

M E A K-Weekly Economic Report
Prof. Dr. Moustafa El-Abdallah Al Kafry

م ع ك التقرير الاقتصادي الأسبوعي
الأستاذ الدكتور مصطفى العبد الله الكفري

المستشار الاقتصادي
Economic Consultant

م ع ك التقرير الاقتصادي الأسبوعي رقم 2023/433 التخصصي
الاقتصاد البريطاني في عهد الملكة إليزابيث الثانية
إعداد الأستاذ الدكتور مصطفى العبد الله الكفري
الأحد 04 حزيران، 04 June 2023

M E A K Weekly Economic Report No. 433
The British economy during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II
prepared by Prof. Dr. Moustafa El-Abdallah Al Kafry

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Economic Consultant

موقع المستشار الاقتصادي الإلكتروني للبحوث والدراسات
The website of the Economic Adviser for Research and Studies
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MEAK Weekly Specialized Economic Report No. 433
The British economy during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II
04 June 2023

<p>Weekly Economic Report No. 433 full report, click on the link:</p> <p>The report in english is the outcome of a follow-up to the economic media and the World Wide Web. I put it at the disposal of academics, economists, decision-makers and followers, to facilitate access to economic information.</p> <p>I have to mention that some of the information and data contained in the report may not be reliable enough and need to be checked by an expert or specialist. Help with checking this information and cite the source for reliability.</p> <p>I absolve myself of responsibility for any inaccurate information contained in the report since the proven source at the bottom of each article published in the report is responsible. Best wishes</p> <p>Note: I request those who do not wish to keep receiving the report to inform me so that their names will be removed from the mailing list.</p>	<p>التقرير الاقتصادي الأسبوعي رقم 433 لمتابعة التقرير كاملاً أضغط على الرابط:</p> <p>التقرير باللغة الإنكليزية حصيلة متابعة للإعلام الاقتصادي والشبكة العنكبوتية. أضعه بتصريف الأكاديميين والاقتصاديين وأصحاب القرار والمتابعين، لتسهيل الحصول على المعلومة الاقتصادية.</p> <p>أشير إلى أن بعض المعلومات والبيانات الواردة في التقرير قد لا تكون موثوقة بما يكفي، وتحتاج إلى تدقيق من قبل خبير أو مختص. ساعد بتدقيق هذه المعلومات مع ذكر المصدر لتحقيق الموثوقية.</p> <p>وأخلي نفسي من المسؤولية عن أية معلومة غير صحيحة أو غير دقيقة واردة في التقرير، لأن المصدر المثبت في أسفل كل مادة منشورة في التقرير هو المسؤول. أطيب التمنيات.</p> <p>ملاحظة: أرجو ممن لا يرغب باستمرار إرسال التقرير لسيادته، إعلامي ليتم حذف اسمه من القائمة البريدية.</p>
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The British economy during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II
04 June 2023



1 - U.K. royal family pumps billions into the economy. The queen's death may change that



By [Craig Lord](#) Global News, Posted September 12, 2022

Global News Morning speaks with Keith Roy of the Monarchist League of Canada about Queen Elizabeth's passing, and the future of the monarchy. – Sep 9, 2022

The [death of Queen Elizabeth II](#) is sure to send shockwaves through the economies of both the United Kingdom and Canada as experts say the brand value of the British [royal family](#) is at risk with the loss of its longest-reigning monarch.

The queen's death on Sept. 8 marked not only the loss of the U.K. and Canada's constitutional head, but the figurehead and brand ambassador of the monarchy itself, according to Charles Scarlett-Smith, director of Brand Finance Canada.

“When we're thinking about Queen Elizabeth II's brand, we really are being synonymous with the royal family and the monarchy,” he tells Global News.

And that brand alone ranks among the most valuable in the world, according to a [Brand Finance report](#) assessing the monarchy's capital value in 2017.

The British monarchy — its actual assets plus intangible impacts on the economy — was valued at £67.5 billion that year, or roughly CAD\$112.4 billion in 2017 dollars.

For a rough value comparison, putting the royal family's impact up to a similar list of major corporate brands prepared that same year by Brand Finance would rank the monarchy fourth in the world, behind just Google, Apple and Amazon.



[View image in full screen](#)

The British Royal Family's value rivals top corporate brands, according to 2017 reports from Brand Finance. (All figures USD.). Global News / Brand Finance 2017

While the average annual cost for U.K. taxpayers to upkeep the royals comes in around £500 million a year (CAD \$700-\$750M), Brand Finance estimates the monarchy's brand contributes £2.5 billion (CAD\$3.7B) to the British economy each year.

“Royalist or not, the amount of economic benefit that's brought to the (U.K.) from the existence of the royal family is undeniable,” Scarlett-Smith says.

Feeding into the economic impact of “The Firm,” as the royal family’s business arm is informally known, is a bit of brand association known as royal warrants, which give corporations the chance to claim the monarch’s seal of approval. Brand Finance claims a royal warrant has led to a 10-per cent boost in revenue on average for the roughly 800 British firms bearing the mark.

Royals drive U.K. tourism

Tourism dollars also play a major role in that economic impact. Brand Finance said in 2017 that it expects the royal family generates some £550 million (CAD\$915M) annually for U.K. tourism as travellers include destinations such as Buckingham Palace or the Tower of London on the itineraries.

Lesley Keyter, who grew up in England and now runs The Travel Lady agency in Calgary, says the monarchy’s draw on her Canadian clientele is “huge.”

Most avid travellers who book with her are also big history buffs, Keyter says, which makes pilgrimages to see the Crown Jewels or take in the royals’ palaces impossible to resist.



2:02 ‘God Save the Queen’: Crowds of mourners gather across UK after news of Elizabeth’s death

‘God Save the Queen’: Crowds of mourners gather across UK after news of Elizabeth’s death – Sep 8, 2022

The queen’s passing this past week will spur even more travel to these iconic landmarks, she argues, as royalists mourn the monarch.

“I must confess, I shed a few tears because she was such a remarkable woman,” Keyter reflects in an interview with Global News.

“I’m sure over the next year there’s going to be a lot of people visiting Buckingham Palace ... somewhere where they can leave a flower or a note or something on the gates.”

Much of the credit for the monarchy’s lucrative brand can be placed at the feet of the late queen herself, argues journalist and royals researcher Emily Stedman.

That most people think of her when saying just the words “the queen” was a reflection of one of the oft-quoted lines during her reign, that “you have to be seen to be believed,” she says.

As such, she went on more than 250 royal tours in the 70 years she held the throne, [visiting Canada 22 times](#). These visits were as much a branding exercise as a display of formal duty, Stedman argues.

“She is the face of the British monarchy at the end of the day. When you say the words, ‘the royal family’, she is the first figure that comes to mind,” she says.

It’s her face on the plates and mugs lining every British gift shop in London, Stedman notes.

“It is going to be such a great loss and a big change for people to really factor in that, ‘OK. The queen’s passed and now the head of the royal family is King Charles III.”



[View image in full screen](#)

Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee souvenirs are displayed in a shop window near Windsor Castle, Berkshire, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday. Picture date: Friday September 9, 2022. Canadian Press

Can the royal brand outlive Queen Elizabeth II?

But in the formal transition of power lies the British monarchy’s greatest test yet to come, Scarlett-Smith notes.

While he believes the queen’s image might leave a “legacy” that persists beyond her life — the royal family can make use of her iconography for plays at “history” and “nostalgia” — the value of the brand is now in the hands of King Charles III and the other royals.

“We’ll have to see really how the new custodians of the brand are able to transfer that sheer amount of international goodwill that the Queen had into the new enterprise,” he says.



3:08 King Charles III pledges to uphold

Queen Elizabeth’s ‘selfless duty’ in address to U.K. parliament

King Charles III pledges to uphold Queen Elizabeth's 'selfless duty' in address to U.K. parliament

Canada, too, will have a series of questions to grapple with as it relates to the queen, the constitutional monarchy and the country's economic future.

On the topic of money, one of the first questions will be Canadians' comfort levels with having the queen's face adorning the green \$20 bill.

There's no legal imperative forcing Canada to put King Charles III's face on the banknote instead of Queen Elizabeth II, notes Stedman, and so it will likely come down to a question of political will.

Older Canadians tend to be fonder of the monarchy than the younger generation, she notes, which could weaken appetite for more royal representation on our bills and in our political systems going forward. But Scarlett-Smith also notes that there might be an economic incentive on both sides of the pond to maintain Canada's constitutional monarchy. Trade deals borne out of Canada and the U.K.'s "idea of closeness... of union" might not come together as easily if Canadians opt to formally remove the monarchy as the head of state, he says.

