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**Gender and Empire : The Role of Female Monarchs in
Maintaining the British Empire**

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Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization**

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Dedications

Dedicating this dissertation to our dear parents, for their endless support.

To our siblings for their assistance and encouragement.

To ourselves, for working collaboratively and encouraging each other along this journey.

To our friends, whose assisted us and whose made this journey enjoyable .

Thank you all for your faith and being a part in this journey.



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Abstract

This research discusses the main role of female monarchs that had maintained the British Empire. Despite the dominance of male rulers during the peak development of the United Kingdom and the British Empire, the contribution of female monarchs were crucial in shaping its entire course. However, female governance remains unexplored and overshadowed by their male peers. So, what are their main political, cultural, economic, diplomatic and Military achievements and what did female monarchs do to preserve the empire? In this study analytical descriptive methods were adopted alongside with iconography, contextual and historical source analysis. This Investigation also utilized and analysed both primary sources and secondary sources including articles books and websites data. It was revealed that key historical events in British history were marked during the reign of female monarchs, including the formation of both United Kingdom and the Empire. All female monarchs were diplomatically more successful than many kings. Queen monarchs directly influenced the British Empire while Queen consorts influenced it indirectly, however each exerted powerful effect. Even when the authority of Queens is limited, they can still make significant change. If they were subjected under any certain obligatory circumstances to rule, they would still govern with excellency. The research highlights the importance of analysing female leadership historically and relating it to contemporary policies as valuable lessons of governance. Additionally, the unknown and short reigning Queens are not necessarily politically unsuccessful rulers, their reign requires further scholarly examinations and understanding.

Key words. Britain, Consorts, Empire, Monarch, Queens.

Résumé

Ce mémoire traite le rôle principal des femmes monarques qui ont maintenu l'Empire britannique. Malgré la prédominance du gouvernement masculin pendant la période de développement du Royaume-Uni et de l'Empire britannique, la contribution des monarques féminins a été déterminante pour l'évolution de cette empire, mais leur gouvernance reste inexplorée et éclipsé par celui de leurs homologues masculins. Quelles sont donc leurs principales réalisations politiques, culturelles, économiques, diplomatiques et militaires et qu'ont fait les femmes monarques pour préserver l'empire ? Dans cette étude, des méthodes analytiques descriptives ont été adoptées, ainsi que l'analyse iconographique, contextuelle et historique des sources. Dans cette enquête, des données provenant de sources primaires et secondaires, y compris des articles, des livres et des sites web, ont été utilisées et analysées. Les événements historiques clés de l'histoire britannique ont été marqués sous le règne de femmes monarques, notamment la formation du Royaume-Uni et de l'Empire britannique. Toutes les femmes monarques ont eu plus de succès diplomatique que de nombreux rois. Les reines monarques ont influencé directement l'Empire britannique, tandis que les reines-concerts l'ont influencé indirectement, mais chacune a exercé un effet puissant. Même lorsque l'autorité des reines est limitée, elles peuvent encore apporter des changements significatifs. Si elles étaient soumises à certaines circonstances obligatoires pour gouverner, elles gouverneraient toujours avec excellence.

mots clés: Bretagne, Consorts, Empire, Monarque, Reines.

List of Abbreviations

GB	Great Britain
BE	British Empire
PM	Prime Minister
WWI	First World War
WWII	Second World War
BCE	Before Common Era
CE	Common Era
RE	Roman Empire
AD	Anno Domini (in the year of our Lord)
St	Saint

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General Introduction

Background

A monarchy is a system of government in which there is only one ruler, who is either a king or queen that holds supreme authority this ruler is monarch, Usually, this position is inherited. Great Britain is more often known as Britain even though its formal name is the United Kingdom, politically united entity consists of the following four nations: Wales, Scotland, England, and Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom was a huge empire that covered much of the globe once. It is important to differentiate between Britain as an empire, and before it was created and when it disintegrated and left noticeable legacy. Five female monarchs—Queen Mary I, Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Mary II, Queen Anne, and Queen Victoria— in chronological ordered have held official power over Britain throughout history, quite powerful queens. On the other hand, queens consort were the wives of reigning kings, occasionally held equal power, but most of the time they served as regents in absence of their husbands. These women leaders overcame major challenges in their path to positions of authority and implemented major improvements throughout important periods in British history. Three dynasties ruled in time where Britain became kingdom and developed to be empire, first dynasty is the Tudors and the second are Stuarts third are Hanovers. Queen Mary I and Elizabeth II were Tudor sisters, Queen Mary II and Anne were Stuart sisters and finally Victoria was last monarch from house Hanover. It is worth noting that the degree of power vary by different queens according to the historical context for instance queen Mary I the first held more authority due to the different historical structure and governmental system compared to queen Elizabeth II last queen which contemporary constitutional monarchy restricted her power.

Statement of Problem

A substantial body of research has been done on the history of the female queens, their impacts and successes keeping the empire intact. All five queens oversaw pivotal moments in British history, and their influence on the expansion and stability of the empire was profound and long-lasting. There is analyses problem in identifying any particular challenges they confronted and evaluating the tactics and policies they employed to support the resilience and survival of the British Empire. In addition to the role of queen consorts in sustaining the continuity of the monarchy and the empire's governance, not to mention their influence during times of war and political unrest, which was occasionally viewed as unauthorized. Furthermore, in examining the reigns of

these female monarchs and their achievements and understanding of how their leadership preserved the British Empire's resiliency in times of impending crisis and contributed to keep it from collapsing.

Research Questions and Hypothesis

The research seeks to address the following questions:

- What is the long reigning history of monarchs?
- What are the main political, cultural, economic, diplomatic and military achievements of female monarchs to preserve the empire?

It has been hypothesized that:

- Monarchs had long history of reign.
- Female monarchs specifically had great achievements that maintained the empire and expended it.

Aim of the Study

studying history of British female monarch serves as evidence in our research which aims to demonstrate the leadership abilities of females and the capacity to positively influence politics, history, and diplomacy in a significant way. This research will also look at the specific tactics these women used to expand their empire.

The study also aims to demonstrate that women leaders are capable of implementing important reforms, even in circumstances where their power is legally and politically constrained, by analyzing the historical development of the British governmental system and the progressive limitation of monarchs' authority for democratic states.

Literature Review

There is a lot of scholarly interest in the impact that female rulers had on the British Empire. *The dynamics of change of the British monarchy and the royal family* by Daria K. Sawicka and Daniel Sawczuk discusses the changes of the political importance of the monarch during history stating “The shaping of the political system in Britain is a story of change” (Sawicka & Sawczuk, n.d., p. 108) mentioning only the parliament and their effect on the monarchy system neglecting the role of religion on monarchy and the royal family during history and governing system on general. In *Queens and Power in Medieval and Early Modern England*, author in this book talks about the female leadership in certain periods without mentioning the reign of the other queens, it

analysed queens from empress Matilda until queen Anne of Stuart. However, it is essential to examine all queens to emphasize the role of female monarchs on British Empire.

Historical Dictionary of the British Monarchy by James Panton is a book about the monarchs of Britain, but the author in this book did not introduce an overview of British history. It is essential to understand the historical events that happened in each reign of the monarchs and the factors that effect on the development of monarchy system for complete coverage of everything related to the monarchs.

Research Methodology:

The origin of this study is descriptive-analytical based on secondary data that has previously been discovered through records, documents, and prior research which must be carefully examined. In addition to reviewing four primary sources adopting iconographic analyses for the first source: Queen Elizabeth's portrait "the Spanish armada portrait" following three steps suggested by a German art historian named Erwin Panofsky. First step involved pre-iconography assessment; explaining what does this image show on the simplest basic level, second step involved convention and precedent which identified and entailed all the motifs and symbols presented in the portrait. Step three uncovered intrinsic meaning by using the theoretical framework and historical context discussed in the first two chapters explaining the symbols in the portrait. As for the second and the fourth documents historical source analyses of bill of rights and act of union were utilized evaluating information about the context, origin, audience, any kind of perspectives and goals included in these texts. Moreover, contextual analyses of queen Victoria's photograph with her personal Indian teacher. For that kind of analyses the research encompasses the key formal elements and visual characteristics of the photograph. Subsequently search was conducted to identify the photographer and any information available about him eventually his name only was found. furthermore, the precise date this Photograph was taken, where is it available and historical cultural circumstances surrounded this picture. Comparative analysis with other kinds of Arts before and after the original period were also undertaken. discussing and investigating the purpose of this photograph or any religious, political symbols are shown.

Significant of Study:

Male monarchs in historical discourse are frequently given priority, neglecting the important responsibilities that females participated. The significant roles that female monarchs played in formatting, defending, and shaping the British Empire must be emphasized. These women not only held positions of power but also had a say in important decisions and strategies that guaranteed the stability and expansion of the empire. This study and evaluation of female monarchs provided

the deserved attention expressing their involvement in historical processes, as it reflects their major effect on preserving British history.

this study also undertake the examination of rule of female monarchs within both contemporary and historical framework starting from Early Middle Ages periods to the modern constitutional monarchy. Exploring the cultural and political dynamic in addition to evaluation and development of monarchy.

Structure of the Study:

The research is divided into three chapters, the first two chapter is theoretical part that deals with detailed literature review. Chapter one: provide brief information discuss history prior to the formation of British Empire and during its formation and finally the downfall of the empire and its remain legacy, the chapter also examines the history of governing system in relation to religion and its impact on ruling monarchs. Second chapter of the dissertation seeks investigate the obtained data. Chapter two: analyses the political, diplomatic, cultural, military, and economic accomplishments of female monarchs in order to highlight their contributions to both the development and preserving of the empire. It also looks at the significant challenges and criticisms they faced, highlighting how they overcame them analysing their leadership, this chapter aims to shed light on the significant contributions that female monarchs made to shape the development of the empire and protecting it for decades. Third chapter is analytical part where corpus and primary source texts are studied. Chapter three: This chapter analyses four key primary sources: the portrait of the Spanish Armada 1588, the Bill of Rights 1689, and a photograph of Queen Victoria with her servant and personal teacher Abdul Karim 1897. Act of union 1707.

CHAPTER ONE

History of British Empire and Governing System

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Introduction

The British Empire has a deep-rooted civilization and long history of interesting events that influenced the entire world and its Legacy still remain noticeable in contemporary times. To examine the rule of female monarchs within the Empire it is necessary to study its history and evaluation of its political and governing system because the impact of monarchs depends only on the governing circumstances, context and limitation of their historical period. It is also essential to study the development of the empire to understand how it achieved its peak of its growth and how did it fall. This chapter discusses three historical stages of the British Empire, starting from the leading events that shaped it to the pick of it and finally its downfall. The second part of the chapter explore the definition of the main two faiths that religiously impacted many sides of Britain along with the changes of governing system and religion's intervenes in government.

1.1. Significant Historical Phases

It is important in this research to distinguish between different levels of reformation of the empire ; when Britain became empire and when it reached its highest success and expansion and when did it fall.

1.1.1. Before the Empire

Britain marked a significant period under the Roman invasion which happen after ages including the Stone Age and Iron Age of Britain. In 55 and 54 BCE, Julius Caesar conducted expeditions against Britain to achieved only limited success and could not achieve to a permanent Roman presence on the British Isles. Treaty relations with many British tribes were established by Caesar which lead Britain to be in Roman political ambitions. The Roman conquest of Britain began in 43 CE, marking initial success but faced a severe resistance in Wales and the north, in addition to revolts in the south. However, after forty years, the Roman armies achieved to Scottish Highlands borders. The period During the 2nd, 3rd centuries, there was a peace and prosperity in Roman Britain, towns developed, and roods contributed trade and communication. By the 5th century, there were many changes in Britain for example Irish and Scottish kingdoms started shaping their own foundations, which show the political development in these regions. Nearly 400 years, the Roman rule of Britain has affected the way of life and governing in which it provides an urban lifestyle and new religious beliefs. In 410CE, with the weakness of the Roman Empire, its rule over Britain comes to an end, left it exposed to Germanic barbarians. During the early Middle Ages, various invasions occurred in Britain. With

the arrival of Germanic invaders to Britain in the 5th century, The Britons were pushed and a powerful kingdom were established by Anglo-Saxon invaders which are Mercia, Northumbria & Wessex. The Viking conquest began at the end of the Century, targeting coastal settlements in England within 50 years. By the 10th century, Britain Kings of Wessex conquer areas of England controlled by the Vikings, and they named themselves kings of the English. At the turn of the first millennium, England successfully was conquered by the Danes, to assume the throne for a quarter of a century. In the 9th and 10th centuries, Scotland became a united independent nation. In 1042, With Edward the confessor, Danish rule over England Comes to an end. This period which followed the fall of the Roman Empire has various changes (Cunliffe et al., 2011).

