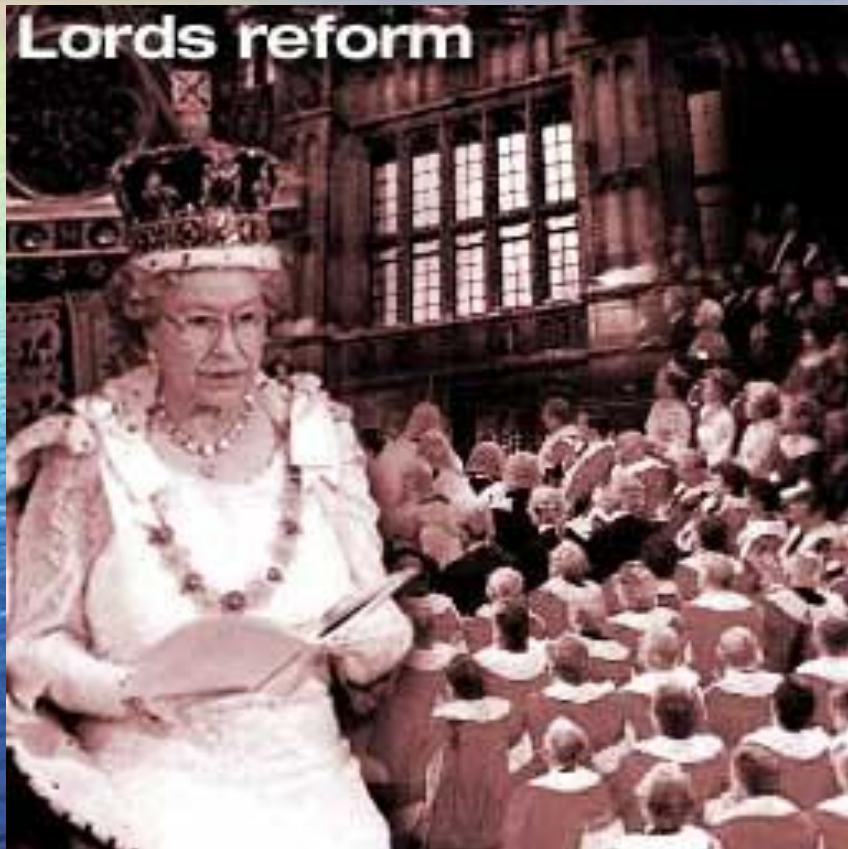


The main functions of the Parliament are to:

- examine proposals for new laws;
- provide the means of carrying on the work of government;
- scrutinize government policy and administration;
- debate the major issues of the day.

Parliament has a maximum duration of five years. At any time up to the end of this period, a general election can be held for a new House of Commons.

The House of Lords



The House of Lords

The House of Lords is the second chamber of the U.K. Houses of Parliament. Members of the House of Lords known as “peers”) consist of Lords Spiritual and Lords Temporal. Law Lords (senior judges) also sit as Lords Temporal. Originally, they were drawn from the various groups of senior and influential nobility in Britain, who advised the monarch throughout the country’s early history. Following the House of Lords Act 1999 there are only 92 peers who sit by virtue hereditary peerage. The majority of members are now life peers. There are 675 peers in total in 2001.

The House of Lords

In general, the functions of the House of Lords are similar to those of the House of Commons. All bills go through both Houses before becoming Acts, and may start in either House. The House of Lords is also the final Court of Appeal for civil cases and for criminal cases in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Speaker of the House of Lords is the Lord Chancellor.



The Lord Chancellor sits on a special seat called the **Woolsack.** It was introduced by King Edward III (1327-1377) and originally stuffed with English wool as a reminder of England's traditional source of wealth – the wool trade – and as a sign of prosperity. Today the Woolsack is stuffed with wool from several countries of the Commonwealth, to symbolize unity.



HAND SHEAR MAKERS SINCE 1750

PLASTIC CUPS

WELSH SUND

Lab during investigations with 280
computer | vector printing | at 430

GRAIN
WESTERS

The House of Commons



The House of Commons

The House of Commons is the centre of parliamentary power. It is directly responsible to the electorate, and in the 20th century the House of Lords has recognized the supremacy of the elected chamber. It is the main parliamentary arena for the political battle. Because the House of Commons is elected, unlike the Lords, a party that wins the majority of Commons seats in a general election is called on to form the next government.

House of Commons

646 democratically elected members. (MP) (Members of Parliament)

Each one represents a small area of the UK called “Constituency”.

“Constituency” means district electoral or circunscripción.