"I think that the idea of a tie, the idea of a bond with the U.K. can go beyond the monarchy," Scarlett-Smith says.

"Whether that will be reason enough to maintain the relationship will be, I think, really, really important for the

discourse that we have as Canadians, as what we see to be the future of Canada and what we want really out of our government.”

— with files from Global News’s Anne Gaviola

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9123360/queen-elizabeth-death-economic-impact-royal-family/>

2 - How the UK Economy Changed in Seven Decades



Photographer: Chris J. Ratcliffe/Bloomberg

By: Simon Kennedy, September 9, 2022,

Hello. Today we look at the late Queen Elizabeth II’s economy, what central banks are up to, and how human development has fallen in recent years.

The Queen’s Economy

Queen Elizabeth II’s life will forever fill the pages of history books, yet she will perhaps also find a place in economic textbooks too.

Weeks after the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Queen met with a group of academics.

On being briefed on the chaos in financial markets, she spoke for many when she asked “Why did nobody see it coming?”

She was told by Professor Luis Garicano that “at every stage, someone was relying on somebody else and everyone thought they were doing the right thing.”

“Awful,” she responded, again summing up the mood her nation.



Queen Elizabeth II

Photographer: WPA Pool/Getty Images Europe

As the UK marks the passing of its longest-serving Monarch, the economy is strained just as it was at many moments during her reign, which encompassed both booms and busts, oil shocks, trade wars, currency turmoil and financial crises.

There are indeed some similarities between 1952 and today with double-digit inflation prevalent then as well as now.

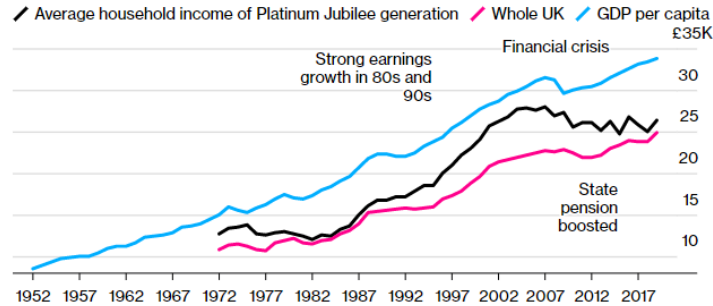
Yet a broader snapshot of the 2022 economy shows it to be barely recognizable from the one when she came to the throne. And the overwhelming trend over the past 70 years has been one of expansion.

Richest Generation

Britons born in 1952 have incomes that are 6% above the UK average

Richest Generation

Britons born in 1952 have incomes that are 6% above the UK average



Note: IFS estimates show incomes after accounting for household composition and housing costs

As [Andrew Atkinson](#) and [David Goodman](#) showed in [charts](#) in June — when the Queen celebrated her Platinum Jubilee — butter, bacon and meat were still being rationed as World War II cast a long shadow over an economy that was just a fifth of current size. Money was counted in shillings.

Fast forward to now and the UK as a whole is richer and healthier despite its current travails.

People born in 1952 had incomes higher than the average of their fellow citizens throughout their lives, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies

At age 70, men and women can both expect to live seven years longer than they did seven decades ago

Women form about half of the workforce, compared to a third in the early 1950s

As our series of charts show, the economy that King Charles III inherits is mainly driven by services with manufacturing and trade less important than they were in 1952.

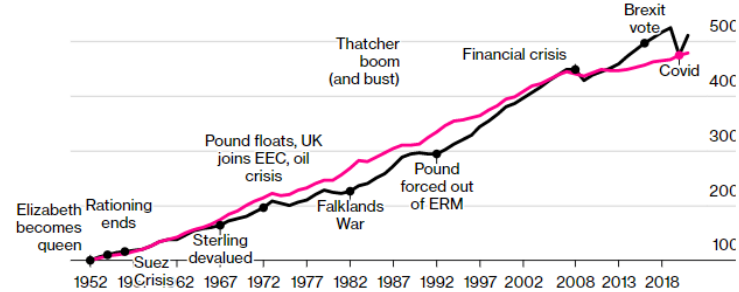
Growth Since 1952

The economy is five times bigger but productivity has slowed

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The economy is five times bigger but productivity has slowed

Level of real GDP (index) / Output per hour (index)



Source: Bloomberg analysis of ONS, BOE data
Note: 1952 = 100

Source: Bloomberg analysis of ONS, BOE data, Note: 1952 = 100

For good and bad, perhaps nowhere has Britain's transformation been more apparent than in the property market. The average house price has jumped from less than £2,000 — the equivalent of around £60,000 today — to a record £274,000, according to Nationwide Building Society.

The Queen, of course, contributed to the economy too. A 2017 study by the Brand Finance consultancy estimated the Royal Family adds \$1.7 billion to gross domestic product each year, yet cost each member of the British public just £4.50 annually.

—Simon Kennedy

Got tips or feedback? Email us at ecodaily@bloomberg.net

The Economic Scene

Jumbo hikes are the order of the day again.

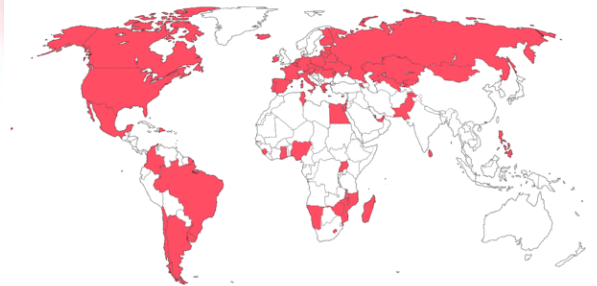
The [European Central Bank](#) boosted its key interest rate by 75 basis points for the first time ever and officials left open the chance of [doing so again](#) when they next meet in October if inflation continues to fester.

Jumbo Hike Club

ECB joins more than 40 central banks that have increased interest rates by at least a three-quarter point in one go

ECB joins more than 40 central banks that have increased interest rates by at least a three-quarter point in one go

■ Hiked rates by 75 basis points or more in one move this year



Source: Bloomberg

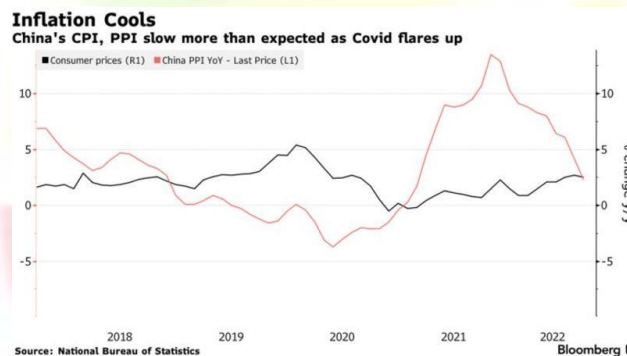
Source: Bloomberg

A split [between economists](#) has emerged between those that predict another large hike and others forecasting a smaller move next month.

Meanwhile, [Federal Reserve](#) Chair Jerome Powell said officials won't flinch in their battle to pull back prices, hardening expectations that they'll deliver a third straight 75 basis-point salvo later this month.

Some are, however, slowing down. [Peru](#) raised rates less than expected, while economists reckon [Australia](#) will dial back the pace of its tightening.

And in [China](#), consumer inflation unexpectedly moderated and producer price growth slowed more than economists anticipated, increasing pressure on policy makers to support the slowing economy.



Today's Must Reads

[Fiscal relief](#) | Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida ordered up a fresh economic package to help mitigate higher prices, with low-income households and regional governments especially targeted for support.

[Yellen's selling points](#) | US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen used a speech in Detroit to provide a sweeping review of what she saw as the Biden administration's bragging points on the economy.

[Trussonomics victims](#) | Britain's new Chancellor of the Exchequer fired the Treasury's top civil servant, in line with the government's opposition to "orthodoxy" managing UK

finances. The Treasury will also estimate the cost of an energy package, sidelining the official budget watchdog.

Global tax | The European Union is considering new ways of implementing a global deal for a 15% minimum tax on large multinationals as Hungary continues to veto a joint solution.

Energy action | Europe can avoid recession if officials in charge of monetary and fiscal policy agree on effective measures to tackle soaring energy costs, according to European Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni.

Kuroda speaks up | The yen rebounded Friday as traders mulled comments from Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda on the currency's decline amid a broad dollar selloff.

Brazil elections | Presidential front-runners are competing to see who will hand out more generous social benefits if elected next month, but none of them are saying where the money will come from.

