

Britain today

The plan:

1. Edward VIII - the only British king to abdicate.
2. King George VI.
3. Britain in the World War II. Sir Winston Churchill.
4. The post-war years.
5. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
6. The heirs to the British throne.

1. Edward VIII (from 20 January 1936 until 11 December 1936) - the only British king to abdicate



- ✓ the eldest son of George V and Queen Mary
- ✓ is famous as the king who gave up his throne for love
- ✓ was called Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David; preferred the name David
- ✓ went to the army during WWI, wasn't allowed to fight
- ✓ after the war Edward lived the glamorous life, liked everything modern, learnt to fly an aeroplane, wore the most fashionable clothes
- ✓ was good-looking, full of charm, sociable and young, seemed to represent a new direction for the monarchy
- ✓ However he lacked steadiness, strength of will, sense of duty, he easily moved to emotion

- ✓ was introduced to a young American woman **Wallis Simpson**
- ✓ In January 1936, George V died, and the Prince of Wales became king Edward VIII, wanted Wallis to become his queen
- ✓ the establishment thought that a royal marriage to a twice-divorced American was unconstitutional, besides Edward was Supreme Governor of the Church of England
- ✓ On 10 December 1936, signed the *instrument of abdication* - a document in which he gave up the throne and renounced any claim to the throne on the part of any of his future heirs
- ✓ made his famous broadcast to the nation having said "*I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as king as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love.*"



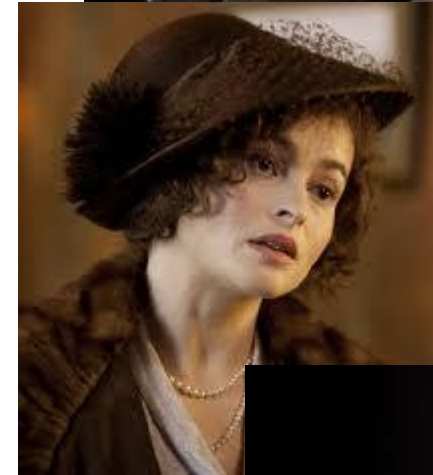
2. George VI (1936-1952)



- ✓ was ill-prepared for the job, deeply disliked appearing in public as he had a speech impediment
 - ✓ had a strong sense of duty
 - ✓ became one of the most popular monarchs in British history
 - ✓ was christened Albert Frederick Arthur George. At home, was known as Albert or Bertie
 - ✓ was brought up by a nanny who treated him cruelly
 - ✓ had digestive problems and knock-knees. His legs were fitted with splints every night
 - ✓ was forced to write with his right hand (was a left-handed child)
- ✓ headed for a career in the Royal Navy, due to his illness transferred to the Royal Air Service and learned to fly



- ✓ In 1923 married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon
- ✓ Elizabeth was born in England, was the daughter of Scottish aristocrats descendants of Robert Bruce



Colin Firth as King George VI, Helena Bonham Carter as Elizabeth in "The King's Speech" (2010)



- ✓ The lady rejected the proposal twice, hesitated for the 2 years, did not want to become a member of the royal family as it demanded a lot of sacrifices

- ✓ Elizabeth was outgoing, cheerful and energetic, that made her an ideal partner for the prince, helped him through the difficulties of public appearances and the horrors of speech-making

3. Britain in the World War II.

Sir Winston Churchill

In 1933, **Adolf Hitler**, the leader of the Nazi party, was appointed Chancellor of Germany.

In the 1930s German control spread over Europe.

Prime Minister **Neville Chamberlain** attempted to secure peace and avoid war at all costs.

The war broke out between Britain and Germany in **1939**.

Neville Chamberlain had resigned as Prime Minister. His replacement was **Winston Churchill**.



- ✓ **Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill** (1874-1965) - PM of GB from 1940-1945 and 1951-1955
- ✓ was born in a famous family, his descendants were politicians, statesmen, noblemen
- ✓ at school had very poor results, was often punished
- ✓ became a fencing champion at Harrow School
- ✓ married Clementine Hozier. They had four children
- ✓ took part in the Boer War and WWI
- ✓ joined the Conservative Party
- ✓ in 1940 Winston Churchill became a PM
- ✓ During the war years travelled endlessly in search of allies, refused to capitulate, remained a strong opponent to any negotiations with Germany.

- ✓ had a speech impediment: was unable to pronounce [s], turned a problem into the advantage
- ✓ during the 1945 elections was defeated by the Labour Party, but regained his power in 1951
- ✓ wrote “*The History of the English-speaking people*” and his six-part epic collection “*The Second World War*”
- ✓ was keen on painting (nearly 600 works)
- ✓ got The Noble Prize for Literature in 1953, is the only British Prime Minister to have won it.
- ✓ In 1963 was made an honorable American citizen by the US Congress
- ✓ died in 1965 at the age of 90, was given a state funeral. The service was held in St. Paul’s.
- ✓ In 2002 BBC poll “100 Greatest Britons” was proclaimed “The Greatest of them all”.