The Norman conquest was important historical period in British history. In 1066 Harold Goodwin Anglo-Saxon king succeeded Edward the confessor to the throne but he faced many challenges when he crowned himself a king one of the challenges was William duke of Normandy son of Robert the second of Normandy William claim to the throne was stronger because he was a cousin of king Edward, and he was promised the throne. Harold Godwin was defeated and killed in battle of Hastings against by William who later was known as William the conqueror, in December 1066 William was crowned king of England his sons after him Henry the first ruled. Henry united Normandy and England when he defeated his brother Robert prince of Normandy and declared his daughter princess Matilda his rightful heir leading to a civil war called bitter civil war, her cousin Stephan refused to accept her as queen when her father died and usurped the throne. Matilda however reached settlement with him and succeeded to appoint her son king of England Henry the second. During reign of Henry the second important reforms happened including having back the lands that were lost in the civil war and conquering Ireland in 1171, his era was also not devoid of civil wars, and his sons rebelled against him. In 1215 king john signed the Magna Carta after conflict between him and the barons. They invited prince Louis of France to be their king taking control over south England the cause behind this religion was the oppressive taxes imposed by the king during war with France the barons together formed a charter of liberties to limit the king's authority and impose taxes on them. Another civil war took place between the barons led by Simon de Montford and king Henry the third for the same issue, but king Henry trapped the barons and killed them eventually. His son Edward the first invaded Wales in 1282 and Scotland in 1296, other Welsh rulers submitted to him because Llewellyn the previous king was unpopular among them, he was defeated and eventually killed. Edward I's son, Edward of Caernarvon was titled the Prince of Wales, the title still exists till present day. In November 1292 Balliol was selected as ruler of Scotland dependently

from king Edward the first by 24 jurors and the English King as judge. the Norman conquest changed the history of Britain for good (Cunliffe et al., 2011).

One of the longest wars in history broke out in 1337 when Edward III attempted to invade France. The war started when king Charles IV of France died and with no heir to take the throne, Edward the third believed that he is the rightful heir to his throne because Philip IV of France was his grandfather. Both England and France experienced lost and gained of territories including victories of Edward when Jean Le bed king of France agreed to sign treaty of Guînes in 1354 giving him Aquitaine, Anjou, Poitou, Touraine, Maine, and Normandy but not the French throne. England again lost its territories when Charles VI invaded and conquered most of it, however England granted few towns when another treaty called treaty of Guerande in 1381 was signed. The Black Death epidemic occurred during the war killing half population of England a disaster that was described as "the great pestilence...raged so terribly that it cleared many villages ...every human being"(Baker, 1357,as cited in Cunliffe et al., 2011). Many places in England was empty from all people they were killed by the epidemic it was pure horror and its name was perfect description of it. Not only human losses are caused by this disease, but also economic losses that maintain even after a long time after the end of the epidemic. The peasant's revolt was another revolution that took place during the 100 years war in 1381 against the heavy poll taxes and oppressive feudal system during the rule of king Richard II it threatens to unseat the king from his power, but soon the rebels were killed, and king was set in power again, the rebellion was finally collapsed. But not for very long because rebellion was raised again against him, and he lost all his rights and as a king surrounded and was imprisoned in London, being the first king to be deposed since the Norman Conquest. The next king Henry IV reign starting new Lancaster Dynasty in another place in Scotland another new Stuart Dynasty started with King Roberts in 1341 but after 4 years Scotland invaded England in 1346 and England took its revenge by invading Scotland again in 1402 capturing many Scottish nobles since the 15th century Wales remain under English rule. Marriage of Richard II and Isabella daughter of Charles brought peace between France and England for a while but not until 1420 when the throne was taken away from him, in 1413 settlement was reached between France and England but when Henry took the throne England occupied half of a France, again. With invention of a new weapons and strategies France was able to drive England out of a France for good. It is also important to mention Joan of Arc a 17-year-old religious peasant girl significant historical figure that played essential role in the Hundred Years War and change the history of both sides believing she had the Divine mission that inspiring French army religiously and let

them to Victory even after her execution her spirit still lived in French forces. During the 100 years' war, many events happened that changed every aspect of history of both sides (Cunliffe et al., 2011).

War of roses was important event in history of ruling dynasties. Another 30 years of a civil war took a place in England for dynasty succession between house Lancaster and house of York, it all started when Henry the 4th took throne from his cousin Richard II in 1399, Henry's Reign was known of France defeating England with their army influenced by Joan of Arc. The first battle of the war was the battle of St. Albany in 1455 and the Lancastrians was defeated the cause of the war was Richard Duke of York and his mission by the Lancasters restoring his old position and after that battle arm fights continue to happen that eventually King Henry was imprisoned, and his wife fled to Scotland and Richard again restored his position not until Margaret collected the Lancastrian forces and killed him at the Battle of Wakefield. Queen Margaret won two battles rescued her husband and killed Richard however Richard's son became a king after his death King Edward IV, being the first king of York for 23 years and winning the bloodiest battles of British history against the Lancasters, capturing Henry again and killing him. the only remaining Lancaster was Henry Tudor the founder of the Tudor eventually the war ended with the alliance of both houses and house of Tudor ruled England for the next 118 years maintaining piece between the two houses. the end of war of roses marked the finish of the Middle Ages period in England (Cunliffe et al., 2011).

1.1.2. The Rise of the Empire

From 1485 to 1688 Britain witnessed two new dynasties of England, Tudors and Stuart. First the Tudors when Henry Tudor ruled. The succession of the Tudor dynasty began with His policy is to centralize power within monarchy as the act of supremacy indicated "the king ...shall be taken, accepted, and reputed the only supreme head in earth of the church of England" (as cited in Cunliffe et al., 2011). the monarch had divine right by God to rule England and only him, this proves that English monarchs held power even after the magna chart. The rule of his dynasty changed England in many aspects such as a prosperity in trade and agriculture, also England's seafarers played a crucial role throughout history also England's naval power was not fully recognized until the establishment of the Royal Navy in the Tudor period. In 1588, a war with Spain began when an armada was sent by king Philip II of Spain to Netherlands collecting his army taking them to invade England for religious and political reasons Religiously, England had become Protestant and Spain Was catholic as for Politically, Netherlands was controlled by Spain, however, there were rebels against Spanish control and England was encouraging

them for this rebellion. Another historical change happened during the reign of Tudor's dynasty was The English Renaissance which begins from the early 1500s, With the rise of Tudors to the early 1600s, achieving to its cultural summit during the period of Elizabeth I. The period of English Renaissance extends to reign the Stuarts, this era witnessed flourishing on arts, philosophy, literature and drama for example One of the most prominent figures at this period was William Shakespeare and as literacy and printing increased at this period; English language spread to become an international language. English Renaissance provides the nation and the Whole Empire a military and economic force by the explorations as for Conquest and plantation both were used by England to set control over Ireland with almost savagery, but a set of revolts by Irish people conducted to resist English rule, nine years war lasted between them. The period of transition in the throne from Tudors to the Stuarts happened when Elizabeth I dead and left the throne vacant. The rule of Tudor dynasty was epic change for British empire (Cunliffe et al., 2011)

With the accession of James I, the Kingdom of Great Britain Were United and then became under the rule of the Scottish Stuart dynasty. English colonial expansion began gradually with the establishment of settlements on North America's eastern seaboard and many Caribbean islands. There was a clash between the king Charles I and the parliament, and this led to the political tensions and a civil war which witnessed a conflict between Royalists and the Roundheads, this war was divided into three which fought in England, Ireland and Scotland, more than 600 battles were involved in this war. In 1660, King Charles II get the throne after the break-down of the Commonwealth. In this period there was a returning of fun and fashion and during the 17th century, London was the largest City in Europe, being a global centre of commerce and culture. There was a shift in scientific thinking through the establishment of Royal Society and the Greenwich observatory with the emergence of scholars like Newton and Hooke, these institutions and scholars promote the rational and methodological methods to scientific inquiry, that helped in the birth of modern science. The Glorious Revolution of 1688 seemed to overthrow of James II, and he was replaced by his daughter Mary and William III. To restore his power and throne King James II seek the support of Louis XIV of France but the Protestant Pride was restored by William the Third when he won the Battle of Boyne in the river of Boyne after James II and his forces were defeated in this battle he fled back to France. Another important war happened during the reign of Queen Anne Stuart called the Spanish War of succession that was fought in North America in 1713 between France and Spain, the war was important in the shape of the modern British and the Irish identity. The period of Tudors and

Stuarts marked a huge change in England in politics, religion, culture and so on. Queen Anne was the last Stuart monarch after that house of Hanover took succeeded the British throne, this house was originally German. The British Parliament chose Sophia Hanover to succeed the throne, but she died a few weeks before Queen Anne on August 1st 1714 her son George the first of Great Britain and Ireland inherited and when King George III came to rule Britain experienced a long period of peace after seven long years of war known as French Indian war that ended with Treaty of Paris. During his accession King George III stated “Born and educated in this country, I glory in the name of Briton.” (George III,1760,as cited in Cunliffe al, 2011). the king was born and indicated in England and his first language is English over time his dynasty transferred to be English. 1714 marked the end of Stuart, dynasty, a very important period in British history.

The French Revolution, which was during the Napoleon Bonaparte era. French invasion always threatened Britain. One of the most successful victories that Britain won during this era was defeating the Spanish Fleet which was an ally of a France led by Admiral Nelson the most famous British warrior and worst enemy of Napoleon Bonaparte defeating France during the Revolutionary War many times even in death was a sacrifice. On the other side in 1812 war between Britain and the United States broke out in a Time when America also had the conflict with France in 1814. British Army Burnt Washington and almost did the same with Baltimore, but they were stopped the best solution for both sides was to make peace, so they issued the Treaty called Ghent In the 18th century. Britain also witnessed the famous Industrial Revolution which is the first stage of Britain transition followed by various expansions. In 19th century, the following stage marked by social and economic development not only technological, Which led Britain to become a global industrial power and speed become slogan of Britain also rail mania led to emergence of steam locomotives in national network and steam ships, the emergence of inspired engineers like Brunei was also noticed. “Black gold” was kind of trading and important part of economy. The period from 1820 to 1850 marked by a change brought about by industrial revolution which includes new ways of Working that had its effect on time keeping, housing and family dynamics, the middle class recognized their financial suffering leading to reform movement for insuring Britain's Wealth, as a result they started demanding justice and change. The Great exhibition is the first ever international industrial exhibition which exhibited the works of industry of all nations, which officially opened by Queen Victoria. In 1854, The Crimean War was declared where an alliance of Ottoman, English and French forces fought the Russian Empire under religious dispute, but the real reason behind this alliance of

nations was for territorial expansion, The War come to an end in 1856. In Britain, hard work, progress and self-improvement became the main values that shaped society, those values increased through the middle class's quest to achieve wealth through industry. British exploration extended to many parts of the World, including Africa, Australia and the ice poles and one of the most important colonies was Canada and India, Britain used the east Indian company to take India wealth. Also, Britain had colonies in America, and it was imposing taxes to these colonies that eventually led to American revolution, Treaty of Paris marked the end of war between the two nations with victory of America keeping diplomatic relationship, catholic and Protestant Irish rebilled against England wanting independent governing system the result was their massacre. It is important to mention that Charles Darwin made significant contributions in the exploration, who is the greatest biologist of 19th century. In 19th Century, Britain Controlled Indian subcontinent through the British East India company and then with the Sepoy mutiny British government took the control, The Indian Raj becomes the country's jewel in the Crown. It had brought India a golden age of good governance, civilization and prosperity. Irish Home Rule was a mass movement inspire by Daniel 'Connell on Charles Parnell for Irish independence from the UK. In 1899, a bitter guerrilla War waged by the Boers in South Africa against Britain and British forces won and the Boer territories became into the British Empire. In Victorian age, Britain witnessed a huge expansion and the start of industrial revolution (Cunliffe et al., 2011).

1.1.3. Downfall of the Empire

The period followed by the Victorian age marked the start of the wars in Britain. Edward reign known with the extravagance and elegance and witnessed a transition from Victorian values to post Great war values and many achievements like, motor cars, tabloid newspapers, airplanes and cinemas that shaped the modern world aspects. The Suffragettes were a campaign of demonstrations which began with leaders Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst for giving vote rights to Women after the parliament's failure to fulfil this requirement. In the late 19th century, trade unionists and socialists brought the working classes and marginalized people to their concerns. Britain during 20th century had economic strength position and imperial authority around the world, but a new European power seemed to appear which is Germany, as a result Britain enters the Great war with Germany on August 4, 1914. After the battles that happened in western front of France and Flanders, British troops achieved victory over their German foes with patriotism and courage, but the triumph achieved with costing a million lives and this known as a victory through slaughter. After the signing of the armistice in November 1918 Britain

recognized the human cost of WWI and the difficulties that would face to achieve peace. In Dublin at Easter 1916, an uprising by Irish republicans failed in reaching independence, but it led to a series of events which resulted in the independence of southern Ireland after six years. Also, it led to the partition of Ireland into two parts, the independent southern Ireland and the Northern Ireland with six counties and the northern part remains a part of the UK and under the British governance. During the 1920s and 1930s, there was a decline in industrial output, a general strike, financial crisis and unemployment. In the period between the two world wars, there were many changes of British social life, where freedom & fun increased. Also, the emergence of picture palaces, dance halls, radio and domestic applications. The British Empire at this period has become of its greatest extent ever. With the emergence of aggressive Nazi regime in Germany and with the policies of Adolf Hitler has challenged Britain and with its seeking for peace, a policy of appeasement was emerged to buy the country time to rearm. At the end, there was an impossibility of avoiding war, Britain in the early years of war with Winston Churchill leadership was narrowly escaped the Nazi Germany and Britain upheld freedom in Europe by its Commonwealth supporting. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Britain entered the first world war, and it marked a decline at many levels (Cunliffe et al., 2011).