Need-to-Know Research

Human development has taken a hit from the pandemic, war, climate change and rising prices.

According to the United Nations, its gauge of health, education and standards of living is now back to 2016 levels having declined in each of the past two years.

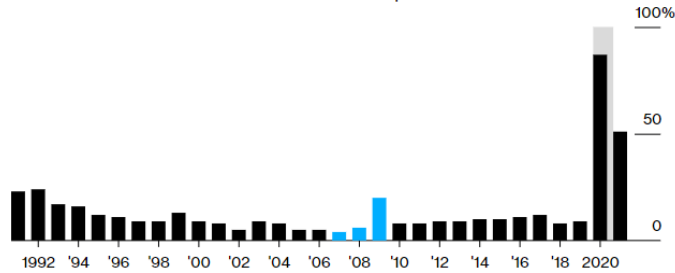
Human Development Index

In 2021, more than half of countries showed a decline

Human Development Index

In 2021, more than half of countries showed a decline

■ Share of countries ■ Great Recession ■ Covid-19 pandemic



Source: United Nations

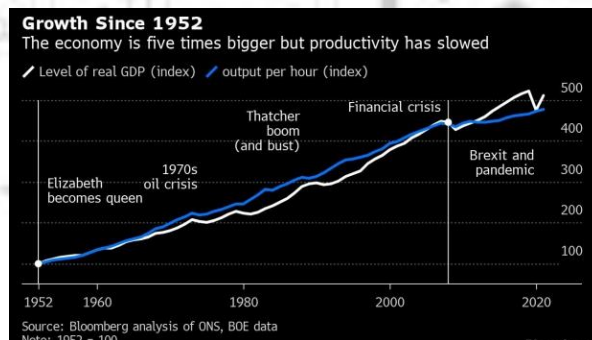
Source: United Nations

“Acute crises are giving way to chronic, layered, interacting uncertainties at a global scale, painting a picture of uncertain times and unsettled lives,” said the report.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2022-09-09/what-s-happening-in-the-world-economy-how-uk-changed-under-queen-elizabeth-ii>

3 - Britain's Economy Has Transformed During Queen's 70-Year Reign

Andrew Atkinson and David Goodman, Bloomberg News



BC-Britain's-Economy-Has-Transformed-During-Queen's-70-Year-Reign , Andrew Atkinson and David Goodman

(Bloomberg) -- Sign up for the New Economy Daily newsletter, follow us @economics and subscribe to our podcast.

The UK economy of 2022 is barely recognizable from the one that greeted Queen Elizabeth II 70 years ago.

Butter, bacon and meat were rationed in 1952 as World War II cast a long shadow over an economy that was just a fifth of current size. Money was counted in shillings; men wore ties even on days off and pub goers could enjoy pints of beer for just 6p.

Today, suits and cash are both a far less familiar sight in the British pub, while wine and gin have both become much more popular tipples. Houses that once could be bought on one income now require two.

But some problems of that era remain familiar. Inflation was at 11.2% when Elizabeth became Queen -- within a whisker of the level economists expect to see later this year.

Following are charts that describe the massive shifts the economy has seen since the coronation in 1952.

The UK as a whole is richer and healthier. The cohort born in 1952 had incomes higher than the average of their fellow citizens throughout their lives, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. At age 70, men and women can both expect to live seven years longer than they did seven decades ago.

The economy meanwhile has had a number of booms and busts. Oil shocks, currency crises, financial crashes along with Britain's exit from the European Union and the pandemic have bookended periods of rapid growth. The overwhelming trend has been one of expansion.

Much of that increase has been fueled by a boom in services, which have flourished as the manufacturing sector receded. While the "big bang" deregulation of banking made Britain a global financial center, the portion of jobs done in factories has plunged to just 7%, from almost 30% in 1952.

Nowhere has Britain's transformation been more apparent than in the housing market. The average house price has jumped from less than £2,000 -- the equivalent of around £60,000 today -- to a record £270,000, according to Nationwide Building Society.

It means housing has vastly outpaced inflation and earnings growth, and in some years generated more wealth for homeowners than they gained from employment. Those increases have strained the finances of people buying property. Many families require two incomes now to get on the housing ladder, whereas in 1952 it was mainly the salary of men that provided.

Homeownership surged in the second half of the last century. The shift accelerated under Margaret Thatcher, who promoted her vision of a "property-owning democracy" by encouraging council tenants to purchase their homes in the 1980s.

However, the trend has gone into reverse in the past 20 years because of the sharp increase in house prices.

The boom in house prices over the past decade was supercharged by record-low interest rates. Since it was founded in 1694, the Bank of England's benchmark lending rate never strayed below 2% until 2009.

Then the financial crisis hit, followed by a period of sluggish growth and the coronavirus pandemic. The BOE responded by pushing rates close to zero and buying bonds to depress market rates. Now that inflation has reached a 40-year high, that era is screaming to a halt.

Across the 70 years inflation has averaged just shy of 5%, leaving prices almost 24 times higher in total across the period.

The UK is no longer the trading force it was. In 1960, it accounted for almost 9% of world merchandise exports. Now its share is little more than 2%.

The decline came as manufacturing shifted to lower-cost economies such as China. A further period of weakness followed Brexit, with exports recovering from the pandemic less strongly than in neighboring countries.

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<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/britain-s-economy-has-transformed-during-queen-s-70-year-reign-1.1773573>

4 - HERE'S WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE BRITISH ECONOMY WHEN QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIES



BY DYLAN HOFER/UPDATED: SEPT. 8, 2022

Queen Elizabeth II is Great Britain's longest reigning monarch, and as of 2017 four out of five Brits had been born under her reign (via Insider). On top of that, the majority of the world's population has only been witness to her reign as monarch, with roughly 6.5 billion people worldwide being born while she's been queen (via Macro Trends). She has met with 13 of the last 14 U.S. presidents (she never met Lyndon Johnson, per Newsweek), been witness to 14 prime ministers in British parliament, and as a result has established herself as one of the world's most influential leaders. To put her age even more into perspective, she was only 13 years old when World War II broke out, thus being alive since Adolf Hitler's regime all the way to the COVID-19 pandemic (via The National WWII Museum).

Times Athletes Were Stripped Of Their Olympic Medals

Longevity aside, Her Majesty is only human, and she will eventually die. This event will inevitably send the United Kingdom into a frenzy that will cost the British economy billions of pounds. Businesses will close as the nation is brought into mourning, new currency will be printed, passports will change, military garb will need refurnished, and the national anthem will be changed as a result. Her death will shake a world that has been

so accustomed to her reign to its core, completely transforming the way we see Great Britain today.

LONDON BRIDGE IS DOWN



Peter Rhys Williams/Shutterstock

After Queen Elizabeth II's death, Operation London Bridge immediately begins. Presuming he doesn't predecease her, Prince Charles, who will immediately be referred to as King Charles (unless he chooses a different name under which to rule), will have his hands kissed by his siblings and ascend to the throne. The prime minister will be awakened and informed that London Bridge is down. "London Bridge" is the codename given to Queen Elizabeth II for government officials to use on secure lines to inform other notable people in British society of the queen's death. This practice comes from King George VI's death, when he was given the codename "Hyde Park Corner" to prevent switchboard operators from discovering the king had died (via The Guardian).

Eventually the media will be notified of the queen's death, and they will begin to set in motion a state of mourning across the nation. Every news station in the United Kingdom has a set of lights that will shine to notify the public that a national emergency has taken place. Radio stations will play a collection of sad music

to signal the state of mourning and businesses will follow suit (via The Guardian).

THE FUNERAL PROCESSION



Jakub Rutkiewicz/Shutterstock

On the day of the queen's death, banks and the stock market will close for the day. More likely than not, the majority of businesses will follow as a sign of respect for her majesty. This will be the first major hit to the British economy following Queen Elizabeth II's death. King Charles will give his first speech as king via livestream, and the government will swear its allegiance to him as king with a 41-gun-salute (via Insider). King Charles will then travel across the United Kingdom, meeting with local leaders of government.

Roughly a week and a half after Her Majesty's death, the funeral will be held. An official bank holiday will be declared, causing banks and the stock market to shut down for a second time in the mourning period, causing another blow to the British economy. At 11 a.m., the bells of Big Ben will ring and the service will begin. After the service ends, her coffin will be transported from Windsor Castle to St. George's Chapel, likely being buried next to her father, King George VI, according to Insider.

