

## Allegiance to Freedom



### **Camilla, never ever my Queen.**

This coming Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Charles will be crowned King and Camilla Queen at an elaborate ceremony in Westminster Abbey, London.

Months of meticulous planning and organisation will reach a crescendo on Saturday when St. Edward's crown is loyally placed on Charles' head by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Before that moment, Charles will be presented with items of Royal Regalia from the *Crown Jewels* including Spurs, Orb, Ring and Sceptre. After the Coronation the newly crowned couple will travel in style from Westminster Abbey back to Buckingham Palace in the Gold State Coach, built in 1762 and covered in gold leaf.



**It sure beats using the Tube.**

Tomorrow, the eve of the Coronation, the King will host a lavish reception in the ballroom of Buckingham Palace for approximately 1,000 VIP guests. On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the so-called Coronation Big Lunch takes place in many towns and villages across the UK where residents are being encouraged to hang out patriotic bunting and join in community commemorative meals. This will be followed by a Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle on Sunday evening with pop stars such as Olly Murs performing.

Of course, the Coronation has provided abundant consumer opportunities for canny retailers such as *Marks and Spencer* (where a 5 pack of Mens' Coronation socks embroidered with designs including a King Charles Spaniel, a lion, Union Jack flag, unicorn and a crown are a snip at £14.00), *Fortnum and Mason* (where a Coronation Christmas tree bauble is selling for a whopping £50.00), *Selfridges* (where a container of Coronation popcorn is £25.99) and ardent royalists can even buy a *Steiff* Coronation teddy bear (for an eye-watering £259.00 but he does come with a purple robe, felt paws and charmingly plays *God Save the King* when squeezed).



**You can cuddle Charlie every night.**

In addition, hospitality venues are cashing in with the *Mandarin Oriental Hotel*, Hyde Park, London having a special Coronation Afternoon Tea (featuring mini Coronation chicken pies, ice lollies infused with Pimms, a Royal kilt Battenberg cake and scones topped with royal insignia, all for £99.00 per person), customers at *Greene King* pubs can purchase a specially brewed Coronation Ale for £12.00 per 6 bottles and *Claridges* Hotel in London has even invented a new cocktail called *Highgrove Gardens* (made with Tanguary No.10 gin, vanilla, herbs, bitters and soda, a mere £22.00 a pop).

As the media hype and commercial exploitation reaches a frenzied climax this week, perhaps now is a good time to pause, step back and reflect upon the Monarchy. To ask fundamental questions such as why does it exist, is it legitimate and should it continue in its present form?

Some of these issues were discussed in my essay titled **The Rainbow Queen?** published on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 following the death of Queen Elizabeth II last year (see hyperlink at end of essay).

In summary, we raised concern in relation to the following issues:-

### Inequality

In addition to the numerous palaces and magnificent mansions at his disposal (see further below), Charles has inherited a vast private collection of art masterpieces as part of the *Royal Collection*, also his mother's priceless jewellery collection, her no doubt enormous financial investments at *Coutts Bank* as well as the immense Duchy of Lancaster Estate (valued on its own in 2022 at a staggering £652 million).

All such inheritance last year was controversially exempt from any Inheritance Tax.

In addition, there is the annual Sovereign Grant which is money received each year by the Monarch from the UK Government and amounted to a massive **£86.3 million** in the year 2022.

## Oppression

Many people contend that the British Monarchy has been historically complicit in genocide, devastating commercial exploitation and racist oppression, including the banning of children speaking Welsh in schools in Wales during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the confiscation of the lands of indigenous people in Canada by colonial settlers and the rule of the *British Raj* otherwise known as the subjugation of India from 1858 to 1947 (during which period the British controversially acquired the huge *Koh-i-Noor* diamond which was subsequently cut and did form part of the Queen Mary's Crown to be worn by Camilla at Saturday's Coronation but such gem has recently been tactfully removed in order to avoid causing offence).

Above all, consider the orchestration of the despicable slave trade by the Royal Family in the 1600's and 1700s. Black African men, women and children were routinely captured and branded using hot irons with letters such as RAC (**Royal African Company**) burnt onto their chests. An estimated 6 million slaves were transported from West Africa in British ships to the Caribbean and Americas with approximately 10% dying in barbaric conditions on the 6 week transatlantic voyage.

In my view the British Royal Family unquestionably has blood on its hands.

