



The history of Windsor monarchy



People often ask whether members of the Royal Family have a surname, and, if so, what it is. Before 1917, members of the British Royal Family had no surname, but only the name of the house or dynasty to which they belonged. Kings and princes were historically known by the names of the countries over which they and their families ruled. Kings and queens therefore signed themselves by their first names only, a tradition in the United Kingdom which has continued to the present day.

List of Commonwealth realms monarchs

- **King Edward VII
from 22 January
1901 until 6
May 1910**

Relationship with
predecessor- son of
Queen Victoria and
Prince Albert of
Saxe-Coburg and
Gotha.



King George V from 6 May 1910 until 20 January 1936

- son of Edward VII. On his father's death in 1910, he succeeded as King-Emperor of the British Empire. He was the only Emperor of India to be present at his own Delhi Durbar. In 1917, he became the first monarch of the House of Windsor,



*King Edward VIII from 20 January 1936
until 11 December 1936*



- son of George V; Abdicated. King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India from 20 January 1936.

King George VI from 11 December 1936 until 6 February 1952

- son of George V & brother of abdicated Edward VIII. King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions from 11 December 1936 until his death.



Queen Elizabeth II *from 6 February 1952* *reigning*



daughter of George VI. head of state of 16 independent sovereign states known as the Commonwealth realms. In 2002, Elizabeth marked her Golden Jubilee as queen. Elizabeth plans to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee in 2012, marking 60 years as Queen. Elizabeth could become the longest-lived British head of state.





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