TRANSITIONING THE ECONOMY



Janusz Pienkowski/Shutterstock

Over the course of several years, there will be serious changes to the British economy. For starters, new currency will have to be printed with King Charles' face on it. The currency before Queen Elizabeth II's death won't fade overnight, however, and it will take time for the old bank notes to fade from circulation (via Independent). British passports will also need some updating, given that they currently "request and require in the Name of Her Majesty all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance" (via Independent). Stamps will also need a revision and will need to be replaced with new editions, bearing the image of King Charles' head.

Within a year of the queen's death, King Charles' coronation will take place, if he chooses. However, it is most likely that he will choose to stick with the tradition, and another bank holiday will follow suit. Banks and the stock market will close for a third time since Her Majesty's death, and many businesses will probably follow suit, according to Insider.

FOOTING A HUGE BILL



AmbrosiniV/Shutterstock

Another effect of Queen Elizabeth II's death will be the updating of police and military gear. Currently, police helmets in the United Kingdom have the queen's initials and regnal number on them, which previously caused some controversy. When Queen Elizabeth II was first crowned, police helmets in Scotland displayed her regnal number, II, which angered some local Scots because there was never a Queen Elizabeth I in Scotland. As a result, some postboxes with her royal cypher on it were vandalized, according to Independent.

Between all of the bank holidays, businesses shutting down, costs of the funeral itself, changing passports, military and police garb, currency change, and some other small institutional changes, the queen's death is expected to cause the British economy \$1.6 billion to \$7 billion (via Independent). But the ramifications of Queen Elizabeth II's death won't be felt just in the United Kingdom, it will be felt worldwide. With the decline of the British Empire over the past century, her death could be the nail in the coffin.

THE END OF AN ERA



Allexandar /Shutterstock

The British Commonwealth evolved from the British Empire, and for almost the entirety of its existence was headed by Queen Elizabeth II. It's one of the largest international organizations in the world, encompassing 54 nations and with a total population

of 2.5 billion people. The nations are mostly former British colonies, including wealthy nations like Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. However, some experts believe that the organization is outdated, and that Queen Elizabeth II's death could cause the Commonwealth to dissolve, according to Reuters.

When Prince William, Prince Charles' son, visited Caribbean nations a part of the Commonwealth, he was met with protests of people who were demanding reparations for the harm they believe the British government caused them, according to Reuters. Supporters of the organization argue, however, that it allows poorer nations better trade connections with the international world. Nonetheless, the future of the organization is still uncertain after Queen Elizabeth II's death. One thing is for certain: The queen's death will signal the end of an era of British history, and the ramifications will be felt not just in England, but worldwide.

<https://www.grunge.com/990635/heres-what-will-happen-to-the-british-economy-when-queen-elizabeth-ii-dies/>

5 - QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S MOST NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Wpa Pool/Getty Images

BY JEFF SOMERS/UPDATED: SEPT. 9, 2022

Correction 09/09/22: A previous version of this article stated that Queen Elizabeth was 19 when she joined the military. She was 18, not 19.

Before her death on September 8, 2022, Queen Elizabeth II (officially Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of her other realms and territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, per Britannica) was the epitome of what's called "soft power." The position she inherited in 1952 was already extremely reduced in terms of actual power and authority, and during her reign, the crown underwent a transformation into a figurehead position. Put simply, Elizabeth simply didn't have much power.

That doesn't mean she wasn't important. First of all, she performed a necessary legal function simply by existing — the crown must sanction all legislation passed by Parliament in the United Kingdom. If that sanction has become ritualistic and automatic, the fact remains that the Queen could, in theory, have refused to approve something. And she was still Head of State even if she was not Head of Government, and the crown is the source of legal authority in the U.K.

But Queen Elizabeth's lack of hard power also doesn't mean she had no accomplishments to point to. Although most of those achievements were behind the scenes and a little more subtle than the treaties, executive orders, and directives presidents and prime

ministers can deal out, they're still pretty significant. In fact, since Queen Elizabeth managed all this without direct authority, they're possibly even more impressive. Here are Queen Elizabeth II's most notable accomplishments.

HER SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II



Apic/Getty Images

When World War II broke out in 1939, Princess Elizabeth was only 13 years old. As noted by The National World War II Museum, when Buckingham Palace was bombed during the Blitz in 1940, her father King George VI and his wife, Elizabeth, remained there in solidarity with the rest of the population, but the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret were evacuated to Windsor Castle, 20 miles away.

As the war dragged on, Elizabeth felt a keen sense of duty. According to Biography, she wanted to enlist as soon as she came of age in 1944, but the royal family couldn't allow the heir to the throne to be put in danger. But Elizabeth refused to take no for an answer and kept pushing. In 1945, when she was 18, Elizabeth was given permission to join the military effort. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Territory Service (ATS), and trained for six weeks as an auto mechanic.

Time notes that this wasn't a combat role, but that doesn't mean it didn't come with risks — at least 335 members of the ATS were killed during the war. The young princess' dedication to her country and her willingness to serve just like anyone else (well, almost; she did get to go home to Windsor Castle every night to sleep) made her extremely popular and sparked a lifelong love of cars and mechanical work.

THE STABILITY SHE BROUGHT



Wpa Pool/Getty Images

It might not seem like a big deal, but one of Queen Elizabeth's greatest achievements was simply being a stable, predictable monarch. Prior to her ascension, there had been a period of uncertainty. As reported by CBS News, her uncle King Edward VIII abdicated when she was just 10 years old, throwing the crown into disarray. Her father stepped in as King George VI, but Vanity Fair notes he did so very reluctantly, dreading the spotlight and feeling unprepared.

While George VI solved the immediate crisis of confidence by taking the crown, his kingdom was quickly sucked into World War II. London was bombed, and according to Britannica, there were real fears that the island might be invaded by Germany. Then, just as the country was rebounding from the war, King

George VI died at a relatively young age, leaving 25-year-old Elizabeth to take the crown.

As noted by Forbes, Elizabeth provided exactly what was necessary in this post-war period: stability. Her steady, calm approach to her new role gave the nation exactly what was needed as it emerged from a particularly chaotic period, and remained exactly what the country needed as a series of new crises descended on it, including economic woes and a shrinking role on the world stage. With the necessity of the royal family always in question, according to The Independent, the stability brought by Elizabeth can be seen as crucial.

SHE GUIDED THE TRANSFORMATION TO A COMMONWEALTH



[Prachaya Roekdeethaweesab/Shutterstock](#)

By the time Elizabeth ascended to the throne in 1952, the British Empire was already in rapid decline. As explained by The Imperial War Museums, prior to World War II, Britain had maintained a vast empire of colonial holdings and a reputation as a world power. As noted by Politico, at its height, the British Empire held 57 colonies or other territories comprising about a quarter of the land mass of the world. But after teetering on the verge of total defeat and emerging into a new world dominated

by the United States, Britain found its empire too expensive and difficult.

A rapid list of former colonies began breaking away and declaring themselves independent states, beginning with India in 1947. Although the process of establishing what's known as the Commonwealth began in the late 19th century, according to Britannica, it fell to Queen Elizabeth II to guide the country through a rapid acceleration of the process. When she was crowned, the Commonwealth had eight member states. Today there are 54. That means that Queen Elizabeth oversaw a process in which practically the entire British Empire transformed into a voluntary association of sovereign nations. Her own authority became largely ceremonial, and the British "empire" is down to just a few islands scattered around the globe. But where other empires have gone down in literal flames, Elizabeth largely guided hers to a peaceful, orderly end.

SHE MODERNIZED THE MONARCHY



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The kingdom of England dates back thousands of years, and Elizabeth was one in a line of monarchs that dates back to 1066, when William the Conqueror invaded the island. As noted in Vanity Fair, when her father, King George VI, took the throne after her uncle's abdication, there was no certainty that the

monarchy would survive. In the early years of the 20th century, it seemed like the British monarchy would be swept away like so many others. While King George VI provided a period of stability that forestalled any thought of abolishing the monarchy, Queen Elizabeth was the one who truly saved it.

Her secret? Britannica explains that she stabilized the royal family's position with her willingness to modernize and embrace change. Realizing that her subjects needed to see the royal family as approachable, she appeared on television regularly and spoke directly to the people. She also embraced new technology — as noted by Forbes, she sent out the first royal tweet in 2014, and History reports that she was the first monarch to record her annual Christmas message on film. Today, you can watch it on YouTube. She also adjusted her approach to marriage and divorce, accepting the fact that the latter became much more common and acceptable in the modern world and approving several divorces among the royal family.