WWI, WWII, and the Cold War were huge change for GB. Winston Churchill, influential figure in both first and second world war as secretary of war state for war and colonies and prime minister of the state and involving Britain in both wars, known for his development of first army tanks and oil-fired battleships for the navy. The second world war was a disaster for British people Britain lost so many civilians during the second war, and media by this time was important and used for propaganda to convince people that this war is important, and you need to participate in it even if you are dying in this war. Indeed, millions of soldiers died in the war and women oppressively worked in factories, reaching 8 million working women marking significant change in British society. Britain won World War II against Japan and Germany, but it was not a total win because it left the country with great debt and hundreds of thousands of casualties and crises of unemployment “About 400,000 British people lost their lives in the war, including more than 300,000 members of the armed forces, 60,000 civilians, and more than 30,000 merchant seamen”(Cunliffe et al., 2011). It is always the leaders who decide to enter war but the ones who die and suffers are common people, when leaders contribute in inventing the deadliest weapons they just bomb all places all they care about is that these places is the enemy's place not a place that children women and civilians live in, and unlike the other many previous wars that Britain witnessed during the empire and before new Wars are much

more serious much more deadly and the bloodiest ever people die in an unimaginably numbers because weapons are different now it is more advanced nuclear weapons can kill millions of people in only one second war is no longer game. Significant social change emerged in Britain after the war right movements like feminism and political activities saw actual results for example election of the PM Margaret Thatcher first female prime minister from 1979 to 1990 marking huge change to Britain especially economically and socially her policy succeeded in many sides for instance leading Britain in military victory against Argentina in April and fine 1982 facing challenges of being first female prime minister also the rise of unemployment since she fought communism, her opponents hated and humiliated her. Modern empire refers to the period in which Elizabeth II reigned, her coronation was on television as well as her first Christmas speech. In modern empire Britain lost its territories, but they still members of the Commonwealth like India and Canada keeping the friendly relationships because Britain did not have the power nor the morals to expand its empire again the Commonwealth is important for economy and international relationships of Britain. During these changes Cold War took place and Britain intended to resort its power and start planning inventing atomic bombs exploring their new nuclear repeating in 1952 but in the 1960s Britain abandoned the idea because it could not afford it. 1980s Cold War took place and Britain Was preparing for it since its plans in creating nuclear war started to succeed, but it found itself involving in other military war like Iraq Balkans and Afghanistan after so many shocks Britain faced in the 20th century it's economy strengthen finally and the unemployment decrease developing more democratic system. Although the British Empire fell, Britain still European and global power and One of the most developed countries. With the end of the Cold War, Britain entered new modern eras (Cunliffe et al., 2011).

1.2. Change of Governing System and Religion:

To understand the role of female monarchs it is essential to provide clear image of how they govern what are their limitation and what are their privileges.

1.2.1. Catholicism

Catholicism is a Christian faith, a style of life and community. Catholics believe that Catholicism was found by Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ is the son of God also pop of Rome to be "the perpetual and the rideable source and foundation of the unity of the bishops of the multitude of the faithful"(as cited in McBrien, 1994). Pops are eventually humans They Are Not Angels sometimes they brought corruption to the church means effecting the state and people also, and

sometimes they dedicate their lives to achieve this Unity because they fear God. Religious people believe that the pop represent God, and the Roman Catholic Church by that wanted to unite people with a single faith and provide guidance for people. During the medieval period England was Catholic and most people were Catholics, the Catholic Church was dominant there was no another form of Christianity at that time. The church claims that it has Authority directly from Jesus Christ as main belief of Christianity as for the structure the pope is the head of the church, Cardinals are the advisors to the pope and administrators of the church and Bishops leaders is the charge of a cathedral or specific areas within the church (Mark & Vasnetsov, 2023b). Priests are in charge of villages and town's Church and monastic orders a group of religious people dedicates their lives to religion and church financially to secure their places as members over Church. The church has its own respect and Power, sometimes the priests hold their position only according to their family or favours, creating kind of corruption. Christianity was proven to exist for the first time in England in the second century AD and after the Anglo-Saxon Invasion Christianity was again restored to England when St. Augustine was sent to convert the Anglo-Saxon King Æthelberht of Kent to Christianity again Roman Christianity succeeded in Britain and what made it easier for the king to convert is that this wife Queen Martha was already Christian and this was the second wave of Christianity in England. Catholicism is shared history between so many people (*Our Migration Story: The Making of Britain*, n.d.-b).

1.2.2. Protestantism

Protestantism refers to western Christianity in which the authority of the pope does not interfere. Protestantism includes Christian practices that emerged with the protestant reformation which first started in Germany on October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther brought the idea, Protestantism. Began in England with Henry VII when the Catholic Church did not accept his desire for a divorce from his wife Catherine of Aragon, she did not give him a male heir to inherit the throne as well his desire to Mary Anne Boleyn. He broke away from the Catholic Church for an annulment of his first marriage, and this was the reason behind the separation of the church of England from the Roman Catholic Church. In the 16th century, the church of England known as the established, Anglican church became the state religion until today." The king...shall be taken, accepted, and reputed the only supreme head in earth of the church of England..." (act of supremacy, 1534, as cited in Bandyopadhyaya et al., 2011, p. 137); Parliament passed the " act of supremacy ", in November 1534 for granting the king and his successors the position of "supreme head of the church of England ", where all ecclesiastical

power in the hands of the king. Archbishops and abbots were appointed by the king. Protestantism had a political change in Britain, not only religious. Another difference between Catholicism and Protestantism is that the Catholic Church believe that Latin is the divine language, but protestant church believe that all people should have the access to understand God and his faith, so they change the language from Latin to English. The pope no longer has a specific authority in England ("Protestantism in England in the 16th century," n.d.; "Protestantism," n.d.).

1.2.3. Changes of Governing System and Christian Governance in Britain

Medial period has specific special type of governance. When William the Conqueror invaded England he brought with him new type of governance for instance feudalism and formed Domesday book as a way of governance. William replacing the Anglo-Saxon system with the centralized system of governance, which is the system where the King gave lands to his subjects in return, they protect him and serve him for instance in times of war. This system of governance was mainly adopted by the RE, one of the main goals of the adoption of this system was because of organization of armies during sudden wars. The church was also influenced by the feudal system and supported the idea that Feudalism is obligation because of the common military changes, economic shifts and legal judicial reforms during that time, feudalism decline over time because of its arbitrary use of power. Church in the Middle Ages played important role in the governing system controlling people's life and legal punishments, furthermore the architecture was obviously the biggest symbol of God's power. Teaching all citizens, the same Christian beliefs to control societies, and indeed it was controlled. Other religious people were also forced to Christianity and the church held also a great wealth and lands and had the right to impose taxes. During the Middle Ages period, the monarch held authority over Justice and governance, they were the Pure Source of Justice.

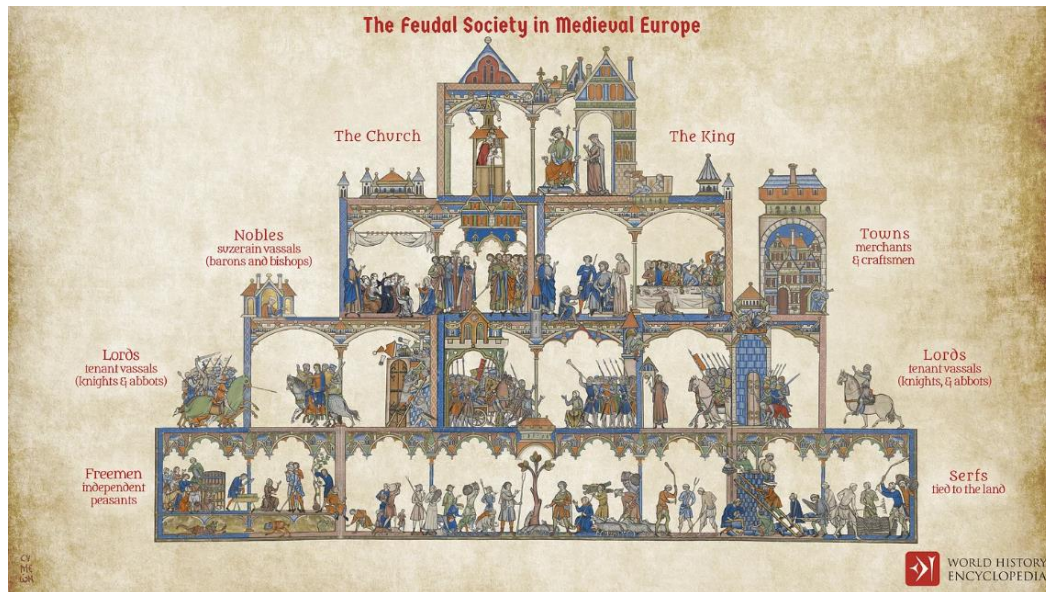


Figure1.1 *The Feudal Society in Medieval Europe*

Note. (Cartwright & Kooiman, 2024c)

The church has its influence on the royal families, many monarchs had conflicts with the church. William the Conqueror convince the church to establish court for crimes but his grandson Henry II challenged the church he tried to limit its power, but it was not easy because the church was so powerful. He wanted to separate the church from the courts and during the time when Kings and monarchs wanted always to have more Authority and Power from the church (Cunliffe et al., 2011). The Royal Court was important politically and culturally in the Middle Ages and in Tudor and the Stuarts' dynasty rule, and even in modern time. People gave money and Lent to the church, and it builds schools and houses with it, and Bishops at that time were like the ministers of the king. During the Empire, the court was important symbolizing authority that many noble people wanted to be members of court before the parliament and the constitutional monarchy. The Royal household and the court-controlled administration and treasury, however the traditional Royal Court over the years was declined after the constitutional monarchy and the Parliament emerged, shifting the power away from the monarch and the court. After a separation of power, the Judiciary or the courts became independent branch and the judges are appointed by the judicial appointments Commissions. Catholicism had its influence also on the monarchy system and the royal family, when Catholicism was a dominant coronation of the monarch was a very important Catholic ceremony. The coronation rituals and ceremonies changed over time where the monarchs swore religious oath to become officially Monarch and even nowadays monarch still need to swear coronation oath to uphold Justice and mercy in all judgments. After the Reformation some ceremonial elements changed expressing

Protestant faith, coronation ceremony is a symbol of the legitimacy and Power and authority of the monarch. The Catholic Church believed that Kings or monarchs had a divine right to rule. The church and monarchs are closely linked but not always agreed with them (Walker, 2023).

The British Parliament slowly evolved over history, developing its significant impact. In the early Middle Ages period there were a number of noblemen and church leaders that the king appointed and not elected, any represented anyone advised the king whenever he requested. Not, until Magna Carta did a major shift in the British governing system, it was a charter of Liberties with 63 clauses agreements stating their Feudal rights. The charter at first failed to do any kind of governmental change it was not what king John wanted neither the barons, the Magna Carta and the rise of the parliament were closely linked. The Magna Carta restricted arbitrary rule of the monarch stating:

The King or his bailiff shall not seize any land for debt so long as the chattels of the debtor are sufficient; nor shall the sureties of the debtor be distrained as long as the chief debtor is solvent. But if the chief debtor defaults in payment of the debt, the sureties, if they wish, shall have the lands of the debtor until the said debt is paid in full, unless the chief debtor can show that he is quit of this obligation towards the sureties. (Magna Carta, 1215, as cited in Ottenberg, 1957, p. 571).

the king should be subjected to the law just like his subjects. As mentioned in the Magna Carta the king asked the pope if he can go back on his words and not commit to the charter, the pope agreed but in the reign of his but the charter stated clearly that the opinion of the pope does not matter:

He [John] shall not procure from our Lord the Pope anything by which any part of these agreements shall be revoked or diminished, and if any such thing be obtained, it shall be regarded as null and void and shall not be taken. (Magna Carta, 1215, as cited in Ottenberg, 1957, p. 571)

His son Henry III he signed the final and the ultimate version of the charter, and it remains in the statue of books to this day. The word Parliament originally was deriving from the old French word "Parlement" which means the meeting or discussion. The first official document that mentioned the parliament like that was in 1237 and from then the term became well known. The dynamic between the Parliament and the Monarch was complex, but the parliament has no power yet over the Monarch. The parliament's power grew stronger and stronger over years, and it was impossible to impose taxes without the parliament's acceptance, thanks to the Magna

Carta the king had no longer the ability to ask for money in arbitrary way. the Magna Carta also led to the emergence of House of Commons represents the common people while the House of Lords comprised Nobles and Clergy. By 1332 the British Parliament consist of three elements: the Monarch and the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the House of Lords being more influential the job of the House of Commons was to solve local and National issues. The Parliament prevent the arbitrary use of the monarch's power and the religious power (*A Short History of Parliament - Parliamentary Education Office*, n.d.).

Protestant Reformation has spread in Europe, causing many conflicts. In Britain, it began when the king Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church did not disappear immediately it kept restoring in the reign of many monarchs it returned under Mary I. With the reign of Elizabeth I, a religious reform occurred and Protestantism returned once again. After the end of Elizabeth I reign, James I and Charles I with the belief on the divine right to legitimate their authority, they strived to strengthen royal authority, since it was not included in the constitutional tradition of England. Also, they sought to impose catholic on the church of England, the civil war ends with the triumph of parliament and the execution of Charles I in January 1649. A constitutional monarchy was established, and the kingdom became a republic. In 1660, after 10 years of authoritarian rule, the monarchy was restored when the king Charles II get the throne, following him his brother James II. However, he was appointed by the parliament, and then he abdicated following him his daughter Mary and her husband William in 1688. These events known as the Glorious Revolution, which was an important turning point in British politics. This revolution limited the power of the monarchy and strengthen the power of parliament specially the power to tax, this resulted balance of powers. After the Glorious Revolution, there was a decline in the status of religion in British politics. During the next century, the kings tried to restore their power. In November 1641 for the first-time parliament stands against the monarch, by 1689 the parliament became officially independent. By the 19th century, there was a clear change in governing system. The prime minister works in cooperation with the cabinet, carrying out public policy and global diplomacy (Cunliffe et al., 2011).

