

Royal #THEÜBERSICHT

In Honor of King Charles III's Visit to Germany

Welcome, Your Majesty!



"All the time I feel I must justify my existence."

King Charles III

THE GERMAN CONNECTION

Hanover, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Battenberg – these names carry meaning in British history and embody the Royal Family's close ties to former ruling houses in Germany.

George I of Hanover becomes first German on English throne (also not much of an English speaker, apparently).

1714

"Georgie, Willy and Nicky" (George V, Wilhelm II, Nicholas II): Victoria's grandchildren (Nicholas II through his wife) connected through common German ancestry – go to war nonetheless.

1914

1840

Queen Victoria (herself partly German) marries German Prince Albert von Saxe-Coburg and Gotha – arguably **most popular "German" royal**, introduced Christmas trees to Britain.

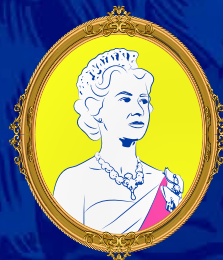
1917

World War I: King George V replaces German-sounding "Saxe-Coburg-Gotha" with "Windsor".

Though Charles III is part-German (through his father Philip Mountbatten), neither of his children have immediate German family.

TODAY

But we may have an Anglo-German queen yet: Karin Vogel, a therapist from Rostock, is a descendant of Sophia von Hanover and 4,973rd in line to the throne. A long shot, maybe.



In Memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II

With Charles, expect more politics. At the same time, asked if he would be a "meddling" king, **he replied:**

Charles has also called for a "slimmed-down" monarchy around a small group of royals rather than a long list of succession, which suggests future changes.

"Me, meddle as a king? I'm not that stupid"

CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE MONARCH

Constitutional monarchy: Monarch head of state, but ability to pass legislation resides with elected Parliament. Going back to the 1689 **Bill of Rights**, a monarch cannot pass laws without consent of Parliament. Today, the monarch gives formal consent to laws agreed in Parliament. "Crown-in-Parliament": supreme UK legislative authority.

Key Roles

- The king holds the sole authority to declare war. The last monarch to do so was George VI. In 1939; the last attempt to grant war-making powers to Parliament was rejected by Queen Elizabeth II in 1999 (on the advice of her government). **Commander-in-chief** of armed forces.
- Appoints Prime Minister and other ministers (and can dismiss them), opens parliamentary sessions (**King's/Queen's Speech**), undertakes state visits, gives royal assent to parliamentary bills and can dissolve Parliament. Issues **Orders in Council** (regulations made on advice of ministers), passports and royal pardons.
- Monarch constitutionally obligated to follow government advice resulting from modern limits on royal prerogative reaching back to the 1689 Bill of Rights. British Monarch head of "**Commonwealth of Nations**" and 14 other countries known as "**Realm**".

CHARLES III THE POLITICAL

"Prince Charles is an adornment to our public life, but that will cease to be charming if he attempts to behave the same way when he is king. That will present serious constitutional issues."
unnamed UK government official in 2022

By constitutional convention, the UK monarch is expected to be politically neutral → After all, the royal family's position requires the support of both main political parties.

Blast from the Past

THATCHER: Charles famously clashed with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher over social policies in the 1980s, and the Iron Lady was reportedly "a little suspicious of and irritated by Charles".

"BLACK SPIDER MEMOS"

In 2015, British media gained access to the so-called "**Black Spider Memos**" (named after Prince Charles' scrawling handwriting): a cache of memos and letters between Prince Charles and government ministers sent between 2004, seemingly undermining the royal family's political neutrality.

BORIS: Prince Charles was reported in June 2022 to have privately condemned Boris Johnson's asylum policy as "appalling".

Areas of Engagement

ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE CHANGE

- Vocal advocate of climate protection since his youth.
- 2008 address to European Parliament: "doomsday clock of climate change is ticking", calls for "biggest public, private and NGO partnership ever seen."
- Speaker at COP21, COP26 and 2021 G20 meeting in Rome.
- Launched **Sustainable Markets Initiative**, an effort to nudge businesses towards sustainable practices.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

- Founded **Prince's Trust** and **Prince's Foundation**, which support unemployed or struggling 11- to 30-year-olds.
- So-called micro-credits helped more than 50,000 disadvantaged youths start their own businesses.

UNITED KINGDOM MONARCHS

Fame

- Alfred the Great** (r.871 – 899)
Coined as the "Founder of England"; Started tradition of England being naval power
- William I / William the Conqueror** (r.1066 – 1087)
Brought French influence into English language
Responsible for building many castles
- Richard I / Richard the Lionheart** (r.1189 – 1199)
Conquered Cyprus for England
Enabled Christian pilgrims access to Jerusalem

Pain

- Mary I / Mary Tudor** (r.1553 – 1558)
Burned at least 280 Protestants at the stake
Almost undid the English Reformation
- Charles I** (r.1625 – 1649)
Only English monarch to have head chopped off
Plunged country into civil war
- Henry VIII** (r.1509 – 1547)
Beheaded women for not giving him a son
About as egotistical as a ruler can possibly be

FUN FACTS & FIGURES

Queen Elizabeth II is the most-travelled monarch in history, visiting over 120 countries on six continents.

Queen Elizabeth II served in WWII as a driver and mechanic.

British monarchs do not require passports.

Longest reign: Elizabeth II (70 years); Shortest reign: Lady Jane Grey (9 days).

Queen Elizabeth II worked with 15 British Prime Ministers, from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss, and personally met every US President from Dwight D. Eisenhower to Joe Biden (except Lyndon Johnson).

Elizabeth II owned over 30 Corgis throughout her life and invented the "Dorgi" (Dachshund + Corgi).

Going back to 12th century tradition, Charles III inherited all swans, dolphins and sturgeons in British waters (Crown even employs official Swan Keeper).

Royal Family's net worth is estimated at \$28 billion.

King Charles III is the oldest British monarch to succeed to the throne (at 73), followed by William IV (64) in 1830.