SHE MADE THE SUCCESSION MORE EQUITABLE



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Although it's true that the queen didn't introduce or vote on legislation and is expected to be very politically neutral, her influence was undeniable. Not only did she have to confer her

ceremonial approval of all new laws, but she also represented a continuous line of experience stretching back to the 1950s. Her first mentor was Sir Winston Churchill, after all. So when the Crown Act of 2013 was passed, Reader's Digest notes it was with Elizabeth's "cooperation" because the legislation might have failed were it not for her influence.

That's a significant achievement, as it ended centuries of English history of the eldest son of a monarch being heir to the throne even if he had an older sister (per Time). As noted by BBC News, It also allowed the monarch to marry a (gasp) Roman Catholic if they absolutely must — though the monarch is still not allowed to actually be a Roman Catholic.

While it can be argued that the queen had a very personal interest in seeing the rule change, as she proved over the course of 70 years that a woman could be a very effective monarch, she had also been a staunch defender of tradition. But Queen Elizabeth II never shied away from modernizing the monarchy when the opportunity arose, and this shift was a great step forward for gender equality.

SHE WAS THE FIRST BRITISH MONARCH TO ADDRESS CONGRESS



Anwar Hussein/Getty Images

Considering the close history of the U.S. and U.K., it's perhaps surprising how deeply divided they have been. The

United States of America started off as a group of British colonies, of course, and Americans were once subjects of the King of England.

And yet one of Queen Elizabeth II's greatest achievements came in 1991, more than two centuries after the U.S. won independence from the British Empire. As reported by the Los Angeles Times, that year she became the first British monarch to address a joint session of the United States' Congress. As noted by The New York Times, her speech was a huge success — from a joke about her height to the three standing ovations she received, she obviously charmed the American politicians.

As noted by the Sun Sentinel, her speech was significant not only because she was the first King or Queen of the United Kingdom to address congress, but because she used it to underscore the "special relationship" between the U.S. and the U.K. The two countries share a language and a great deal of history and culture, and the Queen's speech centered on continuing cooperation and a unity of interests.

HER VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND IN 2011



Pool/Getty Images

The United Kingdom has a violent history with many of its former dominions — that tends to happen when empires try to

prevent people from ruling themselves. But few conflicts have been as bitter and bloody as the one between the U.K. and the Republic of Ireland. Dominated by the English for centuries, Ireland fractured into two states when nationalist party Sinn Féin declared a new Irish Republic, as explained by Britannica. Relations between the new Republic of Ireland and its former imperial masters were marked by violence for decades.

Which made Queen Elizabeth II's state visit to Ireland in 2011 an incredible achievement. She was the first monarch to make an official visit to the island since its independence. As noted by Yahoo! News, her somber appearance at the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin was a sensation in Ireland. She placed a wreath at the monument to those who died fighting the U.K. for Irish freedom and bowed her head respectfully. Many Irish took this as a subtle signal that the Queen acknowledged her own country's misdeeds.

According to The Guardian, the trip and the gesture made Queen Elizabeth II incredibly popular in a country that typically despised the monarchy as a former oppressor. The trip was an incredible achievement, especially considering that the queen had no true political power and somehow reset relations between the two countries simply by showing respect.

THE 1969 TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY



Anwar Hussein/Getty Images

According to Town and Country, in 1968, Queen Elizabeth II made the remarkable decision to allow a documentary film crew to follow her and her family around for more than two months. The filmmakers had unprecedented access to the private family life of the queen, and produced an infamous two-hour documentary called "The Royal Family." History notes that the film aired in England on June 21, 1969.

The documentary was part of an effort to humanize the royal family and change their stuffy image, and it was in many ways an incredible success. More than 30 million people watched the film, and it showed the royals as a family for the first time — human beings who joked, played, and ate dinner together. Many people saw the royals in a new light. But according to CNN, the queen soon regretted her decision and banned the documentary from future broadcasts. In fact, when the film leaked to YouTube in 2021, she moved quickly to have it taken down.

Some argue that the film removed the sense of awe and glamor from the royal family, leading to an era of invasive tabloid coverage. Once people started thinking of the royals as regular people, they became mere celebrities subject to gossip — and criticism. But it remains a remarkable achievement in the

argument that the royal family deserves their position and is ultimately a force of good for the U.K.

HER TIRELESS CHARITY WORK



Chris Jackson/Getty Images

One of Queen Elizabeth's greatest achievements was a cumulative one: the sheer amount of effort she put into supporting various charities. The Guardian puts it very plainly, arguing that she did more for charity than any other monarch in history.

In fact, Queen Elizabeth was credited with being one of the greatest supporters of charity work in the world. According to Borgen Magazine, she supported more than 600 charities in Britain (the royal family as a whole officially supports nearly 3,000 charities around the world). The queen was responsible at least in part for raising an eye-popping £1.4 billion (close to \$2 billion). The queen made it a special focus of her life to help reduce poverty. Acting as a royal patron to charities helps focus public attention, and allows the monarch and her family members to host fundraisers. In fact, Queen Elizabeth was careful to pass her patronage on to other family members to ensure that these charities always have the backing of the monarchy.

The queen's impact was felt most powerfully in causes that support communities and that promote education. These are

aspects of life that can provide the support and skills needed to help people rise out of poverty.

SHE REFORMED THE MONARCHY'S FINANCES



Jim Dyson/Getty Images

As noted by The Guardian, the utility and necessity of the royal family has been hotly debated for years. One of the main reasons some want to do away with the monarchy is the fact that it's expensive. According to BBC News, the government of the United Kingdom pays the royal family about £86 million every year for its upkeep and expenses.

Many people believe the one thing that kept the royal family's popularity up was the queen herself. Elizabeth II's personal popularity far exceeded the overall support the royal receives in the U.K. One reason for her popularity was how she adapts to the will of the people. One of her great achievements was the quiet way she reformed the monarchy's finances in order to deal with criticism. For example, after a traditional waiver was lifted in the 1990s, she moved quickly to pay taxes on royal income that had been exempt for years, according to Town and Country Magazine. And British Heritage notes that by getting rid of expensive things like the royal yacht, she was able to reduce the cost of the royal family by several million pounds annually.

Forbes reports that when the palace budget was hit with a \$44 million shortfall, the queen determined not to request any additional public funds. Considering that she was personally worth more than \$500 million, this was a savvy decision that blunted criticism of royal expenses.

SUPPORTING RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE COMMONWEALTH



Keystone/Getty Images

The royal family is not often cited as being particularly "woke." They are, after all, privileged as a whole — not just rich but royal. But one of the great and often overlooked achievements of the queen was the quiet work she did over the years to support racial equality and advancement in the world.

As noted by The New York Times, Queen Elizabeth's work began in her early years. In 1961, she danced with the president of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, a Black man. This outraged many racists both in her own kingdom and the larger Commonwealth, but the queen was resolute in her support of equality. And she worked behind the scenes to get the Commonwealth to condemn

South Africa's apartheid system, only to be stymied by her own prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, who opposed the statement for reasons both personal and political.

According to The Washington Post, the queen also supported the Black Lives Matter movement. While the royal family as a whole has been accused of holding racist attitudes — including by Prince Harry and the Duchess of Sussex, as reported by CNBC — some have noted that these criticisms often seem not to include the queen herself.

SHE WAS THE LONGEST-SERVING MONARCH IN ENGLISH HISTORY



Handout/Getty Images

One of Elizabeth II's achievements is likely to never be surpassed. According to BBC News, when she died on September 8, 2022, she was the longest-serving English monarch in history, having hit 70 years on the throne earlier that year.

Not only did Elizabeth's long reign translate to tremendous stability for the United Kingdom and a sense of affection from her subjects (most of whom had never known a different sovereign), but as noted by Tatler, this made Elizabeth II the second-longest reigning monarch in world history. Had the Queen lived until May 2024, she would have surpassed King Louis XIV — a.k.a. the Sun King — as the longest-reigning monarch ever. With her

passing, he keeps the top spot with his current record of 72 years and 110 days on the throne.

However, King Louis XIV had a slightly unfair advantage considering he ascended to his throne when he was just 4 years old, according to Britannica — he was 76 when he died, and spent much of his early reign as a neglected child and an impoverished king whose crown was under assault by rebellious nobles. In contrast, Queen Elizabeth took the crown when she was 25 and was been firmly in control of her reign from then on.

<https://www.grunge.com/680882/queen-elizabeth-iis-most-notable-accomplishments/>

6 - WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIES?