Parliament final held the complete authority after decades of fighting and wars. After the Glorious Revolution, the parliament had the rights of freedom of a speech and the power shifted from the Monarch to the parliament. In the 19th century many clauses changed in the Magna Carta the parliament kept evolving and becoming more democratic more powerful until it reached what it is now. Also, political parties started to emerge with the prime minister being

head of the parliament, the job of the Prime Minister is to inform the Monarch with anything going on in the state of the Empire. As for Britain now, it has no written Constitution from nearly a thousand year but had documents such as the Domesday book or bill of Rights or Magna Carta. The political system of Britain now is the constitutional monarchy or parliamentary monarchy, and Queen Victoria was the last Monarch to rule with the real power. Which means that the monarch is the head of the state the head of the church and the head of the Commonwealth of nation and all government acts are done in the name of the crown means the crown is not just a ceremonial but also a real important power but at the same time the Monarch does not make policies the cabinet does, a group of people with a prime minister as the head of it or led by Prime Minister. So, the Monarch nowadays is a figurehead, but they do not run a country and the Prime Minister being the head of the government. Monarch must give royal access to any law that Parliament passes otherwise it would not be official, but the last time monarch Veto law was in 1707 and the Queen Anne was the last Monarch to do so. The Monarch lost the ability to dismiss or appoint the Prime Minister. The Monarch can declare war or peace known as Commander in Chief of the army, appoint Bishops that are recommended by their prime ministers when they grant honours. The Parliament in modern Britain govern the state, and Britain developed to become more democratic and the responsibility of the monarchy is providing a symbol of tradition and continuity (*A Short History of Parliament - Parliamentary Education Office*, n.d.).

The succession rights changed after the rule of Elizabeth II, along with the change of the Christian importance and role. Before 2013 the British crown succession right would automatically go to the first male heir but since the succession to the throne act was released in 2013 the law of succession change means the eldest child whether a male or a female would succeed the throne (Lagassé, 2021). Since Christian Church still exist and the Monarch is the head of the church we can say that England is still Christian country in the institutional level the church after all still have privileges but socially this new generation lost interest in religion, and it start to lose interest since the Black Death with millions of people died they start to question God mercy and authority nowadays people of Britain are free to have whatever faith they want and known religious people number grow and people who do not believe in God are more than the one who believe in God however the role of the church is not like other times of history in Britain the power of the church is limited now, and it is more democratic. The state Christianity still have its influence on a cultural of Britain, but people are no longer religious like before, so

Britain is Christian country culturally more than religiously. Monarchy system and religion is part of culture in modern Britain nothing more (*Is The UK a Christian Country?*, 2023).

Conclusion

Before the Empire England experienced a Series of invasions Including the Roman The Anglo-Saxon The Vikings And the Norman invasion, Its formal formation was in the late 16th century By uniting. England and Scotland. Reaching its highest development. In the Victorian age It was referred to as "The empire on which the sun never sets." Following World War II, Britain's colonial dominance was lost, leading to the fall of the empire. Throughout history, British political structure has evolved. The British Parliament was established after a centralized government in which the monarch had total authority. In the end, the parliament presided over the government, and the monarchy served primarily as a conventional symbol. The governing system changed as well over the long history of Britain remarkably religion and revelations and parliament played important part in that change.

CHAPTER TWO

Queens and Consorts: Guardians of the Empire

Chapter 2: Queens and Consorts: Guardians of the Empire

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Introduction

Queens had the powerful impact on a history of Britain, either through direct monarchical governance or indirect influence of queen consorts. This chapter discusses focal point of the study clarifying the major military achievements and the cultural, economical, social flourishing done by the queens as well as the politics of queen monarchs and queen consorts. Both domestically and internationally and resisting difficult challenges that contributed in maintaining Empire from internal dissent to external threats. In addition to personal difficulties and the pressure from religious and political institutions. The chapter also discussed the concessions and sacrifices made by the queens. The chapter would investigate the queens under the previous section in chronological order.

2.1. Queens' Greatest Historical and Temporary Accomplishments

To investigate the role of female monarch in maintaining the British empire their achievements in all kinds needs detailed analyses the most remarkable and unique achievements are the military, the economic, diplomatic, economic, cultural, political and social ones.

2.1.1. Military Participation

Female leaders during the Middle Ages period were great warriors. Empress Matilda was English historical figure from the Middle Ages known as Maud, she fought for her right to rule when her cousin Stephen took her throne. Her allies from important Barons and Bishops feared her father king Henry I and swore allegiance to her, when he died, they immediately betrayed her siding with her cousin. Empress Matilda was the rightful queen since her father declared her as his official heir being his only daughter. Although she won victories during her war and became leader and held lands in England she was never known as the first official Queen historically it was Queen Mary I the official first female monarch. Her war was known as "The War of the two Matildas" when Matilda was fighting for her right and her son's right Stephen was married to a queen who was also named Matilda of Cologne fighting by his side. Queen Matilda's support for her husband was a great contribution to him, she supported him militarily, morally and granted him many titles. Queen Matilda was important because "through their marriage Matilda routinely acted as Stephen's chief representative at important conference and delicate negotiations" (Balfour, 2016, p. 39). The king needed his wife not imagining himself ruling without her nor fight a whole war even though he did not believe in women and their ability when he declared himself a king over his cousin Empress Matilda. The most extensive

contribution and support for her husband was Raising Army to defend him when Empress Matilda was titled "*Lady of England and Normandy*" and captured her husband. Queen Matilda did not stand and watch her husband being hostage she seeks for Alliance Gathered forces fought empress Matilda and defeated her cutting of her forces and her Army fled away. Precisely the war actually was not between Empress Matilda and Stephen the War was between two women, Empress Matilda the rightful heir and queen Matilda Stephan's wife, when Queen Matilda died on May 3, 1152, Stephen lost all desires to fight in this war, and he almost surrounded. The war of two Matilda was serious danger to England, but they both settled the matter eventually ("The War of the Two Matildas on JSTOR," n.d.).

As the eras pass, rulers kept on giving a noticeable military effect. Margret of Anjou was a warrior queen consort who participated strongly in the war of Roses between the House of Lancaster, represented by a red rose, and the House of York, represented by a white rose, leading the Lancastrian forces. She acted as regent to her husband, king Henry V I, Margret of Anjou battled Duke of York, Richard who took throne when king Henry was incapacitated, battle him over the Royal succession trying to place her son Edward to throne. Catherine of Aragon, is also a very important queen consort the first wife of Henry VIII, was another loyal and great queen who protected the kingdom, fought for her husband's right securing his throne. Catherine of Aragon acted as a regent to Henry VIII while he was fighting war with France in 1513, king James IV of Scotland marched with his forces to occupy England. Catherine moved from the safety of London to the north, supporting her troops with over 1500 sets of armor fighting the Scottish king James in a war known as Flodden battle. Her troops defeated James and then, she sent the bloodied cloak of king James to her husband. Catherine, as a queen consort, she protected England from Scottish invasion ("Katherine of Aragon," n.d.; "Margret of Anjou," n.d.).

Queen Elizabeth I is British female ruled from 1558 to 1603, her participation in military affairs was the greatest one not only in history of queen's reign but in all history, she changes the course of history of the UK and its legacy. Elizabeth I defeating exceptional European power the Spanish armada in 1588 securing England from the invasion that would destroy the kingdom from all aspects. This victory solidified her image as a protector mother for her nation Fray Luis De Sepulveda stated, "one of the most notable disasters ever to happen in Spain and one to weep ever all one's life"(as cited in Bandyopadhyaya et al., 2011). Luis De Sepulveda was Spanish historian and philosopher described Spanish defeat as disaster because the battle was so important to Spain and when a protestant woman could defeat their huge catholic force that

means they lost their powerful image in Europe. Queen Mary II ruled from 1689 to 1694, was involved in military Arrangements in her short five years of ruling directing the British Navy herself her reign was very significant militarily, Britain was during the nine years war with France and William III her husband was barely with her, he was always in military mission fighting the French forces. Queen Elizabeth II last queen of Britain joined the women branch of the British army, when she was 18, It is essential to mention that Queen Elizabeth II reigned in time of technology and media where public opinion matter and when important figures like her had great media influence on people. By Queen Elizabeth II's public participation in British forces she automatically influenced her people to join the army and protect the kingdom from any external threat. During the Tudor and Stuart dynasties rule and even in modern time, queens had their influence in war affairs. Queen consorts were aware of their duty of protecting their rights and their husbands right, it is clear here that history kept repeating itself, loyal Queens who are fighting for their kings when their enemy holds him as captive or when he is far fighting a war (Cunliffe et al., 2011).

2.1.2. Influence on British Politics and Diplomacy

Queen consorts had a crucial role on the empire, acting as e regent and as a head of government during the absence of the king managed diplomatic affairs, they participated in political issues. Queen consort's role extends to legislation and justice issues affairs at court They represented their kingdoms, serving as patrons of culture. Their marriage from British kings offers treaties of peace or alliance between two powers. Eleanor of Aquitaine for instance, her marriage to Henry II provided a political alliance between England and Aquitaine, granting Henry and England more territorial expansion. Eleanor was not only a political alliance she also gives birth to very important famous kings Richard the lion heart and king john of England as monk Richard of Devizes describe her:

Queen Eleanor an incomparable woman beautiful and modest influential yet moderate, humble and learned who was old enough to have had two kings for husbands and two kings for sons even now and indefatigable in any labour, and whose endurance was administration of her age. (as cited in Champman, 1955)

Before marrying Henry II, queen Eleanor was married to Louis VII of France for 15 years. Isabella of Valois, marriage to Richard II acted as treaty of peace between England and France, after the hundred years of war strengthening diplomacy between the two countries, as for the long history of wars between France and Britain it is noticeable that when there is no marriage

alliance between two nations there is always a war ("Foreign Policy And Diplomacy: The Role Of Queens In Medieval England," n.d.; Mirza, 2024; Wright, n.d.). Elizabeth of York's marriage to Henry VII ended a long and bloodiest wars in history of Britain, not any war but a civil War between the Lancaster and the Yorks the parliament approved the marriage to make it more official. Queen Elizabeth gave birth to the first male after 8 months of marriage and her marriage to Henry strengthens his right to rule, uniting the strongest two houses for a stronger kingdom (Okerlund, 2009). Catherine of Aragon was the Spanish ambassador to England and the first female ambassador in the history of Europe, as she was familiar with the court of England and royal family. Civil wars were more dangerous than external wars because it menaces the stability and security inside Britain.

Female monarchs also had a direct political influence during the period of their reign. Mary I ruled from 1553 to 1558, the first female leader in British history laying groundwork for female leadership and paved the way to a great queens like her half-sister, Elizabeth I. Despite her limited success, Mary's greatest achievement is being the first woman that ruled in her own right. Elizabeth I's relation with tsarist Russia was limited to commence and navigation treaty alliance and marriage proposals. Elizabeth foreign policy was characterized by her political intelligence that maintained the empire, avoiding long-decades commitments over time achieving to temporary interest. During her reign, Elizabeth followed the policy of stability and this led her to maintain Friendly relations with Scotland, particularly her friendship with king James VI. Elizabeth always corresponds with him. James has asked her for a formal document that publicly declaring that he would become heir to the throne. Elizabeth rejected his request, claiming that her following letter would be enough, asserting:

Who should doubt performance of a king's offer? What dishonor may that be deemed?... I will, as long as you with evil desert alter not your course, take care for your safety, help your need, and shun all acts that may damnify [i.e., damage, injure] you in any sort either in present or future time.... This I hope may stand you in as much assurance as my name in parchment, and no less for both our honors. (as cited in Mueller. J., n.d.)

The letter aimed to assure James' support and good will, declaring him indirectly as her heir. If Queen Elizabeth promised the throne to any other dynasty it would cause another bloody civil war, Elizabeth seems to learn from the mistakes of history, and she found that the Stuart king is the best for the throne. Although she did not give birth to an heir to the UK, she secured good potential, one not allowing her emotion and hate for his mother Mary of Scot get in the way of her decision. Elizabeth impressed James through this letter that it would be as a royal document

that will make him a successor to her throne. In addition to her diplomatic relation with James IV of Scotland paved the way, and it laid the groundwork for the unification of the two kingdoms, England and Scotland, which is the starting point for the formation of the empire. Elizabeth I had diplomatic skills, one of the main diplomatic strategies of Elizabeth I is entering into temporary military arrangements instead of permanent alliances. This allowed her independent from the long-term commitments of foreign affairs and preserved from any potential risks. Elizabeth skilfully managed marriage proposals that will result in a long alliance, When Phillip II, the king of Spain offered marriage to Elizabeth, she postponed the refusing of his offer to advance her interests, The possibility of an Anglo-Spanish alliance would threaten her relation with France(Culbertson, n.d.). Female monarchs influence the political and diplomatic affairs of Britain.