In December 2006, ‘View of Tinherir’ from 1951, was sold at auction for a record £612,800

1940 - the year of the *Blitz* - the ruthless German bombing campaign, devastated many British cities, London above all.

George and Elizabeth refused to leave the capital, won the respect of their people, George became popular as a ruler.

In 1941 Germany attacked the Soviet Union and Japan attacked the United States.

By 1943 the Soviet army was pushing the Germans out of the USSR, and Britain had driven German and Italian troops out of North Africa.

In May 1945, Germany finally surrendered.



Britain and the USA used their new atomic bombs to defeat Japan (Nagasaki and Hiroshima).

Over 110,000 people died immediately and many thousands more died later from the after-effects.

It was the terrible end of the war and a terrible beginning to the post-war period.

The WWII lasted longer than the WWI, over 303,000 British soldiers and 60,000 civilians died during the war years.

4. The post-war years

WWII changed the political alignment and social structure of the world.

Britain was concerned with finding a new part to play in this fast-changing world.

The United Nations (UN) was established to provide international co-operation and prevent future conflicts with Britain as its member.

The UK, the USA, the Soviet Union, China and France failed to work together.

Europe became divided into two, the eastern part under communist Soviet control, the western part under a capitalist system.

Thus, there appeared **the North Atlantic Treaty Organization of the Western Nations** (with Britain as its member) - **NATO** and **the Warsaw Pact** of the eastern bloc.

Britain moved towards economic recovery.

The July 1945 election brought a new Labour government to power under Prime Minister **Clement Atlee**.

The new government worked out a programme of change with huge improvements in a range of services, from education and the health service to the pensions system, all run by the state.

The stress of the war influenced king's health, his habit of smoking very heavily turned into lung cancer. George was operated on, his left lung was removed.

In February 1952, the king died in his sleep at the age of 56, was buried in St. George's Chapel at Windsor.

His eldest daughter, **Elizabeth** became queen.

5. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1952 to present)



- ✓ Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born 21st of April 1926
- ✓ She is the queen of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand; Jamaica, Barbados, the Bahamas, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.



- ✓ was educated at home, by a governess
- ✓ first met Prince Philip of Greece in 1939



- ✓ The young prince had a self-sufficient character
- ✓ made a successful career in the Navy
- ✓ during WWII took part in the dangerous work of escorting merchant ships along Britain's coast which were frequently under attack from German torpedo boats
- ✓ Elizabeth's parents liked Philip
- ✓ their wedding took place in **November 1947**
- ✓ the royal marriage was a success



- ✓ The royal couple has four children: Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Princes Andrew and Edward.



Born on 14 November 1948, **Prince Charles** as every eldest son in a royal family has the title of the Prince of Wales



Princess Anne was born on 15 August 1950, was a prize-winning horsewoman, represented her country in the Olympic Games. Later, devoted herself to charitable work.

She is the patron of over 200 organizations, is considered to be one of the most hard-working members of the royal family.



Prince Andrew was born on 19 February 1960.

He made a career as an officer in the Royal Navy and a helicopter pilot.



The youngest son of the queen and Prince Philip was born in 1964. **Prince Edward** broke with royal tradition making career in the Royal Marines and works in the arts, the theatre and television.

Elizabeth's reign has seen the following events:

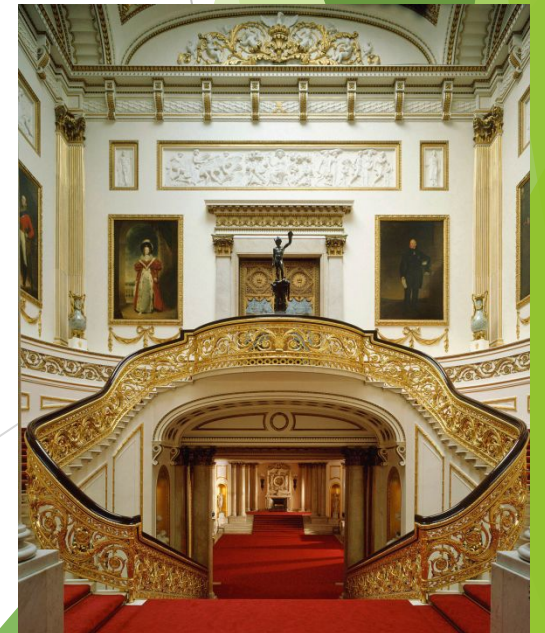
- ✓ the decolonization of Asia and Africa and the transformation of the British Empire into the **Commonwealth of Nations**
- ✓ Britain has become a social democracy
- ✓ The culture of the 60s gave the **Beatles** to the world
- ✓ Britain saw its first woman PM - **Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013)** - an outstanding figure in Britain's political life





