

# THE BRITISH CROWN



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# INTRODUCTION:

- ◉ The British Executive is constituted of 3 Institutions namely - The King or the Crown, The Prime Minister and The Cabinet.
- ◉ The King or the Crown is the nominal/titular head of the state.
- ◉ Before the civil war and the Glorious revolution of 1641 and 1688 respectively there prevailed absolute monarchy which later on transformed in to a Limited Constitutional Monarchy in Britain.
- ◉ There is a popular saying that “The King in England Reigns but does not rules.”

# THE CROWN:

- ◉ In the common language, crown means the state cap of royalty.
- ◉ One who wears the crown is the king.
- ◉ Crown is the symbol of kingship in England.
- ◉ In the legal sense, the crown is bundle of all sovereign powers.
- ◉ The Crown = King + Parliament + the Cabinet.
- ◉ In other words, the Crown is Constituted of the King, both the Houses of the Parliament and the Cabinet in England.
- ◉ Therefore, the King is only a part of the Crown in England .

# DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE KING AND THE CROWN:

King	Crown
King is a Person	But the Crown is an Institution
King is a Mortal	As an institution the Crown is immortal.
King is only a part of the Crown	While the crown is constituted of King+ Ministers + Parliament.
King is not supreme.	But the crown represents the highest /the supreme power of the state.

# DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE KING AND THE CROWN.....

- ⦿ “King is dead long live the King”
- ⦿ “Henry, Edward or George may die But the King survives them all.” - Blackstone.
- ⦿ “King in England Reigns but does not rules.”
- ⦿ “King does not veto the laws passed by the Parliament.”
- ⦿ The Institution of Crown is the supreme authority of which the King is only a representing it.



# POWERS OF THE CROWN/KING IN UK:

○ Various powers of the King may be grouped in to different category for the convenience of our study as follows -

1. Executive powers,
2. Appointment powers,
3. Military powers,
4. Diplomatic Powers,
5. Legislative powers,
6. Judicial powers,
7. Financial powers,
8. Ecclesiastical powers,
9. Miscellaneous powers.



# 1. EXECUTIVE POWERS:

1. Head of the British administration and Head of the state.
2. Enforces all laws of the state.
3. Directs the work of the administrative branch and national service.
4. Regulates the conditions of services.
5. Supervises and directs the administration of the local governments and also of the Dominions.

## 2. APPOINTMENT POWERS

1. He appoints the Prime Minister.
2. He appoints the other ministers on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.
3. He Appoints all high officials of the government.

### 3. MILITARY POWERS:

1. Supreme commander of the armed forces of the country.
2. Appoints officers of Army, Navy and Air forces of the kingdom.
3. Holds control over armed forces establishments.
4. Power to declare war and peace.



## 4. DIPLOMATIC POWERS:

1. Conducts Britain's foreign relations with other countries of the world.
2. As the head of the state it negotiates treaties and agreements with other countries.
3. Appoints diplomatic personnel to foreign countries.
4. It receives diplomats accredited to Britain.

## 5. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

1. The king is the fountain of laws as he is the head of the British Parliament(King in Parliament - Parliament= King + H. of Lords + H. of Commons).
2. He summons, Prorogues the sessions of the Parliament.
3. He dissolves the House of Commons.
4. He delivers the Inaugural address in the first session of the Parliament every year.
5. He appoints new Peers (Member of The House of Lords) if need arise.
6. Issue ordinances to the Dominions.
7. To issue Orders-in-council
8. Give assent to the bills Passed by both the Houses of the Parliament.
9. He can get the bills initiated and passed through his ministers.

## 6. JUDICIAL POWERS:

1. Appoints The judges.
2. Deciding the issues coming before the Judicial committee of the Privy council.
3. Granting pardon to convicted persons.
4. Decides issues of conflicts between Dominions.

## 7. FINANCIAL POWERS:

1. No demand can be included in the Budget without his recommendations.
2. He collects and spends national revenues.

## 8. ECLESIASTICAL POWERS:

1. Head of the Anglican Church.
2. He summons the assembly of the National Church.
3. Assent of the king is essential for all decisions taken in the National assembly of the church.
4. Appoints Bishops and Arch Bishops.
5. He is the final authority in matters of discipline in the church.

## 9. MISCELLANEOUS POWERS:

1. The Crown is the Fountain of Honour and awards titles.
2. He nominates the Lords, confers knighthoods and other titles.

# POSITION OF THE MONARCH IN ENGLAND:

- ⦿ He is only the ceremonial head of the state.
- ⦿ All his powers are true only in theory and have no real powers at all.
- ⦿ The king in England has to act according to the advise rendered by His council of ministers.
- ⦿ The real decision making power resides with the cabinet headed by the Prime Minister.
- ⦿ In a parliamentary form of government like that of UK the real executives are the prime Minister and his men and the king is only the nominal head of the state. Hence, it is being rightly said that the “King in England reigns but does not rules.”

# REASONS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF MONARCHY IN ENGLAND:

1. Conservative nature of the English people.
2. Its need in a parliamentary system of government.
3. Monarch as the chief of the Nation
4. A symbol of unity among the commonwealth.
5. Mediatory functions.
6. Advisory functions.
7. Political functions.-choosing the prime minister, dissolution of the House of Commons, king fills the void left behind by prime ministers, store house of political wisdom- a friend, philosopher and a guide to the ministers

# CONCLUSION:

- ⦿ Thus, it is a very valuable post for the proper working of the English political system.
- ⦿ It is a guardian of the constitution and not at all a figure head as assessed by the non-serious observers.
- ⦿ He does not steer the ship, but has to make certain that there is a man at the wheel.
- ⦿ “Far beyond doubt, the system of Limited Monarchy has been an unquestionable success in Great Britain.”- H. J. Laski.