Stuart sisters' politics was highly shown during their reign. William the third of England and Mary the second ruled together, new coins were designed to have both faces of Mary and William. William was the grandchild of a Charles I and Mary was the rightful successor to James I of England, they were cousins the two strongest claims to the English throne were related. Both Monarchs were strong, and their reign was uncommon she was concerned about diplomatic matters and allies while her husband was concerned about defending the kingdom and defeating enemies. When Queen Mary died arrangement of the state and the church changed and stopped for a while even King William lost passion, he did not arrange another marriage her death weakened his claim to the English throne to, eventually the king appointed seven members lords of Justice to do the work Queen Mary used to do. As for her sister queen Anne who ruled after William III from 1702 to 1714 was also diplomatic figure island, Scotland and England were all ruled by queen Anne Stuart, the act of Union 1707 which unite both England and Scotland Parliament was issued during her reign. Queen Anne was against her father and she believed that the parliament is important to Britain and indeed it was, active Union was highly supported by Queen Anne uniting the English crown with a Scottish Crown the queen complete the union of both Scotland and England. She was active politically regularly she is in the House of Lords and discusses political matters, According to Bishop Burnet, "she pronounced this as she did all her other speeches with a great weight and authority" (Burnet, n.d.); the bishop was present when the queen performed for her first speech he admired her pronunciation and her confidence that showed her authority it was not easy for a man to admire and compliment a leader Queen unless she really amazed him specially religiously at that time. During the reign of Mary II and her sister Anne, Britain witnessed granted stability in politics.



Figure 2.1 *A Gold Coin With Blue Circle of William III and Mary II*

Note. adopted from (World History Encyclopedia, 2022)

Queen Victoria was significant in making governmental and political decisions. Queen Victoria reigned from 1837 to 1901 during her political journey she concealed and preceded her ministers unlike other monarchs in previous periods, breaking out long civil war in conflicts between Parliament and the Monarch. Queen Victoria and Queen Mary the second both share strictness in their reign, they did not allow their emotion get in the way of governance. Queen Victoria reigned for 63 years which make her second most reigning monarch after Queen Elizabeth II during the long reign of a Queen Victoria constitutional monarchy and the government was stable the queen was a strong enough to not let the parliament affect her constitutional rights or be further strengthened. During her reign Britain became a literal Empire, and she was made empress of India her legacy is shown in her children and grandchildren becoming empress and queens in a different place like European kingdoms and Russia and Prussia and so on. Queen Victoria always cared for her colonies as an illustration when she met the Zulu leader, although he was captive, she astonished him with her charm telling stating “Recognized in him a great warrior who had fought against us, but you joined we were no friends” (as cited in River, 2012). Queen Victoria liked how Zulu leader fought so hard for his country and its independence. Victoria had actual sympathies for British colonies; she was not a racist Queen and that is clearly shown in her treatment with Indians and India as a country she loved the country,

although she never stepped foot on. And it is also shown in her treatment with this African leader her love for her colonies whether was it political strategy In order to gain their trust or true pure love feelings both ways it worked because they do not hold grudges against her Zulu leader Cheiftan therefore gave her a royal Zulu salute in return of her treatment, and he told to that journalists “she is Born To Rule men she is like me, we are both rulers she was very kind to me, I will always think of her” (as cited in River, 2012). Victorian knew that the Empire would not last forever so she just wanted to keep the good impact on the relations between Britain and colonies.



Figure2.2 *Map of the World Showing the Extent of the British Empire in 1886*

Note. Adopted from (National History Day | Maps Edition, n.d)

2.1.3 Building Economical, Cultural and Social Achievements and Stability

The Elizabethan age was depicted as the golden age, the time of English renaissance. The reign of Elizabeth I saw prosperity in poetry, music and literature. It was the age of expansion and naval victory. Also, her age was famous by theatre and the emergence of great figures like William Shakespeare. Elizabeth had massive change during her reign. Modern Britain is an

important legacy of the British Empire, where the reign of Queen Elizabeth II took place. During the WWII, Elizabeth II before her coronation produced radio podcasts to reassure the British public, Elizabeth II served as a constitutional monarch for 70 years, the longest reign in British history acting as a symbol of stability and continuity. She maintained relation with the former colonies of the Empire. She maintained stability during the decline of the British Empire. Furthermore, she had visits to commonwealth countries, attending to meeting commonwealth heads of government. Elizabeth played a crucial role in maintaining the successor organization of the Empire and the stability of the economic system. She acted as the head of commonwealth managing its affairs and supporting its organization which related to issues such as agriculture, healthcare for people with disabilities and creative talent. She supports social affairs including Commonwealth Games. Elizabeth contributed in improving the commonwealth, subsequently maintaining stability and peace among its members. Queen Mary II was also beloved Queen between her people, create an comfortable environment inside the courts, winning the hearts of ordinary people both in England and Holland. People trusted her reign the writer Nathaniel crouch articulated from his book *female excellency* in this mater “ it’s evident that women can equal if not exceed, the deeds of man”(Crouch, 1688, as cited in schwoever., n.d); Nathaniel in general proved that women can lead as much powerful as men, his words was only year before Marry was crowned a queen of UK . books and literary works was held high value and even played as political and social propaganda before media was created Nathaniel in his book used evident from the past to prove that women are capable of growing and maintaining empire to convince people that Mary can be as equal as William II in governance. Queen Mary II founded the Royal Hospital at the Green in 1692 to treat one the sailors and soldiers that would fight in war in favour of England against France. Queens used their friendly attitude to win the love of people public opinion should be important because it is fundamental to democratic administration, shapes social cohesiveness, leadership responsibility, policy decisions, and public opinion itself. It reflects the desires, worries, and ideals of the general public, it guarantees that governments will continue to be responsive to the demands of the people they serve. This promotes stability, legitimacy, and trust in society and in monarch as result the monarch would not be under pressure or experience and civil wars (“Images of Queen Mary II, 1689-95 on JSTOR,” n.d.).

The public loved Queen Victoria they were so loyal to their Queen, sending her letters and complimenting her, but it was not always the same during her first years of reign. The queen also loved her people and held sympathy and concern toward them stating “the men women

children country and houses are all black...,” (as cited in River, 2012); in time of the Industrial Revolution the countryside was described by Victoria as the blackened the landscape and communities were transformed because of the Industrial Revolution. Queen Victoria was exposed to people for the first time in her life that is why she was shocked and traumatized and that stacked inside her mind she did not like the condition of her people and when she reigns she tried to improve the situation. From her biography it is obvious that Queen Victoria was not the biggest admirer of war, during the first years of her reign Queen Victoria was against Britain involving in a war to defeat Russia. Victoria was responsible for 150 Institution including numerous charitable organization while her husband helped with development of education and supported the military, she kept visiting wounded combatants showing her sympathy. Victorian era was also known with the first arrival of Railways, the motor cars and the London Underground the electric lights gramophone and the radio it was a technological shift. Education on the other hand was also free and acceptable the queen culturally left a great legacy in all Europe and abroad, one example is the Christmas trees. The stability Britain witnessed inside it and the progress during her 64 years of Victorian era have never known before the 20th century during the time of the Industrial Revolution. Both Elizabethan era and Victorian era were a golden age, being the first monarchs that their periods are named after them.

2.2. Resilience and Resistance

Fighting the different challenges and resisting it was also part of queen’s achievements. They did hard work in keeping those challenges internal without effecting the entire empire whether the challenges are personal or governmental.

2.2.1. Personal life Struggle

Personal life struggle was always a challenge that faced the queens. Queen Mary I like her half-sister Elizabeth was considered illegitimate, and she faced harsh Treatment, Henry VIII claimed that his marriage to Catherine of Aragon was invalid subsequently the illegitimacy of his daughter Mary. Queen Mary was respected from her mother, Catherine. The English law considered Mary illegitimate, ending her authority over England, but this set the stage for Queen Elizabeth. Queen Mary the second did not show more of a desire of becoming a queen or even going to England, she was her own personal challenge because she kept convincing herself that women are unfit to rule. She suffered lack of confidence and the belief that she did not have sufficient qualities to become a ruler, that is why she was always supporting her husband William the Third even though many people consider him as unrightful King kept she kept on

supporting his rights of the throne. Eventually King William was a great king and queen marry knew what she was doing in government aspect the king led his country into a victory but his treatment with the with queen was not the as good as people pictured it to be. There were strong rumours circulating about him that he had mistresses, and this was disrespectful for the queen, but that was just another personal difficulty she faced, and she did not allow such a thing to destroy the kingdom. Queen Mary II suffered from miscarriages, trying so hard for an heir to secure the throne. It was always a pressure to keep the Stuart Dynasty, all personal challenges did not affect queen Mary ruling of the kingdom. Queen Anne her sister also faced challenges in her character, she was shy insecure she suffered from unsuccessful marriage where her husband was drunk the whole time. She suffered from poor health issues and pregnancy difficulties She experienced seventeen pregnancies all her children died short after birth or from miscarriages only one child survived to the age of 11 then died. The queen tried so hard to make heir to the throne, she could not make. She suffered a lot of diseases and bad versions of smallpox, which is a contagious disease caused by a virus causing high fever and other painful symptoms. Another challenge was her limited education of History, politics and ruling knowledge because she was not meant to be the queen. It her personal life was tragic, but that did not affect her reign was remembered, and her era was remarkable. Queen Marry and her sister queen Anne experienced tragic life, but it is shown only in their life but not in stability of the kingdom.

Queen Victoria also had a tragic life, the first conflict Queen Victoria faced was her age she was a young when she became Queen almost 18 years old. Her family and doctors accused her of Madness because her grandfather George III had porphyria, he was known as the Mad King believing that Queen Victoria inherited his mental illness which later was proven wrong, and she had just some phobias and people accused her of Madness falsely. Queen Victoria gave birth to nine children during the first 16 years of her marriage, although she disliked pregnancies, and she could not maintain ceremonial presence making Albert assume her function but even though Victoria alone has all constitutional and governmental power. Death of her beloved ones was an extreme psychological challenge, the three of her children died Prince Alice and her youngest son Leopold and Prince Alfred. Death of her mother she blamed herself for being mean with her, she was depressed for her mother. Prince Albert tried to help her to do her duties, but she was ill, and her health was not good. But even though he tried, and short after that he also passed away in 1861, she grieved more for him and wore black for the rest of her life. Moreover, she was absent from the public eye for so long and almost led to downfall of the Empire but it did not happen. She faced her challenges and resisted them to not stress her people

and make them concerned she did not show herself to the public, but eventually she was obliged to. She wrote to lady Mary Lincoln; “no one can better appreciate than I can, who am myself utterly broken-heart by the loss of my life, my stay my all, what you suffering must be...;” (as cited in River,2012). Victoria was really sad about her husband passing away she was emotional when talking about the death Lady Lincoln’s husband Abraham Lincoln but at the same time we cannot ignore the fact that she was keeping a good relationship with other countries from young age. During her reign, Elizabeth II also passed changes related to her family which could affect her devotion of service. She was challenge by these issues: the divorces of her children, the death of her daughter-in-law, Diana. The death of Diana stir up public opinion and media against Queen Elizabeth she was attacked in public and hated by most of her people accusing her that she killed princess Diana especially that Diana was loved public figure thousands of people grieved in her funeral. and the left of her grandson Prince Harry from the Royal family. However, balanced her personal life and her commitments as constitutional monarch.

2.2.2. Queens in Political and Religious Conflict

The queens' accession to power was not easy, religiously nor politically. When Elizabeth I ascended the throne, she faced the challenge of religious divisions between the two factions, Catholicism and Protestantism, to maintained stability among them, she followed strategies for religious reform, declaring "I will be as good unto you as ever a queen was unto her people." (Elizabeth I, 1559, as cited in Bandyopadhyaya et al., 2011, p.140). Firstly, she both catholic and protestant faiths, by convincing them to focus on their shared English identity despite focusing on religious belief which was Protestantism, maintaining catholic symbols. However, she leaned towards Protestantism because the challenge from catholic doctrine which challenged her as a symbol of national pride and unity, she also faced presser from the parliament to execute all Catholic people just like her sister executed Protestants and burn all people who questioned the catholic faith. Elizabeth I faced a pressure from parliament to marry and secure the Tudor dynasty. She overcame all of this pressure and led England skilfully by not being married ruling alone, she feared that another man would share her authority. Elizabeth I faced challenges that threatened questioned by the pope, who did not recognize the marriage of Henry VIII to her mother Anne Boleyn. Mary queen of Scots was a strong threat to Elizabeth, declaring herself the rightful queen Because she was the cousin of Elizabeth and the next in line to the throne. Mary took advantage of Elizabeth not marrying and none existence of an heir to the throne. Elizabeth not marrying her position on the throne despite all these challenges by executing Mary. She faced the challenge of financial crisis which was resulted by the previous wars. As

a result, she sought to reach economic stability in order to alleviate the crisis, applying various strategies. She avoided costly wars. She used intelligence gathering, political manipulation. Furthermore, she strategically managed her court. She employed tactics that ensure the loyalty among her advisors to avoid divisions. All of these strategies maintained her authority, specially within the changing circumstances. Elizabeth strategically used her "virginity" as a diplomatic tool to portray herself as a unique leader as the Virgin Mary in Catholic tradition. She always focused on her commitments rather than her personal wishes. Her skilful strategies secured her throne and the empire as the whole ("England's greatest queens.", 2012).