## Illegitimacy

The Sovereign remains Head of State and is not only financially supported by the taxpayer, he/she also retains significant functions and residual powers. For example, the monarch is Head of the British Armed Forces, formally appoints prime ministers, is Supreme Governor of the established Church of England and appoints bishops, grants Honours, has the power to summon and dissolve parliament, opens the new parliamentary session by the reading of a speech from a golden throne in the House of Lords at the State Opening of Parliament, gives Royal Assent to parliamentary bills before they become law, has immunity from criminal prosecution, has a profile which appears on British currency and stamps, is the subject of the National Anthem and retains powers vested in the sovereign through the *Royal Prerogative* which includes

the right to be consulted and give advice during a weekly audience with the prime minister of the day.

Many people rightly regard the retention of such important constitutional powers and functions as anachronistic and lacking any democratic legitimacy or accountability. In other words, King Charles has no electoral mandate or other valid authority to make citizens his subjects.

### Camilla

One relatively new development which has arisen, a troubling aspect of the Coronation, is the crowning of Camilla as Queen.

This is an issue which has received very little publicity and it seems that many people are unaware that when Charles is crowned King so too Camilla will have a crown placed on her head and become Queen of England.

Given the level of antipathy felt by many towards Camilla, perhaps the low key publicity has been a deliberate ploy by Royal Courtiers.

To those younger readers who may not be aware, Camilla was widely regarded as the cause of Princess Diana's divorce from Charles in 1996.



**Beautiful Diana on her Wedding Day.**

Diana Spencer married Charles in 1981 but the Royal couple divorced 15 years later, with Diana unambiguously blaming Camilla for the breakup.

In a sensational BBC Panorama interview in 1995 Diana said, *"There were three of us in this marriage, so it was a bit crowded"*.

See link below to the BBC interview.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq3QuWlvvgs>

In simple terms, whilst Charles was married to kind-hearted Princess Diana, he was having a sexual affair with Camilla, who at the same time was herself married to Mr Andrew Parker-Bowles.

There are those who not only blame Camilla for Diana's divorce, but also for the subsequent ill treatment and cruel isolation of Diana from the Royal family and even indirectly for Diana's untimely death in a car crash in Paris on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1997.

To these people, Camilla will never ever be accepted as Queen of England. Of course, over the last 25 years Camilla has engaged in a meticulously managed PR operation overseen by professional advisors including media guru Mark Bolland in an attempt to improve her image and win over the hearts of the British people. For example, she became President of the National Osteoporosis Society, Patron of the National Literacy Trust and a supporter of Battersea Dogs Home.

Despite this subtle grooming of the public, a fresh opinion poll published in the *Daily Mail* on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023, just days before the Coronation, shows that only 39% of people have a favourable opinion of Camilla (compared to 76% with a favourable view of QEII).

Astutely aware of this public unease, Queen Elizabeth II pointedly stated in a letter released in February 2022, to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her accession, *"When in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes King, I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support you have given me; and it is my sincere wish that, when that*

*time comes, Camilla will be known as Queen Consort as she continues her own loyal service”.*

The title of Queen Consort was clearly seen by QEII as a softer, less confrontational title and more palatable to the British public.

It therefore came as something of a surprise for many when the invitations to the King’s Coronation were published on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023, to see that Camilla would henceforth be known as Queen, not Queen Consort.



### **An invitation that cannot be refused?**

Why has Camilla’s title been changed, disrespecting the late Queen’s express wishes?

### **Entitlement**

The answer is quite simple, because this is obviously what Charles wants. This is what he plainly believes he is *entitled* to.

Paul Burrell, Princess Diana's former butler, revealed some interesting snippets in an *Amazon Prime* documentary in November 2018 including that Charles has his pyjamas ironed every morning, his shoe laces are pressed flat with an iron, the bathplug has to be in a certain position, his valet squeezes one inch of toothpaste onto his toothbrush and when he travels he even brings his own toilet seat with him.

Some would say that the decision to make Camilla Queen is simply a case of what Charles wants, Charles gets. A case of "*She shall be my Queen, despite what Mummy said*".

In this contentious decision some hear echoes of the megalomania of Henry VIII. At the time of the Dissolution, one can imagine him fuming in a temper tantrum, "*If the Pope will not grant annulment of my marriage to Catherine of Aragon I will create my own reformed Church, the Protestant Church, and will destroy all those Catholic Monasteries, Priors, and Convents and dispose of their assets. What I want I will have. Nothing and no one will stop me*".

This overwhelming self-indulgence is hardly surprising when one considers Charles' pampered personal circumstances.