Max Mumby/indigo/Getty Images

BY WILLIAM

FISCHER AND AARON

HOMER/UPDATED: AUG. 20, 2022

The majority of the people reading this article have likely lived through the presidencies of at least eight presidents of the United States and probably two or three popes. However, except for the readers at the older end of the bell curve, most have been alive during the reign of one and only one British monarch: Queen

Elizabeth II. She has reigned since 1952 and, according to Tatler, is the longest-reigning current monarch in the world. However, at 96, the queen likely doesn't have much time left, and soon the British public and government, as well as those of her realms across the world, will have to deal with not only the death of their beloved royal but also with the transition from the modern Elizabethan monarchy to that of her successor (likely her son, Prince Charles).

When Queen Elizabeth does die, it will set into motion a series of events that will include the immediate ascension of her successor, followed by a period of mourning and a state funeral, and will culminate in the coronation of the next monarch.

D-DAY AND OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE



Peter Kunasz/Shutterstock

Whatever else can be said about it, the British government is prepared for the passing of a monarch. Elizabeth II's death will trigger a series of procedures, all of them bearing code names that can sound like something out of a James Bond film. The plans for immediately notifying the relevant individuals upon the queen's passing carry the name "Operation London Bridge."

It begins with the assumption that the queen will die of an illness, something that will be recognizable as terminal but allowing time to prepare. According to an exposé published in The Guardian, the queen's senior physician will take charge of

access to her and what information is relayed to the public. Per the practices followed when past monarchs reached the end of their lives, initial press releases will describe any illness in broad strokes, gently priming Britain for the coming end.

Once the queen dies, her private secretary assumes responsibility. Their first call will be to the prime minister, with the message, "London Bridge is down." The same message will go out to all the governments in the Commonwealth, whether they hold Elizabeth as their sovereign or not. Per Politico, the prime minister will also need to inform the cabinet secretary, the Privy Council Office, and other senior figures in government. Only then will there be a public notification of the queen's death, a day that the government will dub "D-Day" in internal operations.

THE ROYAL CONTINGENCIES



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Most of the planning in place for Elizabeth II's death works on the assumption that she will die in the UK, specifically in England. All of the ceremonies to mark her passing are set there. But the timing of life and death doesn't always cooperate with custom and advanced planning. Should the queen pass away somewhere else, there are contingencies prepared.

The likelihood of the queen dying abroad has become minute. Per Tatler, she hasn't left the UK since 2015, and had to give up

traveling only as far as Northern Ireland for health reasons in 2021, according to the BBC. But, should fate see her away from Britain one last time when the end comes, a jet from an RAF squadron known as the Royal Flight will bring a "first call coffin" to wherever she is. The body will be properly prepared and brought back to England (per The Guardian).

Within the UK, another contingency is ready in case the queen dies at her favored estate of Balmoral. Scotland has its own rituals to observe in the event of the sovereign's death. Her body will be taken to her palace in Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, and from there travel up the Royal Mile to a reception in St. Giles' cathedral. After that comes Operation UNICORN (per Politico), the journey of the queen's coffin down the east coast of Britain by Royal Train to London.

CHARLES WILL BECOME KING IMMEDIATELY



Bart Lenoir/Shutterstock

Assuming he doesn't predecease his mother or immediately abdicate his place in line to the throne, Britain's next monarch, on the death of Queen Elizabeth, will be her son, now known as Prince Charles. Indeed, it will happen effectively one day after his mother's death, according to British Heritage, after his siblings have customarily kissed his hand. Charles will also have to choose a regnal name, although as of this writing he's expected to

follow his mother's example and stick with his birth name, thus being known as King Charles III.

While his mother lies in state, Charles will meet with his Accession Council, a cadre of senior figures in government who will have earlier issued a formal proclamation that Charles is king (per Politico). After the meeting, Charles will travel to Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales to meet his subjects. He will make his first address to his subjects from St. James' Palace.

PARLIAMENT WILL DELIVER ITS TRIBUTES



Evening Standard/Getty Images

The British government will mark the day of Elizabeth's death as D-Day, the day after as D-Day+1, and so on up to D-Day+10 (per Politico). On D-Day, Parliament will be recalled if they aren't already in session, both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. At first, their only duty will be to sit while the prime minister delivers a statement, meets with Prince Charles, and steps aside for the now-King Charles to say his own words. MPs have been instructed not to make any statements or comments until at least after the prime minister's address to the nation.

On D-Day+1, Parliament's work begins. The order of business — the only order of business, as all other work will be suspended for 10 days — will be a message of condolence over the queen's death. While Parliament as a whole considers its joint statement, individual MPs can use this time to offer their personal tributes in

the Commons. As that work goes on in the legislature, the prime minister and the Cabinet will have their first audience with the new king.

MOURNING IN THE DIGITAL AGE



Joseph Okpako/Getty Images

As The Guardian wrote about plans for Elizabeth II's death, "The idea is for nothing to be unforeseen." Everything from the type of jet that should fetch the queen if she dies abroad (and which RAF squadron) to how members of the Accession Council should dress when meeting to proclaim Charles the new king (per Politico) has been planned. It's in the nature of the monarchy; succession through death comes with the system. It's also in keeping with the precedents of the royal family. Queen Victoria knew what she wanted in her coffin by 1875, 26 years before her death.

Media outlets have developed comparable levels of preparation. ITV and Sky have their own internal code word to relay the death of the queen: Mrs. Robinson (per British Heritage). Every major news outlet will see its anchors suited in mourning black, and every major TV station will pull its regular broadcast in favor of rolling coverage about the queen. Buckingham Palace will attach a notice of the queen's death to the gate. The notice will have a black border.

Even webpages and social media have been accounted for in the planning. The royal family's website and the Buckingham Palace website will go black, bearing the same text as the gate notice. The government website will wear a black banner. And all social media accounts connected to the government or the royal family will adopt black banners and suspend all non-essential posts or shares.

OPERATION LION



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Once Operation London Bridge — dealing with the immediate aftermath of Elizabeth II's death — is completed, preparations for Operation LION will begin. This is the code name for the queen's coffin's procession to the Palace of Westminster for a period of public mourning. Wherever the queen dies, her body will be returned to Buckingham Palace first. Assuming all goes according to plan, she should arrive there two days out from her death on D-Day+2, per Politico. There, according to The Guardian, the coffin will be protected by four Grenadier Guards as it rests upon an altar. As the queen lies in rest, her palace staff will be quietly replaced with Charles'.

The queen's coffin will stay in Buckingham Palace for two days. On the second, D-Day+4, a rehearsal for the procession will be run, with Operation LION itself carried out the next day. It is to be a military march down a predesignated route, one that may

hold over a million mourners. As solemn as the occasion is meant to be, not every detail will be morbid. If Edward VII's procession, led by his favorite fox terrier, is relied on as a guide, the queen's corgi dogs may end up leading the march to Westminster.

ELIZABETH'S FUNERAL WILL BE 10 DAYS AFTER HER DEATH



Wpa Pool/Getty Images

For three days after its arrival in the Palace of Westminster, the body of Elizabeth II will lie in state. During this time, designated Operation Feather (via Politico), the public will be able to come and pay their respects 23 hours a day. The coffin will be placed in the middle of Westminster Hall on a catafalque draped in purple for easy viewing access. First among the mourners will be King Charles, with MPs able to cut to the front of the queue and VIPs allowed certain times by ticket. Government planning anticipates around 500,000 mourners taking advantage of this time, according to The Guardian.

By this time, Parliament and the governments of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will have issued their messages of condolence to Charles and the nation. The government will have its hands full in preparing for the funeral, particularly the Foreign Office as it tries to coordinate the arrival of various dignitaries

flying in to pay their last respects, and the Home Office as it works to keep London secure.

On D-Day+10, the funeral will commence. Most of Britain will have the day off from work; the queen and the government have already agreed that it will be a "Day of National Mourning" (via The Independent). The coffin will travel to Westminster Abbey for a service and two minutes of silence, and then on to Windsor Castle for final burial in the King George VI Memorial Chapel.

CHARLES WON'T BE CROWNED RIGHT AWAY



Frederic Legrand - COMEO/Shutterstock

Although he'll become king immediately on the death of his mother (or, to be more specific, following a small handful of trivial formalities), Prince Charles won't undergo the coronation ceremony until months after his mother's death, according to Town & Country. This is in keeping with tradition. In the past, following the death of a monarch, the country has gone into an official period of mourning that lasts for several months, and indeed, the period of mourning could even last longer than the monarch's reign. Such was the case with Elizabeth's uncle, King Edward VIII, who ascended the throne on the death of his father, but then abdicated a few months later without being crowned.