Queen Mary II face challenges with the treason and particularly Lord Preston who was Jacobite she did not pardon him until her husband told her, so Jacobites used her weakness points and expressed that it was God punishment because she disobeyed her father. Also, her uncle did not accept her as a queen who ruled with her husband, he was also arrested in the London queen Mary did not tolerate with treason in any kind of way because it was a sensible time of political and religious war. Church men did not swore allegiance to her and some of them were postponed and some of them just swore allegiance to them like Bishop Nathaniel kept eye on her watching her governance rule, and yet he admits she was smart and brave. And because she questioned herself at first she faced difficulties as administrator but later on she learned how to deal with it and get used to it. Queen Victoria and her husband experience many assassination attempts, more than three times, on 10th June 1840 was the first attempt when she was with her husband. Her face was bruised because they tried to trick a stick on her face at that time there was a revolutionary movement to end the monarchy system in Europe and these movements succeeded in some places in Europe for example France but not with Victoria actually it was the other way around Victoria made the Monarch more popular more loved even when they tried to kill her. Some said that Queen Victoria is so dependent on her husband in a political manner, but the Queen in fact did not intend to involve herself in marriage she was inspired by Queen Elizabeth I, but eventually she realized that she is in world of men, so she chose the right husband when she proposed to prince Albert. Queen Elizabeth II's political power was restricted and limited with the constitution monarchy, she held symbolic position as monarch but in modern empire still she did her best effort to maintain religious peace and grow the economy of GB as head of the commonwealth and as head of the English church.

2.2.3. Queen Historical Concession

The queens sacrificed their rights and we gave up many things for the sake of peace and security in Britain. During the war of two Matildas empress Matilda's half-brother Robert who

fought for her side was captured the situation immediately shifted from was matter to diplomatic matter. Empress Matilda agreed to abandon her right for the sake of freedom of her brother and for the peace of England. The best option for her was to reach settlement with her cousin Stephan leaving all the royal titles and English crown. Empress Matilda was inelegant she did not give her crown for nothing in return she had one condition, she stipulated that her son Henry need to be next king. Stephan adopted Henry as his heir although his son was alive. Henry was crowned king of England after the death of Stephan he was extraordinary king, his period of reign marked significant expansions in France and Ireland restored all lands that Stephan lost during his reign. Henry II made great English legal systems reforms all his achievements as warrior and political figure was due to his mother and his involvement and learning in her war.

Anne Boleyn was second wife of king Henry the eighth executed when she fails to provide a male heir to the throne her only child was Elizabeth who was later Queen Elizabeth I she was accused of adultery and treason and many other crimes Anne confesses to some of them out of fear, but it led her to execution the last word of Anne Boleyn was:

Good Christian people, I have come hither to die, for according to the law, and by the law I am judged to die, and therefore I will speak nothing against it. I have come hither to accuse no man, nor to speak anything of that, whereof I am accused and condemned to die, but I pray God save the king and send him long to reign over you, for a gentler nor a more merciful prince was there never: and to me, he was ever a good, a gentle and sovereign lord. And if any person will meddle of my cause, I require them to judge the best. And thus I take my leave of the world and of you all, and I heartily desire you all to pray for me. O Lord have mercy on me, to God I commend my soul. (Anne Boleyn, 1536, as cited in Hall n.d)

In her last speech Anne declaring her acceptance of her death and that she was judged by law and law cannot be discussed she did not blame any person for her fate wishing king safety and long gentle merciful reign asking to pray for her mercy and surrender her soul to god. Anne was aware of her execution because she saw how easy for king Henry to abounded his first wife, it was also easy for him to abounded her too. She was aware that she is innocent, and she did not mean her acceptance of her death she spoke her last words like that because she was concerned for her daughter. When she dies her daughter would be alone with no one to protect her if Anne said the opposite of what she said in her speech Elizabeth would have been in great danger.

Unlike many other queens that did not allow for their personal life to intervene in the state matters, Henry the eighth's personal life easily affected Britain. King Henry's personal desires determined the faith of Britain. Anne Boleyn influenced Henry in many ways she convinced him that God wanted him to be the head of the church and not the Pope and his desire to marry her made him change the structure of the church and change the whole system of governance and religion and putting Britain into great threat she was a Spanish princess from royal when he exiled Catherine of Aragon took Mary her daughter away from her and divorcing her she could declare war against him, but Catherine was loyal to Britain she just accepted her fate as well. After Anne Boleyn, Henry married again four other wives and executed again one of his wives Catherine Howard for adultery. It is also important to mention the surfaces of Henry's mother Queen Elizabeth with the rightful heir to the English throne, but she was queen regent when she married Henry the 7th, she was a queen consort she did not rule with him like Mary and William did she was the legitimate heir to the house of York the rightful ruling family. Unlike any other alliances and political marriages, Elizabeth's House was in great conflict with her husband's house her father and her husband were enemies she agreed to be queen regent to keep and maintain peace in Britain she supported her husband and gave him a male heir to continue his dynasty.

Tableau 2.1 : Greatest achievements of female monarchs

Empress Matilda	✓ Securing her dynasty and her son's realm king Henry II. ✓ First female leader to hold British lands as empress
Elizabeth of York	✓ Ended the war of roses between house of York and house of Lancaster.
Catherine of Aragon	✓ Protecting Britain from Scottish invasion.
Anne Boleyn	✓ Convinced king Henry of protestant reformation.
Queen Mary I	✓ First official queen paved the way for other queens to role.

Queen Elizabeth I	✓ Defeated the Spanish armada and united both Scotland and England through declaring James of Scotland as her heir.
Queen Mary II	✓ Signed bill of rights. ✓ Lead the British navy during war with France.
Queen Anne	✓ Supporting the union of both parliaments of Scotland and England
Queen Victoria	✓ British empire reached its greatest expansion. ✓ Empress of India.
Queen Elizabeth II	✓ The Succession to the Crown Act (2013) ✓ She acted as the head of commonwealth.

Conclusion

In conclusion, through studying the biography of British female monarchs and governors it is obvious that almost each period female monarch ruled a major change happen to the empire. Most famously Elizabethan and Victorian eras known as the golden eras from political, military, economical sides. The queen faced a lot of pressure as a obstacle and the concessions they faced offered peace inside the country and secured their throne.

CHAPTER THREE

Exploring British Queens through Historical Sources

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Introduction

The British history is rich in a variety of documents, such as letters, diaries, official records, and personal writings from monarchs and other notable historical figures. These primary sources serve as essential evidence, offering the most trustworthy information about their reigns, and they are crucial in demonstrating the impact of powerful female monarchs within the British Empire. This chapter is divided into four sections with four primary source analyses, every primary source focus demonstrates British leadership and its representation. The first section offers iconography analysis of a Queen Elizabeth the first portrait painted during her reign exploring how this image convey her power legitimacy. The second section of this chapter examines the British bill of Rights which are unique documents contributed to the development of democratic state tracing the historical context in which the Bill of Rights was issued as well as understand the role of the monarch in this document the third section of this chapter provides contextual analysis of a photograph of queen Victoria with her servant In addition, It highlights the different ideas communicated in this photograph. The final section is another historical source analyses of act of union under Queen Anne's reign. This chapter aims to depict the significance of a visual and contextual historical evidence.

3.1. Exploring Queen Elizabeth's Memorable Portrait



Figure 3.1 *Spanish Armada Portrait*

Note. Adopted from (World History Encyclopedia, 2024)

The Spanish armada portrait is significant portrait from the reign of Elizabeth I. celebrating her glorious victory, there are three versions of the portrait The c. 1588 CE 'Armada Portrait' is the one illustrated here painted by George Gower; Queen Elizabeth Sergeant Painter appointed in 1581 he painted England's aristocracy before. There are several portraits of Queen Elizabeth, some of them considered as primary source but many of them are not because they were painted during her reign but published after her reign the armada portrait was the perfect illustration published during her reign. The portrait contains many symbols that can be interpreted in so many ways. Choosing art as primary source was the best option because her reign was known of art and literary revolutions Elizabeth supported such culture, she is the only monarch that has so many portraits of her. Other monarchs have limited number of portraits. For monarch portraits were important thing for the identity and the authority of them but for Elizabeth painting and portraits was not just a tool to document her rule it was also viewed as art. What signify the art of Elizabeth's reign is the symbols and the details that describes and tells information of her delivering messages through these symbols not only the Spanish armada portrait presents symbols of her reign there are many other portraits like the three gods portrait. Many scholars such as Roy strong and academic resources mentioned that Elizabeth used her art for propaganda; propaganda is sometimes a lie that is used to convince public opinion of something that is not real, or to gain sympathy or to convince people of necessity of some war and their duty is to participate in this war or to make the enemy appear evil and the propaganda's creator as innocent or victim or hero. Scholars believed that Elizabeth used her art to mislead the public opinion to believe she is the right monarch to rule. She did not create any kind of propaganda; Elizabeth was indeed the rightful queen of England she was the legitimate ruler that England needed it. The portrait of the Spanish armada was described as propaganda that Queen Elizabeth used to appear greater, but Queen Elizabeth was indeed great she defeated the Spanish armada with great victory securing her land from long invasion, the queen used art which was like media at that time only to convince people that she was the right ruler and indeed she was because unlike other rulers the queen was concern of what her people thought of her and their opinion about her. If Spain defeated England in this war, Spanish would probably be used as global language now and many other changes would happen in our contemporary world.

From the first look of the portrait, you see a woman sitting in middle of what seems to be a room putting her hand on Earth behind her two pictures of ships in the sea with a crown next to her wearing huge luxurious clothes with legendary figure down her feet from the right. the woman is obviously queen Elizabeth the first in the back of her there is two pictures of ships or

Fleet which symbolize the battle with the Spanish Armada also in her back there is a red crown that is designed especially for her in the top of the crown there is orb. and it symbolized the power of Christianity and the sovereign. The queen wears a lot of pearls in her clothes, which at that time symbolizes virginity and Purity and wealth. She also wears different kinds of accessories and holding a fan in her hand putting her other hand on the globe also the Queen appears to wear very luxurious and huge kind of clothes in her neck and body, it shows a very high level of exaggeration and nobility the same thing as for her wig which also symbolizes the style of a nobility in her period Queen with her white face full of powder. A golden figure down her feet symbolizes the birth of a army in the form of a golden mermaid clear to be mixed between female and male shape, mermaids is a legendary Creatures lives in the sea. first picture in her left shows the beginning of the battle, the picture shows that the fleet of the Spanish forces known as the Spanish Armada is double English fleet with only 34 ships and Spanish 134 ships. Being prepared for the Navy forces with five ships that brought Victory to England her warships contain cannons which is new technology that bombard the Spanish ships from distance. the Elizabeth and navy was established by Henry the 8th and then it was decaded in a time of a Queen Mary the first then it was established again during the reign of Elizabeth in her reign only the number of russels increased from 24 to 34. Elizabeth Federal military Revolution techniques and political implication of the 16th century she made light ships with a long and sleek lines which enabled her ship to be fast and larger.

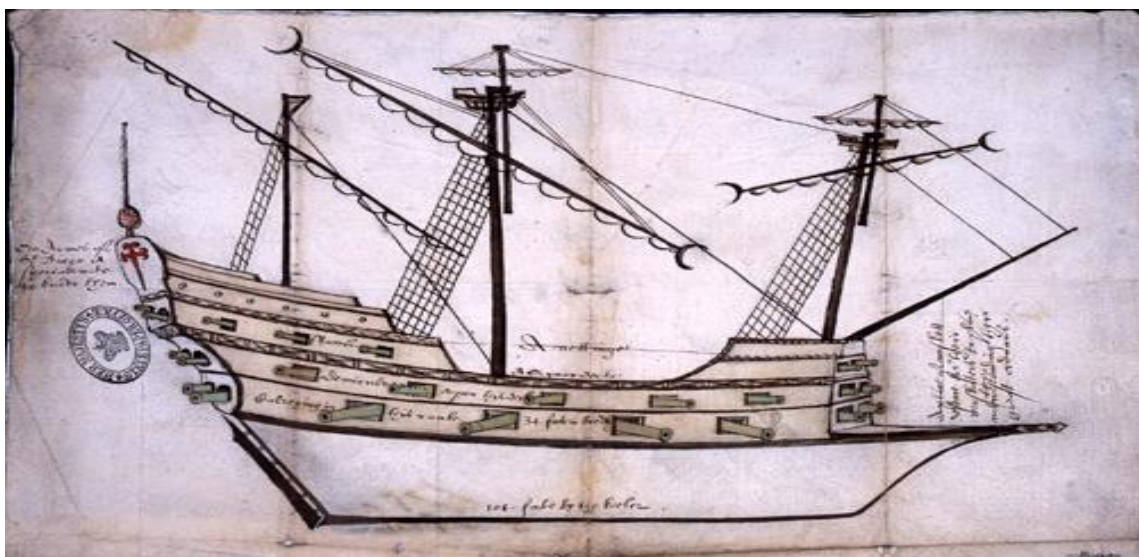


Figure 3.2 *Queen Elizabeth Ships*

Note. adopted from (The National Archives, 2021)

The second picture in her right from the Spanish armada portrait shows the moment that Spanish Armada was defeated, the change in the climate when the wind destroyed their ships that was considered as miracle by God. The male embodiment in the mermaid figure represents the braveness of the English soldiers in facing the huge Army and Armada of Spain at the same time the female embodiment shows the involvement of a Queen Elizabeth in the war her involvement was leading the soldiers into this war she encouraged her Army into this battle by her speech:

My loving people,

We have been persuaded by some that are careful of our safety, to take heed how we commit ourselves to armed multitudes, for fear of treachery; but I assure you I do not desire to live to distrust my faithful and loving people. Let tyrants fear, I have always so behaved myself that, under God, I have placed my chiefest strength and safeguard in the loyal hearts and good-will of my subjects; and therefore I am come amongst you, as you see, at this time, not for my recreation and disport, but being resolved, in the midst and heat of the battle, to live and die amongst you all; to lay down for my God, and for my kingdom, and my people, my honour and my blood, even in the dust. I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field. I know already, for your forwardness you have deserved rewards and crowns; and We do assure you in the word of a prince, they shall be duly paid you. In the mean time, my lieutenant general² shall be in my stead, than whom never prince commanded a more noble or worthy subject; not doubting but by your obedience to my general, by your concord in the camp, and your valour in the field, we shall shortly have a famous victory over those enemies of my God, of my kingdom, and of my people. (Queen Elizabeth I, 1588 as cited in Tilbury, n.d.)