Take for example the obscene number of palaces and opulent mansions at his disposal which include the following:-



1. Buckingham Palace  
London



2. Windsor Castle,  
Berkshire



3. Balmoral Estate,  
Scotland



4. Sandringham Estate,  
Norfolk



5. Duchy of Lancaster



6. Palace of Holyrood,  
Edinburgh



7. Hillsborough Castle,  
N. Ireland



8. Clarence House,  
London





9. Highgrove,  
Gloucestershire



10. Castle Mey,  
North Coast Scotland



11. Ray Mill House,  
Costwold



12. The Blue House,  
Transylvania, Romania



13. Tamarisk House,  
Isle of Scilly



14. Llwywermod House,  
Carmarthenshire, Wales

Also consider his many dozens of titles which include the following:-

- i) Charles III, King of the United Kingdom.
- ii) Head of the Commonwealth.
- iii) Defender of the Faith.
- iv) Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.
- v) Field Marshal in the British Army.
- vi) Marshal in the Royal Air Force.
- vii) Admiral of the Fleet of the Royal Navy.
- viii) Sovereign of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.
- ix) Sovereign of the Order of the Merit.
- x) Sovereign of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India.

Is the decision to call Camilla Queen therefore a question of "*titled therefore entitled*" or a matter of "*entitled therefore titled*"?

Whatever the answer, Camilla will this Saturday be crowned Queen of England, with the magnificent Queen Mary's Crown (set with 2,200 diamonds) delicately placed on her bouffant by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

She will sit on a red throne embroidered with gold thread depicting her brand new Coat of Arms. Camilla will hold an Orb and Sceptre and be cloaked in a purple velvet robe and will have a ruby ring put on her finger.



### **Fit for a Queen but is she fit for a crown?**

During the ceremony, she will be anointed with fragrant holy oil, made from olives taken from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. This anointing of the monarch whilst wearing a white tunic called the *Colobium Sindonis* symbolises purity (which some may see as somewhat inappropriate for adulterers responsible for two divorces ).

And so Camilla will joyously depart Westminster Abbey (the same church where Princess Diana's sad funeral took place on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1997) with a new title, that of Her Majesty Queen of England, to add to her long list of titles including the recently acquired Grand Cross Special Class of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, presented on Charles and Camilla's recent State visit to Germany this March.

Fingers crossed that it won't rain on her parade but there will never be any bowing or scraping or curtsying or forelock-tugging by many folk.

Cost of Living Crisis

At the same time as cosseted Charles and Camilla are wearing the finest silk and rare ermine and dripping with ill-gotten Crown Jewels at a Coronation estimated to be costing the taxpayer over £100 million, a devastating cost of living crisis is ravaging large parts of the community, causing misery and real suffering.

Inflation is running at over 10%, energy bills have soared, mortgage rates are at their highest for 15 years and many workers including teachers and nurses are on strike for fair pay.

In my own professional and personal life I have recently encountered the following disturbing situations of genuine distress and hardship on the Isle of Man:-

- i) A client stated recently that her electricity card payments had gone up in April from about £35.00 per week to £48.00 per week (in February this year Manx Utilities announced that electricity prices would be increased by 60% by August 2023).
- ii) A young man has resorted to living in a caravan because he cannot afford to pay rent on a flat.
- iii) A relative has given up her landline telephone and now only has a mobile number.
- iv) A friend in Laxey cannot afford to have a foreign holiday this year.
- v) A business associate has despairingly had to close his cherished restaurant due to soaring energy and ingredient costs.
- vi) A client on Jobseekers Allowance has reluctantly given up her cat to the MSPCA because she cannot afford any pet food.
- vii) An elderly friend has got rid of her tumble dryer because it is too expensive to run.
- viii) A client called in last week and asked me for £10.00 for a phone card and the contact details of the Foodbank.
- ix) And most heart breaking of all, a female client on Income Support broke down in tears when explaining her dire financial position for a legal aid application and is so in debt that she stated she is thinking of becoming a prostitute.

Of course, there are very many rich people who have multiple houses and spend millions on lavish celebrations. For example in 2018 the celebrities Kim Kardashian and Kanye West spent \$1.3 million on their Christmas party, which included entertainment provided by the American pop singer John Legend.

The difference to the Royal Family being that this party was paid for privately. The Coronation is being paid for by the British taxpayer. "*Cost of living crisis, what cost of living crisis?*" you can almost hear Charles muttering, selfishly brushing aside the sickening inequalities staring him in the face. And what will the Royal couple do with thousands of unwanted Coronation presents? Of course they wouldn't dream of discreetly selling them on to Palace staff or second hand shops in the Home Counties.

"*Let them eat quiche!*" a contemporary Marie Antoinette may have uttered (the specially chosen Coronation Dish being a vegetarian flan made with ingredients including cheese, spinach and broad beans).

### Citizens Allegiance

Certainly the most alarming matter that has arisen in relation to the Coronation is the sinister revelation last week, slipped into the public domain at a very late stage, that during the Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey, remarkably everyone watching in person and on TV at home will be invited to swear an oath of allegiance to the King.