- ✓ Margaret Thatcher is the first woman in European history to be elected PM
 - ✓ is the first British PM to win 3 consecutive terms
 - ✓ brought long-needed changes to British government and society
 - ✓ had excellent debating skills, was uncompromising, did not care about people's opinion about her
 - ✓ limited government control, giving individuals more independence in the economy
 - ✓ reformed the trade unions, lowered taxes
 - ✓ in foreign affairs, cultivated a close political and personal relationship with US president Ronald Reagan
 - ✓ had several nicknames during her political career: "*The Iron Lady*", "*Thatcher*", "*Milk Snatcher*"
 - ✓ her husband died in June 2003, the couple had been married for 52 years, had two children - Mark and Caroline (twins)
 - ✓ was awarded the title baroness, passed it to her son.
- Margaret Thatcher died of a stroke on 8th April 2013. She was 87.

- ✓ In 1981 there was an attempt to assassinate the Queen by the 17-year-old Marcus Sarjeant
- ✓ On 9 July 1982, the Queen awoke in her bedroom at Buckingham Palace and saw there was a stranger, Michael Fagan, in the room with her
- ✓ Windsor Castle suffered severe fire damage in 1992
- ✓ Buckingham palace was first opened to public in 1993
- ✓ Britain supported the USA in the conflict over the nuclear programme in Iran
- ✓ The Queen opened the 2012 Summer Olympics on 27 July in London





✓ The Queen has had 12 British PMs, 14 New Zealand PMs, 13 Australian and 11 Canadian PMs. In total, she has had 157 ones.

David William Donald Cameron (born in 1966) is the current PM of the UK, First Lord of the Treasury, Minister for the Civil Service and Leader of the Conservative Party.

The 43-year-old Cameron became the youngest British Prime Minister.

As a modern constitutional monarch, Elizabeth II has little power to make policy or change the way her country is governed. Today the Queen has symbolic and formal functions and duties. She is the embodiment of the national identity, performs a lot of traditional ceremonies and with her family provides patronage for innumerable charities.



Elizabeth II is now the longest reigning British monarch since Queen Victoria. Her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 marked **60 years as Queen**.

Elizabeth rarely gives interviews. Her main leisure interests include horse riding and dogs (Welsh corgis).



6. The heirs to the British throne



- ✓ **Prince Charles** - the current heir to the throne
- ✓ was the first royal child to attend a day school
- ✓ studied in Trinity College, Cambridge
- ✓ went into the armed services after university
- ✓ married **Lady Diana Spencer** in 1981, when he was 33
- ✓ Prince William was born on 21 June 1982, on 15 September 1984 Prince Harry appeared



- ✓ the couple had very little in common, were divorced in 1996



There started Diana's love affair with **Dodi Al-Fayed** - the son of the Egyptian billionaire Mohamed Al-Fayed, the former owner of **Harrods**.

In **August 1997** the couple died in a car crash in a Paris underpass.

The funeral took place in Westminster Abbey. Thousands of people brought flowers to Kensington Palace.

There is a Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park.





On April, 9 2005 Prince Charles married **Camilla Parker Bowles** in a civil ceremony at Windsor Castle.

Today the Prince of Wales undertakes a lot of public duties - visits, openings, inaugurations, celebrations, meetings, tours, and so on.

He is also engaged in a great number of charities.

He likes drawing, especially watercolor pictures, publishes books, is interested in cars.





- ✓ **Prince William Arthur Philip Louis** is second in line to succeed his grandmother, after his father
- ✓ was educated at four schools including Eton College, obtained a degree from the University of St Andrews in Edinburgh
- ✓ served the Blues and Royals Regiment and at Royal Air Force
- ✓ plays polo and is a fan of football
- ✓ married **Catherine Middleton**, on 29 April 2011 at Westminster Abbey
- ✓ their first child, **Prince George of Cambridge**, was born on 22 July 2013
- ✓ The boy is now the third claimer for the British throne



Prince Henry Charles Albert David of Wales commonly known as Prince Harry stands fourth in line

- ✓ after an education at schools, chose a military career at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
- ✓ earned a reputation of a rebel in his youth, in the press was called a "wild child"
- ✓ smoked cannabis, was often seen drunk in the night clubs with his under-age friends

Today Prince Harry enjoys playing many sporting activities, polo, skiing and motocross.

Prince Harry is a supporter of Arsenal Football Club.