Assuming Charles neither abdicates nor dies before his coronation, expect it to happen about a year or so after Elizabeth's

death. That particular ceremony will be, like every such ceremony before it, a solemn, dignified, religious, and patriotic event filled with pomp and circumstance. There will be multiple references to God and Christianity, and overall, the event will be a Christian ceremony, but Charles is also expected to bring in other elements of other faiths practiced in Britain and the Commonwealth.

OPERATION GOLDEN ORB



Wpa Pool/Getty Images

According to Politico, the plans for Prince Charles' immediate ascension to King Charles are designated as Operation Spring Tide. The code name for his coronation, meanwhile, is Operation Golden Orb, made public after documentation on an unrelated matter forgot to redact the code name (per The Daily Mail). Contrary to what might be expected, the planning of a coronation is done without involvement from either Buckingham Palace or Charles' offices in Clarence House. Instead, a panel chaired by the Earl Marshal (an office responsible for all monarchical state ceremonies, including Elizabeth II's funeral) develops the itinerary.

Details of the coronation plans remain confidential, but some of Charles' preferences are known or inferred through sources. Per The Mirror, he hopes for something shorter than his mother's three-hour ceremony, and something considerably less expensive

than the £46 million the last coronation cost (adjusted for inflation as of 2022). Charles reportedly still wants to ensure the British taxpayers receive "good value" in the coronation, but the coronation will also be a chance to present a more scaled-back monarchy, limited to Charles as sovereign, his queen consort, and his immediate heirs.

Plans are allegedly in place, as well, for greater representation of other religions despite the coronation's nature as an Anglican service. Charles has publicly stated that he would like to modify the sovereign's style "Defender of the Faith" to "Defender of Faith."

REQUIEM FOR AN EMPIRE



Elizabeth II has been queen for 70 years, longer than many Britons have been alive. Even before she was crowned, she was a national figure, delivering radio addresses and serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service during World War II (per the National WWII Museum). She's been one of the only constants for Britain across successive governments, popular movements, and societal and technological shifts in the postwar period. Commenters and historians differ on whether her reign can be described as another Elizabethan age, but her use of the limited soft power of the monarchy as a counselor to prime ministers and

a representative of Britain has won her consistent praise (per Reuters).

But if the queen's time on the throne is another Elizabethan era, it's one of a very different character from Elizabeth I's. When the current Elizabeth first took the throne, the UK was already waning as a global power but retained significant territories in its empire. Today, the empire is gone, the level of influence on the world stage is greatly diminished, and Britain has been wracked by internal strife over economics, politics, its imperial legacy, and national identity. As The Guardian noted, the queen is the last surviving symbol of more sure and steady days for the kingdom. "We were all told that the funeral of Churchill was the requiem for Britain as a great power," said one historian. "But actually it will really be over when [the queen] goes."

WILL THE COMMONWEALTH SURVIVE THE QUEEN?



Pool/Getty Images

One of Elizabeth II's proudest achievements has been the development of the Commonwealth of Nations. Unique among European imperial powers (per Reuters), Britain forged an international body of cooperation with its former colonies. The modern Commonwealth was first established in 1949, according to its website, but the queen has been its head since ascending the throne, and she is almost as devoted to it as to Britain. She

described it in 1953 as "built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man; friendship, loyalty and the desire for freedom and peace. To that new conception of an equal partnership of nations and races I shall give myself heart and soul every day of my life."

Under the queen, the Commonwealth has grown to 54 countries, some of them never a part of the British Empire. One third of the global population is represented by the organization. It was credited with helping to end apartheid in South Africa and some of its smaller members, particularly those in the Caribbean, have said it provides tangible benefits. But according to France 24, its efficacy for solving modern crises of democracy and climate change may be limited. It has not entirely resolved old colonial animosities, and its future without the queen remains an open question. "I think perhaps the Commonwealth has historically run its course," historian Philip Murphy told Reuters. "And what you're seeing now is the ghost of an organization."

<https://www.grunge.com/657084/what-will-happen-after-queen-elizabeth-ii-dies/>

7 - FAMOUS PEOPLE THE QUEEN CAN'T STAND



Wpa Pool/Getty Images

BY PETRA GODESA/UPDATED: OCT. 12, 2021 EDT

Queen Elizabeth II is not just the longest-reigning British monarch in history, but one of the last true royalties still living in our time. The high standards of etiquette prevent her from lashing out at annoying individuals in her vicinity, but, through her extensive royal career, there have been many speculations around hidden and sometimes not-so-hidden clashes she's had.

It is no wonder many of them took place within the thick walls of the royal palace — being a monarch and a mother is not an easy job. The queen, firmly defending traditional principles and the monarchy itself, has had to make some tough choices during her reign, which has led to several family schisms. Being royalty acquires following a very strict code of behavior, resisting passions and infatuations, and always putting the monarchy and its principles first.

Strict rules and protocols dictate the queen must not publicly express any opinion on political matters. Regardless of the fact she has met an impressive selection of world leaders, she has never been allowed to tell them what she really thinks of them or their leadership. Clever as she is, she's still managed to get her message across in a few cases. Here are some famous people the queen (speculatively) can't stand.

MICK JAGGER



Franco Origlia/Getty Images

Maybe Mick Jagger can impress all the ladies, but not Queen Elizabeth II. As reported in The Telegraph, he did excite Princess Margaret though, according to Jagger's biographer, Christopher Andersen. She was so fascinated with the rock star she built a villa next to him on the magical island Mustique, where they indulged in partying properly, as both well knew how. There is no record of them actually having an affair, but "there was a flirtation going on there, definitely," as noted by Elsa Bowker, wife of British diplomat Sir James Bowker (via Daily Mail). The queen was not happy about Margaret's untamed behavior, fearing scandals or just general moral corruption.

Lady Diana, another stormy female, was in good relationship with the Rolling Stone frontman, as well, speculates the New Idea, so one could imagine how fed up the queen was with Jagger at that point. Lady Di, similar to Princess Margaret, appreciated dancing and good music, not showing much interest in serious dinners and the countryside.

As stated by Anderson in the Daily Mail, with Jagger calling the queen "chief witch," their relationship was bound to become sour eventually. The queen did not participate at Jagger's controversial knight ceremony, due to her knee surgery. And apparently, she it preferred it that way, allegedly telling hospital staff, "I would much rather be here than at Buckingham Palace knighting at a certain party," Anderson told The Telegraph.

DONALD TRUMP



Brandon Bell/Getty Images

While the queen has had reasonably warm relations with several United States presidents, Donald Trump is not one of them. He continuing his childish tantrums even when meeting the royals, managing to breach the protocol on several occasions on his visit in 2018. Although the rumors about him being late for his meeting with the queen turned out to be false — he was actually late by only a minute — he turned his back on and walked ahead of the queen during their protocol stroll past the family and officials, creating a storm of British disapproval (via Time). Was that intended or just a consequence of his excitement — he is one of the queen's biggest fans after all, according to HuffPost – no one knows. It is true, on the other hand, he broke the royal code, one wonders if he ever read it at all.

With Trump being excited about his relationship with Queen Elizabeth II, her majesty might not equally share the fascination. During Trump's United Kingdom visit in 2018, the queen wore a brooch she got as a present from the Obama's, as reported by the Independent. Since it is known she likes to communicate through her jewelry and fashion accessories, one can only guess what her message was.

BORIS JOHNSON



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According to journalist Vincent McAviney, Prime Minister Boris Johnson made his first mistake during his very first audience with Queen Elizabeth II in 2019. Breaking protocol, he told everyone she stated that she does not understand why anyone would want to be prime minister. He was consequently told off by palace staff.

Johnson was an outspoken proponent of Brexit, using it as part of his election platform and his victory speech, notes The Brookings Institute. However, there was previous speculation that the queen had subtly expressed her opinion on Brexit, making it clear that this is not what she thinks is the best for the country (via The Washington Post) — perhaps cause for contemplation on how their relationship would shake out.

POLITICO reports that Johnson later threw the queen into quite an unpleasant position by demanding Parliament to be shut down for weeks, preventing a veto on a no-deal Brexit. Part of the British nation started to speculate whether the queen could save the country and intervene with the process herself, expecting her to take a stand (which she is not supposed to as a monarch). The queen stuck to her policy of not getting involved and granted the prime minister his request as is tradition, disappointing many.

On another occasion, Johnson allegedly insisted he would have his live bi-weekly meeting with the queen during the pandemic as well, saying, "I'm going to see the Queen ... that's what I do every Wednesday. Sod this. I'm going to go and see her"

(via CNN). Downing Street staff denied such accusations, and Johnson ultimately postponed his visit.