The written Coronation Liturgy or Order of Service indicates that after the enthroning of the King, the Archbishop of Canterbury will declare, "**All who so desire, in the Abbey and elsewhere say together: I swear that I will pay true allegiance to Your Majesty and to your heirs and successors according to the law. So help me God**".

This so called *Homage of the People* is a new element of the Coronation Service and has never been included before.

Why is this?

- i) Is it because Royal Courtiers have been rattled by recent public protests against the King as he has attended various events around the country?
- ii) Is it simply Charles' sense of entitlement taken to its extreme?
- iii) Is it naked opportunism? A cynical and shameless attempt to exploit this once in a generation event for the purposes of securing loyalty to the Crown?
- iv) Is it a menacing form of group and peer pressure, capitalising on the racing emotions of a euphoric public occasion?
- v) Or is it part of the enduring legacy of arrogant Imperialism? That the people are not just citizens. The people were Royal subjects, the people shall be Royal subjects and the people will continue to be Royal subjects.

Of course, there are sections of society who have already pledged allegiance to the Monarch. Every police officer, MP, judge and member of the Armed Forces have to explicitly swear allegiance to the Monarch as part of their profession. In addition, the many thousand recipients of honours such as MBE's have implicitly acknowledged the sovereignty of the Monarch.

But for many other people this invitation to swear an oath of allegiance to King Charles is menacing, underhand and downright coercive.

An alternative and much more inspirational vow is to pledge an "**ALLEGIANCE TO FREEDOM**".

Perhaps it will be for Charles a case of be careful what you wish for. In other words that the Homage of the People will turn out not to be a PR masterstroke but in fact mark the beginning of the end of the Monarchy and the crowning of Camilla will not be remembered as an historical footnote but as a step too far which contributed to the eventual downfall of the entire parasitic institution, by public mandate rather than by revolution.

A recent BBC Panorama documentary aired on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 revealed the result of a YouGov opinion poll on the Monarchy.

Significantly, only 56% of the 4,592 sample persons thought that Britain should continue to have a Monarchy.

That is way down from 75% in 2012.

This means that millions of reasonable adults in the UK, nearly half the population in fact, do not think that Britain should continue to have a Monarchy.

Moreover, it is interesting to note that in the age group 18-24, **only 32%** supported the continuation of the Monarchy. In other words, most young people do not.

Clearly, there is a legitimate and fair public debate to be had about the Monarchy, a sensible discussion not about the current personalities of the Royal Family but about the role and scale of the institution.

See link below to a BBC News feature titled, "*Why I will not be watching the King's Coronation*".

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-65376605>

It appears that more and more people are having their eyes opened to the inequality, oppression and illegitimacy associated with the Monarchy. This awakening will be evidenced by the passionate protesters expected to be out in force on Coronation Day holding yellow "***Not my King***" placards.



### **The tide of public opinion is turning.**

These peaceful protesters will be exercising their legal rights protected under the *European Convention on Human Rights* including Article 9 (the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion), Article 10 (the right to freedom of expression) and Article 11 (the right to freedom of assembly and association).

However, it is worth noting that yesterday, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, the campaign group *Republic* was sent an official warning letter by the Home Office Police Powers Unit, in relation to a new Public Order Act which lo and behold King Charles gave Royal Assent to only the day before. The correspondence warns that under the new legislation, protesters who block roads or cause serious disruption or lock-on to any object will be committing a criminal offence punishable with up to 12 months in prison.

The timing and tone of such Establishment letter is plainly intimidating.

Most countries in the world do not have a Monarch. The UK has a functioning and effective democracy with executive power resting with the elected government. Why is a Head of State even required? If a Head of State is considered necessary, why can he/she not be restricted to performing purely ceremonial functions and be elected by Parliament for that very limited role (as for example in Germany)?

### Conclusion

If you are watching the Coronation on TV, sit back, have a *KitKat* and marvel at the sheer vanity and hubris of it all.

When Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned Emperor in 1804, the French artist *Ingres* was commissioned to paint his portrait.



### Coronation as propaganda.

In the oil painting, Napoleon is depicted with symbols of power and as the embodiment of timeless authority. He is dressed in ermine and velvet robes, holding the Sceptre of Charlemagne in his right hand, the Sceptre of Justice in his left hand and on his head is a laurel wreath as worn by Julius Caesar in Ancient Rome.

Equally, this Saturday in London we will witness a similar parade of vainglorious peacocks, an extravaganza of elitism and an orgy of entitlement.

As for me, I won't be watching, I have little lettuces and cabbages to plant in my vegetable patch, "**A CITIZEN NOT A SUBJECT**".

See link below to our essay the *Rainbow Queen*.

<https://www.ik.im/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/10.10.22-The-Rainbow-Queen.pdf>