Queen Elizabeth I opens her moving speech at the pivotal moment of the Spanish Armada threat in 1588 by recognizing the wise counsel she has been given about the risks of putting one's reliance in the military, especially when there are suspicions of betrayal. This recognition accurately depicts the turbulent political climate of the time, which was marked by deceit and shifting allegiances. But Elizabeth soon turns to express her deep faith and confidence in the

continuing goodwill and loyalty of her subjects, emphasizing how their unwavering commitment and support provide her the utmost security and strength. As she firmly ties herself with her people and promises to stand with them in the face of impending danger her Words are resonant with profound sense of unity and solidarity. The Queen's individual dedication to the fact that this figure is a mermaid represents the Elizabeth and her Army are masters of the sea since they defeat the Spanish Armada forces in the sea.

There is two symbols that represent the power of the queen in this picture the globe and the crown. replacing her hand on the globe means that she defeated major power in Europe and prevent the attempt of any notion in the world invading her country. The crown represents the Queen's incredible ability to rule especially as a female ruler the orb that is designed at the top of her crown was also a sign of sovereignty and the Christian religion the orb was held by Queen in her coronation as it was held by many other monarchs. white pearls and the fan symbolize that she was virgin or single and she is a smart and strong enough to rule by herself without a king to share her power and that was by her choice on purpose as for exaggerating clothes. that was her character seeing in too many of her original portraits it was not shown in any Queen before here where this kind of a huge closes the big sleeves and the ruff around her neck. with a huge fan that she had dozens of them and it is also shown in her other portraits holding it. With the whole accessories and wig wanted to prove that she was a noble woman. in her period this details shows that she was so rich and even the fashion in her period was like that but she also added a little bit of exaggeration to it in addition to the powder she was also part of her character. Compared to her sister queen marry a period of time right before her it did not show that kind of exaggeration.

3.2. Safeguarding and Understanding Bill of Rights

The origin of the bill of Rights is the English Parliament, the English Parliament issued the bill of Rights. It is a primary source document that was created for certain goals and those goals were achieved at that time. The audience of this document was William III and Mary II queen and king of England after signing the document, which means the bill of Rights was presented to them. Both Mary I and William III were invited by the parliament to take the throne jointly, shifting the type of governance from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy. The context of this document was created in 1688 in the old style date and 1689 new style date, the dominant events of that time was the Glorious Revolution, the 9 Years War the absence of the throne and the fleeing of James II to France after being defeated in war with the parliament for his arbitrary use of power and his desire to rule with catholic religion as well as the Boyne Civil

Wars in 1690 known as the grand alliance between Ireland and England against William of orange we can define this war as catholic forces against protestant forces the battle took its name from where it was fought : near river of Boyne in Ireland. There were religious and political perspective of these documents, religiously the parliamentarians were against Catholicism, and they encourage Protestant governance and religion they did believe that Catholicism is evil and Protestantism is the right Doctrine, politically they believe that the government system should be divided between Parliament and monarch and the absolute monarchy system is unjust and unfair. The goal of this document was balanced the power between the Parliament and the monarchy the parliament should hold equal power including power of controlling the Army the law punishments and so on, allowing people to have more Liberties maintaining the safety and the Peace of the Kingdom granting a Protestant Monarch to the throne (*Avalon Project - English Bill of Rights 1689*, n.d.).

The information of these documents contains the following: the parliament addresses Queen Mary and King William, at that time known as Prince and princesses of orange, to commit for a certain declaration. Address the Deeds of James II as an evil work and all their Prime Ministers as evils for standing against Protestantism they described him as evil because: he was making laws and suspending them without agreement of the parliament imposing Catholicism and punishing Bishops who was against the Catholic Church. Establishing a court for a religious matter and neglecting the Parliament and issuing commission under the Great Seal. Keeping the Army under service even in peace time disarming Protestants and imposing taxation, violating the freedom of election all without agreements of the parliament also handling a legal matters which are the job of the parliament. Along with corrupted system if of his cruel punishment that are illegal and requiring other arrested people to pay bills for their release before they are judged of being guilty or not, stating that all of these threaten the freedom of England. Declaring James II was no longer King to the throne and William the third as a new King by the support of Nobles and other important figure also sending letter to constitutions to elect their representative in the Parliament and representative of the parliament would be chosen in January 1689. Lords spiritual and temporal and Commons who preserve the nation continue and offering their ancient rights and implementing laws by the Royal Authority only without Parliament consent is illegal. The commissions who set a certain Court are illegal. Levying money by the Monarch without the consent of the parliament is illegal the right of petition the king voice citizens without punishment without punishing them. Allowing a standing Army in peaceful time without Parliament consent is illegal also granting the right of protestant to have arms. The election

should be free offering more freedom of a speech with no exclusive bill or punishments and jurors should be chosen carefully and should be involved in serious cases and all promises of fines to individual that is not judged guilty or not are illegal. The parliament declared Mary and William of orange at the end of the document again officially as a queen and king of England France and Ireland trusting them they would protect the rights and the religious rights and Liberties holding the crown and ruling jointly stating that the Royal dignity and the crown would be passed to their heirs and if there is no heir it would pass to princess Anne of Denmark and her heirs then to Heirs of William. Commitment of oath of law only without the oath of old Supremacy promising and swearing the loyalty to King William and Queen Mary swearing that the rules will never kill by religious authorities.

Mary, by signing this document, she maintained peace between monarchy and Parliament ending the long conflict between both, and she conceded in imposing her complete authority over the kingdom. She repealed a war between her and the Parliament preventing Civil War just like the ones happened because of her father James II and Charles I ignoring the fact that the Parliament was against her father and also against Charles I which is grandfather of William her husband. By signing this document, she enabled Parliament to impose its power that would change a lot in the government system and the history of the Empire, improving a parliament insured the rights of the British people; legally by improving and adjusting the legal system and free election and socially by giving them the freedom of speech. The rule of parliament and the monarch equally led to improvement in the empire and the expansion reaching its largest expansion during Victorian era. They did not betray the bill of rights unlike other kings, for instance king John signed the Magna Charta but after a while he betrayed the charter with approval from the pop to do so. The rule of Parliament and monarch are together will ensure that adjustment in religion, laws and Liberties and ensuring that the kingdom in the future would not be wrecked and maintain peace stability among it, the bill of rights stated:

Upon which their said Majesties did accept the crown and royal dignity of the kingdoms of England, France and Ireland, and the dominions thereunto belonging, according to the resolution and desire of the said Lords and Commons contained in the said declaration. And thereupon their Majesties were pleased that the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, being the two Houses of Parliament, should continue to sit, and with their Majesties' royal concurrence make effectual provision for the settlement of the religion, laws and liberties of this kingdom, so that the same for the future might not be in danger again of being

subverted, to which the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons did agree, and proceed to act accordingly. (bill of rights, 1689, as cited in Avalon Project, n.d.)

this passage exactly assuming the crown and regal dignity, their Majesties demonstrated their recognition of the resolve and ambitions of the Lords and Commons, as this passage illustrates. According to the agreement, their Majesties will keep convening the two Houses of Parliament and will only approve legislation and measures that safeguard the kingdom's laws, religion, and liberties. This action was taken as a pledge to uphold and defend the core principles of governance and civil rights, ensuring that these safeguards would not be jeopardized in the future.

bill of Rights also decreases the amount of which corruption took place in religious institution where protestants where oppressed :

And whereas it hath been found by experience that it is inconsistent with the safety and welfare of this Protestant kingdom to be governed by a popish prince, or by any king or queen marrying a papist, the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons do further pray that it may be enacted, that all and every person and persons that is, are or shall be reconciled to or shall hold communion with the see or Church of Rome, or shall profess the popish religion, or shall marry a papist, shall be excluded and be for ever incapable to inherit, possess or enjoy the crown and government of this realm and Ireland and the dominions thereunto belonging or any part of the same, or to have, use or exercise any regal power, authority or jurisdiction within the same; and in all and every such case or cases the people of these realms shall be and are hereby absolved of their allegiance. (bill of rights, 1689, as cited in Avalon Project, n.d.)

This passage reflects how the bill of rights describe the instability of the catholic kingdom politically and theologically expressing how protestant kingdom and its population would be in great danger under such governance as it was shown in history for example queen Mary I executed and burned people alive for their disagreement with the catholic church in addition to British population are mostly protestant a catholic monarch would not rule over them. It also prohibited cruel and unusual punishment. The fact that queen Mary and king William was fighting a war for this rules and type of government shows how important it was. Thus the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons prayed for the enactment of a law prohibiting the inheritance, possession, or enjoyment of the crown and government of England, Ireland, and their dominions by any person who becomes a Catholic, remains in communion with the Catholic Church, professes the Catholic faith, or marries a Catholic means no Catholic or monarch

married to a Catholic may inherit, hold, or use any royal authority over the kingdom and its lands for the protection and well-being of the Protestant realm. Additionally, it releases the populace from allegiance to such a sovereign. These people would never again be allowed to use any royal authority, power, or jurisdiction. Under these conditions, the realm's citizens would be freed from their loyalty to such a monarch. This clause attempted to protect the Protestant line of succession and guard against any possible disruption of the current political and ecclesiastical system.

The Army was the most important part in the United Kingdom because Wars did always took a place at that time or any other time .the bill of Rights Safeguard the right of the Army and the right of people stating “That the raising or keeping a standing army within the kingdom in time of peace, unless it be with consent of Parliament, is against law”(Bill of Rights, 1689, as cited in Avalon Project, n.d.); addressing that keeping the army stand is illegal without the consent of the parliament especially during the peace time. This requirement arose from previous instances in which kings had employed standing force to impose their will , raising concerns about possible tyranny or sudden invasion. In order to preserve civil freedoms and avoid the abuse of military force, the Bill of Rights sought to establish mandating parliamentary approval for a standing army during peacetime. It emphasizes commitment to a government that functions with the agreement of the governed and offers a legal framework to guard against the possible misuse of power and concentration of authority. This paragraph, which essentially reinforces the idea that military power must be subject to civilian authority and managed through representative institutions to prevent any return to arbitrary rule, is a cornerstone in the formation of democratic administration in England.

3.3. Queen Victoria and Indian Unlikely Bond



Figure 3.3 *Queen Victoria and Her Servant Abdul Karim*

Note. adopted from (Rhp.2021)

This picture is a photography taken by the camera in the Victorian era there was so many other styles of pictures one form of a famous style was taking pictures of dead bodies before they were buried during the Victorian era. the art developed from painting to photography Victoria herself was both painted as a portrait in her early reign and photographed in her final years of reign so this transition from painting to photography is clear example of the technological big shift and development in technology in her Reign. The Art of Photography vary, before painting was only for aristocrats and royal family but with development of photography even common people had access to it. The Queens paintings was realistic, but photography was more realistic The Art of Photography developed even more in later years with the quality of images being clearer. this photography of the queen was documenting daily life of her, it is considered as a primary source, so it was analysed by specialists and historians. the picture of her with Abdul Karim does not have any religious symbols or any other kinds of symbols but it explains many things this art photography now is available in many websites and other sources. Queen Victoria was empress India in 1876. India was one of the most important colonies in the Empire at the time. Before Victoria became empress of India Britain saw a huge rebellion, but after she became the empress rebellions against Britain reduced it was only small kind of rebellions until

its Independence in 1978 after second world. this picture was a Queen Victoria with her Indian servant later on became her special personal teacher. Queen Victoria unlike other colonial power who tries to impose their language and culture inside their colonies instead she liked the culture and language of India and asked her servant to teach her his language and teach her their culture knowing that she was Christian and very religious one she did not hesitate to learn another culture as it is shown in the picture. she issued a proclamation granting the right to preserve their culture known as the Indian Magna Carta Queen Victoria started showing her love for the country, she made her servant her personal teacher even with the disagreement of the court to keep him in Britain. After her death was sent to India many Indian people admired her with these actions, she could prevent many rebellions from happening.