General elections are held at least every five years. Not all Parliaments run for the whole five years, and a general election may be held before this period is up. In between general elections, by-elections are held as necessary to elect a new Member of Parliament. MPs are paid a basic annual salary of £49,822 (from 1 April 2001).



How to become UK Prime Minister?






Who can be an UK Prime Minister?

The leader of the
political party with the
most M.P. becomes
UK Prime Minister.

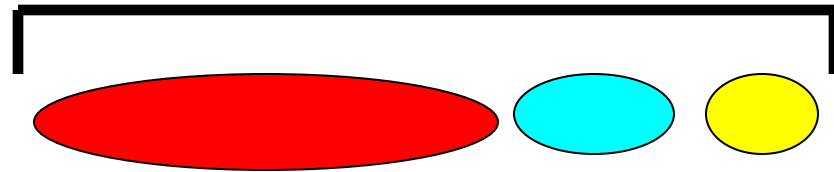


What is “Majority”?

When a party has more M.P. than all the other parties put together, it has got Majority. Example:

-  Labour party
-  Conservative party
-  Liberal Democrats party

Members of Parliament



Labour Party has won by a Majority.

The UK Prime Minister David Cameron



The Cabinet of Ministers

- The leader of the winning party in elections automatically becomes Prime Minister and has the right to appoint his Government, called the Cabinet
- The Cabinet includes a selection of MPs
- It works as a team and is collectively responsible for its decisions
- The Cabinet is responsible to Parliament
- The most important ministers are Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary



The life of a parliament



The life of a Parliament is divided into sessions. Each usually lasts for one year – normally ending in October or November. There is also a long summer break (“recess”), usually starting in late July and finishing in October.



The British democratic system depends on political parties. The political parties choose candidates in elections. There are sometimes independent candidates, but they are rarely elected. The party which wins the majority of seats forms the Government and its leader usually becomes Prime Minister. The largest majority becomes the Opposition. The Prime Minister chooses about twenty MPs from his or her party to become Cabinet Ministers. Each minister is responsible for a particular area of government, and for a Civil service department.

Political parties:



Political parties

The Labour Party

- Roots in the 19th c
- Supported by less-wealthy groups of society
- Re-elected in 2007

The Conservative Party

- Dates back to the 18th c.
- Mainly supported by wealthier people
- Has lost its popularity since the 1980s

The Liberal Democratic Party

- Third largest party
- Pro-Europe
- Their politics are somewhere between the Labour and Conservative parties



Labour



Political position:
centre left.

Social democracy

Democratic
socialism

Progressivism

Ed Miliband is the
leader of the Labour
party.

Red is the official
colour.



Conservatives



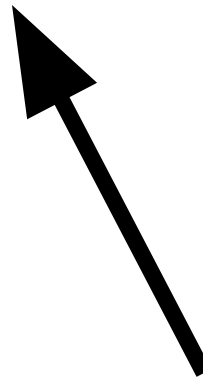
Political position:
centre right.

British Unionism

Conservatism

Blue is the official
colour.

The leader is David
Cameron.





Political position:
centre to centre left.

Liberalism.

Nick Clegg is the
leader.

Yellow is the official
colour.

Last U.K. Prime Ministers



Margaret Thatcher was the only woman who has served as UK Prime Minister.

She served from 1975 to 1990.

She is joined to the Conservative party.

She was called “Iron lady”

Last U.K. Prime Ministers



John Major had a consensual political style, not as Thatcher's manners.

He served as Prime Minister from 1990 to 1997.

He is joined to the Conservative party.

Last U.K. Prime Ministers



Tony Blair has been the youngest Prime Minister since 1812.

He was 43 years old when he served as Prime Minister from 1997 to 2007 .

He won three consecutive general elections.

He is joined to the Labour party.

Last U.K. Prime Ministers



Gordon Brown

He served as Prime Minister from 2007 to 2010 .

Before being a Member of Parliament he worked as a tv journalist.

He is joined to the Labour party.

Last U.K. Prime Ministers



David Cameron

He is serving as Prime Minister since may 2010.

He is 6 months younger than Tony Blair so he is the youngest Prime Minister.

He is joined to the Conservative party.

OUTSTANDING POLITICAL PERSONALITIES OF THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

- Sir Winston Churchill is considered to have been the most brilliant politician of the Conservative Party in the 20th century
- Prime Minister during most of WW II
- Led Britain successfully through the war
- Famous for his speeches in which he encouraged people to believe that they would eventually win





www.parliament.uk



The official website of

The British Monarchy