MARGARET THATCHER



Hulton Archive/Getty Images

The complicated relationship between the infamous Iron Lady and the queen was depicted many times on screens and on paper. The Netflix series, *The Crown*, emphasizes respect the two women developed through the years, despite the numerous disputes, personal and official, they shared. Both were exceptional women with a mission, born only six months apart (via Biography). Even if they had conflicting views on how to handle Great Britain, they did share some fundamental similarities, such as gender and age, which is rare in an environment so specific.

Opposing political views turned out to be the biggest obstacle, with Queen Elizabeth II defending a centrist and consensual position while Thatcher had a more rigorous approach. According to Sunday Times (via AP News), things got very complicated in 1986, when Thatcher refused to impose economic sanctions on South Africa, opposing other commonwealth members and the institution itself — which didn't sit well with the queen, taking commonwealth organization very seriously. The queen felt Thatcher was destroying everything that was important to her,

including their home country, and labeled Thatcher's policy as "uncaring, confrontational, and divisive."

But even the toughest ladies have a heart (mostly), and the queen is no exception. After the Iron Lady was pushed out of Parliament by her own cabinet, the queen invited her to a horse race event to show some support. Thatcher refused the invitation, but as reported by The Independent, felt flattered.

CHINESE OFFICIALS



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In 2015, Chinese president Xi Jinping's U.K. trip did not quite go as planned. According to CNN, the queen's complaints were actually caught on camera by a member of her staff. She made a remark to a Metropolitan police officer that she found Chinese officials quite rude, especially during their talk with British ambassador Barbara Woodward. Whether the observation was based on personal or cultural differences, it is hard to say.

Former British diplomat Kerry Brown told the BBC that it was "striking" the queen still found it tough dealing with the Chinese, despite her decades of experience: "In terms of the atmospherics between diplomats in China and the UK, it's not an easy relationship and that comes through in the freight of emotion that was in her comments."

But, the royal family has never really had a close relationship with the Chinese government, which is not surprising, looking at

diametrically opposing views of British and Chinese ideologies. Following a "golden era," the relationship between the two nations has worsened over the years.

JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS



Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images

Dislike between Queen Elizabeth II and the charming Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was reciprocal, with both ladies being suspicious towards each other. The traditional queen did not appreciate the glamorous American, with her theatrical style and command of the media. Problems started in 1961, when the Kennedy couple visited Buckingham Palace and allegedly made some harsh comments about the appearance of the palace and the queen herself. Onassis found the queen's attire modest and not in line with the latest fashion, while, to her, the palace seemed outdated and worn-out feel. According to The Telegraph, Cecil Beaton, well known British photographer and designer, reported in his diaries that Onassis stated she was simply unimpressed.

But the conflict was stirred before the two women even met, according to The Readers Digest. They disputed over the guest list at the protocol dinner. Onassis wanted to bring her sister, divorcee Princess Lee Radziwill, which did not sit well with the queen, who opposed any kind of separation between married

couples. Radziwill did attend the dinner at the end, but as a "way of retaliation," the queen withheld invitations for Princess Margaret and Princess Marina, both of whom Onassis was eager to meet. Onassis stated that she felt uncomfortable through the dinner, thinking "the Queen resented me. Philip was nice, but nervous. One felt absolutely no relationship between them."

CAMILLA PARKER BOWLES



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Regardless of the fact that the queen has had the opportunity to meet almost anyone who matters during her extensive career, it seems she saves the most poisonous spikes for the people close to her. It is no secret how Camilla Parker Bowles, now the duchess of Cornwall, came to the royal family. Always being the one and only for Prince Charles, Bowles was not a good match for him on paper, and the love affair had to be terminated. That did not stop Bowles or Charles from keeping the close connection, regardless of their marriage status. Their love survived, and in 2005, they finally got married. According to The Insider, the queen and Prince Phillip did not attend the ceremony, although they did visit the reception after it. To make the situation even more bitter, Prince Phillip died on the exact day of Bowles' and Charles' wedding anniversary, April 9.

The fact that the duchess has remained in the royal family is a fair reason for the queen to be annoyed. Biographer Tom Bower

claimed in his book on the royal family that the queen never approved Camilla from the start, calling her a wicked woman on one occasion and stating she didn't not want to do anything with her (via the Express). She did not even want to meet Bowles until 2000, The Insider reports.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES



David Levenson/Getty Images

The complete opposite of Camilla Parker Bowles, Diana Spencer seemed like the perfect wife for the royal successor. But no one predicted how different she actually was from the rest of the royal family. Her emotional and sincere reactions puzzled the queen, and while she was trying to be supportive at first, there were just too many things she did not approve of.

One of the things Princess Diana did differently was how she brought up her two sons. Unlike other mothers in the British royal family, she wanted to spend as much time as she could with the children, which confused the queen and broke royal protocol. Andrew Morton, a royal biographer, observed the queen commenting at one point: "I don't understand why Diana has to do this. There are millions of housemaids around" (via British Heritage).

According to Good Housekeeping, Diana's choice to publish a biography, "Diana: Her True Story," in 1992, written by Morton, aggravated the queen a lot. Revealing too much of one's

personal life is never an option for a royal, especially not talking about a flawed marriage or an imperfect relationship with the queen.

There was just too much drama between Diana and Charles' breakup process for the queen to curb her disapproval. Several scandals later, the princess died in a car accident, a year after the divorce. The first comment that the queen made after hearing about Diana's death, according to royal expert and author Ingrid Seward, was "someone must have greased the brakes" (via Cheat Sheet).

MEGHAN MARKLE



Chris Jackson/Getty Images

By now one can justifiably ask whether the queen likes any of her daughters-in-law at all. While Kate Middleton manages to stay on the queen's good books, this is not true for Meghan Markle, an American divorcee and actress who has brought turmoil to the royal family. Even those who know nothing about the royal drama are aware of the immense friction between these two.

According to the queen's strict standards, everything is wrong with Markle — she was married before, her celebrity status added even more fodder to the British tabloids (of which the royals were regularly a constant), her liberal views and openness as another "people's princess" at odds with royal establishment's more

hands-off approach (via The Atlantic). She's wanted things she cannot have, like that special tiara for her wedding day that might have been stolen from some Russian tsar, as noted by Marie Claire. In short, everything she does has seemed to be a mistake, firmly leading Prince Harry away from his family or the throne. The fact that Harry and she formally stepped down from their royal roles implies much (via BBC).

In addition to an explosive interview with Oprah that caused strife within the family (with the queen none to pleased that the broadcast competed with her Commonwealth Day address), the latest faux-pas that Markle caused, according to the BBC, was naming their new baby Lilibet. There are conflicting sources on whether the couple asked the queen permission about using her special nickname as a name for their daughter.

SARAH FERGUSON, THE DUCHESS OF YORK



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The Queen's resentment towards her daughter-in-law Sarah Ferguson started in the '90s, just before the divorce between Ferguson and Prince Andrew. According to Good Housekeeping, the marriage itself was bound to fail, but with Prince Andrew being queen's favorite son, Ferguson stood no chance. She did the worst crime a respectable woman could commit, being followed by paparazzi and pictured on holiday with her lover, while still married to her royal husband.

Ferguson was then excluded from the royal family, stepping into the already familiar role of the royal renegade. She did push it quite far, trying to sell access to her former husband to a News of the World reporter (via ET Online) at some point, which cost her an invite to the royal wedding of William and Kate. As she told Town and Country, "It was always that Diana was portrayed as the saint and I was portrayed as the sinner. Bad Fergie sold an awful lot of papers." And, as The Guardian notes, the crown has had a turbulent relationship over the decades with the tabloids, so royal family members (and ex-members) making headlines is never good.

ALL OF THE QUEEN'S GRANDCHILDREN



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The queen's refusal to follow the Scottish initiative to cut carbon emissions shows a blatant ignorance towards climate change issues. According to The Guardian, she lobbied in secret to achieve exemption from the rules for her land and estates — which is not a small portion of Scotland, with the Queen being one of the major landowners in the country. The lobbying took place through a measure called Queen's Consent, which enables the queen to familiarize herself with the proposed legislation before it is confirmed.

The Queen's Consent has been in practice in numerous cases through the years, revealing her majesty's reluctance to play by

the same rules as the general public (via The Guardian). But her rejection of the green bill is a step further, a special form of hypocrisy, displaying a worrying disregard for not only her own grandchildren but also the future of all humanity.

<https://www.grunge.com/990635/heres-what-will-happen-to-the-british-economy-when-queen-elizabeth-ii-dies/>

انتهى التقرير

The report ended
Raport się zakończył

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