Figure 3.4 *Queen Victoria Painted from Her Early Reign*

Note. adopted from (Cawthorne, E. 2023)



Figure 3.5 *Queen Victoria Camera Picture After Technology Shift*

Note. photograph by Robert Milne (1865-1952) special photographer of queen victoria

3.4. Uniting the kingdom: Articles of Union

Articles of union is a primary source document originated by the English government. Passing through representative of England and Scotland and later on to Ireland. The document was not issued by only single person many figures contributed to the creation of the act of union, one of the contributors was queen Anne. The act of union did not have an audience it was not created for a single person, it was created to and designed to unit two nations in a single political and legal framework. The contextual background of the document was the succession war between France and Spain, and it was issued in 1707 to strengthen both nations against French invasion. The political perspective and England was to secure Scotland and guarantees that it will not join with France against it religious perspective and goals was to unite two Protestant unions for more religious powerful kingdom. The act of union information contained: On May 1st, the two Kingdoms of Scotland and England will join into a single entity known as Great

Britain. In a way that suits her Majesty, the monarch will conjoin the Crosses of St. Andrew and St. George and designate the Armorial Ensigns. Princess Sophia, Electress and Dowager of Hanover, and her Protestant Heirs will succeed to the throne. Those who marry Papists or who practice the faith themselves will not be allowed to inherit or use the British imperial crown. The United Kingdom will be represented by the Great Britain Parliament. Every subject will be able to trade and navigate with complete freedom, and all rights, privileges, and benefits will be communicated. All ships or vessels owned by Scotland's subjects shall be regarded as ships of the navy of Great Britain following ratification of the Treaty of Union between Scotland and England. The ship's owners are required to swear under oath that no foreigner has any ownership or interest in the vessel and that it belongs to them or another Scottish subject, with their respective abodes. For the sake of navigation security, the oath must be delivered by the head officer of customs and registered with the ship's master. The treaty also stipulates that trade prohibitions, limitations, and guidelines will apply uniformly to all regions of the United Kingdom, along with the same allowances, incentives, and disadvantages. The United Kingdom's excitable liquors, fish, and salt tariffs are described in the text. It says that, except the thirty-four-gallon English barrel of beer or ale sold in Scotland for nine Shillings Six Pence Sterling, all regions of the United Kingdom are subject to the same tax on all excitable liquors. When the Union starts, the excise on all other liquors that were settled in England will apply to the entire United Kingdom.

For foreign salt imported into Scotland, it will be charged with the same duties as the like salt is now charged with being imported into England. However, the duty of great quantities of foreign salt imported may be heavy on merchants' importers, so all foreign salt imported into Scotland will be cellared and locked up under the custody of the merchant importer and officers employed for levying the duties upon salt. Scotland will be absolved from paying the same duties as salt made in England for seven years from the Union, but will be subject to the same duties as salt made in England. After the seven years, Scotland will bear a proportion of the excise on home salt, and the same duties will be paid in England for all salt made in Scotland and imported from there into England. Additionally, by permitting any flesh sent from Scotland to England to be salted with Scots salt, paying the same duty for the salt used, and subject to the same forfeitures, fines, and procedures for avoiding frauds, the text ensures equality in trade. For the encouragement of the Herring-fishing, inhabitants of Great Britain will be allowed ten Shillings five Pence Sterling for every Barrel of white Herring exported from Scotland and

five Shillings Sterling for every Barrel of Beef or Pork salted with foreign salt, without a mixture of British or Irish salt. Scotland will be subject to the same customs and excise duties as England, but the Scottish Parliament will make public service provisions for 1707; specifically, the text lists the levy on malt and the exemptions from various times of taxation that Scotland will experience under the Union with England. A gift of 398.8 thousand and eighty-five pounds ten shillings was given to Scotland for these taxes prior to the Union. Following the Union, Scotland will be subject to the same taxes, charges, and capital stock payments to the African and Indian Company of Scotland. As well as interest. The Treaty of the United Kingdom establishes the standard and value of coins throughout the United Kingdom, similar to those in England. It also establishes a Mint in Scotland under the same rules as England's Mint, with current officers subject to regulations and amendments by the Parliament of Great Britain. The same weights and measures are used throughout the United Kingdom, with standards kept by Scottish Burghs. These standards are sent down to these Burghs from the Standards kept in the Exchequer at West-minster, subject to regulations by the Parliament of Great Britain.

Scotland is responsible for trade, customs, and excise regulations that are in its place after the Union. However, legislation concerning civil administration, politics, and public rights can be made consistently throughout the United Kingdom, while private rights cannot be altered unless they are demonstrably beneficial in Scotland. The Court of Session, which was founded in accordance with the Kingdom's statutes, is still in operation in Scotland and has the same authority and rights as it did prior to the Union. Ordinary Lords of Session are limited to those who have served in the College of Justice as Advocates or principal Clerks of Session for five years or as Writers to the Signet for ten years. The Court of Justiciary remains within Scotland, with the same authority and privileges as before the Union. All Admiralty-Jurisdictions are under the Lord High Admiral or Commissioners for the Admiralty of Great Britain. The Court of Admiralty in Scotland will remain open, and case reviewed, reductions, and suspensions will proceed in the same way as they do in Scotland. In Scotland, the property rights of the respective proprietors will be reserved for the Heritable Rights of Admiralty and Vice-admiralties. Following the Union, the rights and privileges of the Scottish Royal Boroughs have not changed. The Peers of Scotland at the time of the Union will sit and vote in the House of Lords, and the number of representatives of Scotland in the House of Commons will be 45. If the Queen's Majesty, her Heirs, or Successors declare her or their Pleasure for holding the first or subsequent Parliament of Great Britain, a Writ do issue under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, directed to the Privy-Council of Scotland.

It is evident from this act that it encompasses many political, religious, and economic facts as well as accomplishments of it. By her appointment of Princess Sophia of Hanover Protestant Princes as her heir and the subsequent lineage of the British royal family, Queen Anne avoided civil wars, as did Queen Elizabeth I when she named James of Scotland as well as a protestant heir who supported the parliament. By taxing Scotland and considering Scottish-owned ships as their own, the articles of union help support Britain's economy. It formed a single Parliament in Westminster, London, which served as the new entity's administration. The consolidation of authority under the English monarchy, the article of union created new economic opportunities for both countries. It promoted more collaboration and integration in trade and business between Scotland and England, resulting in more seamless transactions and simpler access to England's extensive colonial markets. The union's introduction of standardized weights, measures, and currencies sped up trade and improved cohesion and efficiency within the newly created United Kingdom economic integration increased prosperity and strengthened Britain's position as a prominent participant in both the European and global arenas. Scotland and England saw a vibrant exchange and blending of identities, languages, and cultures as a result of the union. The merger was controversial and met with resistance, particularly in Scotland where some believed it would undermine their distinct national identity and sovereignty. Following its passage through the Scottish Parliament, the Treaty was presented to the English Parliament and granted royal assent on March 6, 1707. The Queen gave the order to send Scotland an official copy of the English Act. Dated March 7, 1707, this copy is referred to as the Exemplification of the Act of Union. The text is accompanied by an image of Queen Anne representing Scotland and England. As well as several symbols for instance: The picture of act of union the Scottish royal shield symbol, it was first used by king William the lion of Scotland from the 12th century and its not allowed to be used by any person but the king or the queen of Scotland, the great seal of England is The Lion Rampant. The legislation incorporates "the floral heraldic emblem of Scotland." The Scottish motto, *nemo me impune lacessit*, translates to "No one attacks me and gets away with it." This expression is appropriate for both the Lion Rampant and the thistle, Scotland's traditional floral heraldic emblem. The Royal Crest of Scotland With the sword and sceptre of the Scottish Honours, the red lion of Scotland is seated atop the closed crown of the Scottish king. The Royal shield of England Three "passant guardant" lions or leopards are depicted on the English royal shield, strolling and facing the viewer. Since 1198, English monarchs and queens have worn the shield. England's floral heraldic emblem The Tudor dynasty is the source of the name and origins of the Tudor rose, which is the traditional floral heraldic emblem of England. Henry VII took the Tudor rose emblem after his marriage, joining the The

crimson rose of Lancaster and the white rose of York. The Royal Crest of England Perched atop the closed crown of the English king rests the guardian lion of England. All these symbols are shown in the rights and the left of the writing of act of union in the picture.



Figure 3.6 The Act of Union

Note. Adopted from (the union archive)



Figure 3.7 *Queen Anne Stuart*

Conclusion

Spanish Armada portrait of a Queen Elizabeth the first is important evident from her success showing the cultural flourishing of her period and her victory over the Spanish Armada representing iconic symbols that held several meanings. Queen Victoria's photograph with her Indian personal teacher shows her attitude toward her colonies she loved Indian one of the most important colonies and cared for it and its culture and norms. act of Union is a document that United both England and Scotland crowns under one parliament benefiting both countries in so many ways.

General Conclusion

Monarchies, dominated by a single ruler, have historically been significant religious institutions. The United Kingdom, consisting of Wales, Scotland, England, and Northern Ireland, was a politically unified nation with five female rulers and many queen consorts.

In historical discourse, the study of male monarchs and their biography are often prioritized, disregarding the significant role that female monarch participated. It is important to highlight responsibilities that female monarchs had in shaping, defending, and organizing the British Empire. These women not only occupied positions of authority but also contributed to crucial choices and plans that ensured the empire's growth and stability. Their participation in historical processes deserves study and scholarly attention since it demonstrates their significant impact on British history.

Studying the role of female monarchs in maintaining the empire it is essential to question what is the long history of British monarchs' reigns and their significant achievements and contributions and in particular what is female monarchs' important role in those achievement and whether they played role in diplomacy and policy of the empire. It has been hypothesized that the reign of female monarchs had a long history of great direct and indirect impact in maintaining the empire.

The dissertation is descriptive-analytical study where secondary data that has been previously found through records, documents, and other research, but it needs to be thoroughly scrutinized. Erwin Panofsky, a German art historian, recommended iconographic analyses we used on Queen Elizabeth's portrait in addition to historical source analyses of the Bill of Rights and act of union in addition to contextual analyses of Queen Victoria's photograph.

England experience several of invasion before formation of the empire its history full of external Wars and Civil Wars. The Empire was formally created and fully developed expended during Victorian age. The empire did not last after the second world war losing all its colonies leading to a downfall but remains its legacy. Britain government system changed over centuries in the past, monarchs and the church shared complete authority. The church changed from the catholic church to protestant church and the head of the church also change from the pop to the monarch. The creation of the parliament and legal laws restricted the both power of the monarch and the church. From studying the reign of female monarchs, it is obvious that each historical period of their reign marked major shifts in all aspects of British Destiny. Female monarchs reign is not like when kings rule, they suffered challenges and pressure and criticism obliged them to rule the Empire perfectly, and maintaining its security and protection. Queens consort,

in spite of their frequently limited authority, made outstanding contributions to preserve harmony and keep peace inside the empire. Elizabeth I's portrait known as the Spanish armada portrait as an example proves her military success and cultural flourishing of her Golden Age. Bill of Rights is another essential historical document from Queen Mary's Reign providing her contribution to establish more democratic States ending long conflict between Parliament and the Monarch raising the value of parliament. Queen Victoria's reign also witnesses the Golden Age her photograph with her servant shows a lot of sites and her perspective toward her colonies. The act of union under the reign of queen Anne united the two parliaments of Scotland and Britain

While the ring of female monarchs is reach of achievements some of them face significant several limitations. Although queen Mary braved the way for other female monarchs to rule but her reign was arbitrary, she supported the catholic church following her mother's steps and executed almost every individual that suspected the authority of the catholic church and the catholic Christian belief. Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine granted England territories expanding it geographically but she supported civil war almost destroyed England between her husband and her sons taking their side.

In conclusion, female monarchs had a significant and varied impact on the British Empire, characterized by both notable setbacks and notable successes. These women's contributions should be honoured since they were essential to building and sustaining the empire.

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ملخص

هذا البحث يناقش الدور الاساسي لنساء الحاكمت في ظل هيمنه الحكام الذكور خلال ذروه الامبراطوريه البريطانيه كانت مساهمه الملكات الحاكمت لا شك فيها في تشكيل مسار المالمكه باكملة و يظل حكمهن طاغيه عليه دراسات اقرانهن من الذكور الملوك. اذا ما هي اعظم الانجازات السياسيه و الثقافيه والاقتصاديه والدبلوماسيه الاساسيه التي قمن بها ؟ و ماذا فعلن كي يحافضن على الامبراطوريه ؟ هذا البحث اعتمد على اساليب وصفيه تحليليه تتضمن تحليل ايقونات فنية اضافة إلى سياق و مصادر تاريخيه بالإضافة إلى استخدام وتحليل مصادر اوليه ومصادر ثانويه بما في ذلك الكتب والمواقع الالكترونيه و مقالات تم اكتشافه ان اهم الاحداث تاريخ بريطانيا حدثت اثناء حكم الملكات من بينها تشكل المملكه المتحده والامبراطوريه البريطانيه كل من الحكمت الاناث كن ناجحات دبلوماسيا. على عكس الكثير من الملوك اثرت الملكات الحاكمه في بريطانيا تاريخيه بشكل مباشر واثرت زوجات الملوك بشكل غير مباشر ولكن كان لكل منهما تاثير قوي. بالرغم من سلطه الملكات المحدوده فلا يزال بإمكانهن صنع تغير كبير و اذا اجبرت النساء على الحكم تحت اي ظروف معينه او قاسية فحكمهن سيكون مثاليا كما اثبت تاريخيا. يركز هذا البحث ايضا على اثبات اهميه تحليل حكم القائدات النساء تاريخيا وربطه بالسياسات الحديثه كدروس قيمه في الحكم الحديث. ايضا عندما تكون الملكات غير معروفات فهذا لا يعني بالضرورة انهن غير ناجحات سياسيا او تاريخيا فترة حكمهن تحتاج اكثر اهتماما و تحليل.

الكلمات مفتاحية: امبراطورية، بريطانيا، حكام، ملكات.