

V.280

Unterrichtsmagazin

## British monarchy: Who is Charles III? – Auseinandersetzung mit einem kritischen Monarchen (ab Klasse 10)

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Ist Charles III der Rolle des Königs von Großbritannien gewachsen? Bevor er König wurde, fiel der Monarch unter anderem durch öffentliche Meinungsäußerungen zu kontroversen politischen Themen wie zum Beispiel dem Umweltschutz auf. In einer konstitutionellen Monarchie wie der britischen jedoch hat der Monarch eine rein repräsentative Aufgabe und überlässt politische Fragen der Regierung. In den vorliegenden Unterrichtsmaterialien gehen Ihre Schülerinnen und Schüler der Frage nach, was der britische König macht und wofür er steht. Dabei setzen sie sich auch mit Charles' Rolle in den Medien auseinander, indem sie Bilder und das Video einer Rede analysieren sowie einen aktuellen Artikel über die Besonderheiten Charles' lesen.

KOMPETENZPROFIL

LearningApps -  
interaktive Lernbausteine

Klassenstufe:

ab Klasse 10

Kompetenzen:

ca. 1–5 Unterrichtsstunden + LEK

1. Hör-Seh-Verstehen: Bildern und einem Kurzvideo zentrale Informationen entnehmen; 2. Leseverstehen: einen Zeitungsartikel verstehen; 3. Schreiben: schriftliche Kommentare verfassen

Thematische Bereiche:

*British monarchy, British society, British values*

## Auf einen Blick

### 1. Stunde

**Thema:** Warming up to the topic: Prince/King Charles

**M 1** **Some highlights of Charles' life – Working with pictures** / sich über Charles III und seine Familie austauschen (PA, UG, EA)

**Hausaufgabe:** Ein Foto auswählen, schriftlich einordnen und vorstellen (*task 2*)

**Benötigt:**  digitale Endgeräte für die Recherche

### 2. Stunde

**Thema:** After the Queen's death, Charles takes over

**M 2** **King Charles' first speech to the Parliament – Working with a video** / König Charles' Rede erarbeiten (PA, UG, EA)

**Benötigt:**  Hausaufgabe aus M 1  
 Internetzugang und digitale Endgeräte zum Abspielen des Videos und zur Bearbeitung der *LearningApp*

### 3. Stunde

**Thema:** Prince Charles heir to the throne for a lifetime

**M 3** **Who is King Charles III – Working with an article** / Aufgaben zum Textverstehen und zur Grammatik bearbeiten (EA, PA, GA)

**Benötigt:**  Bild 1 aus M 1  
 Internet und digitale Endgeräte zur Bearbeitung der *LearningApp*

### 4. Stunde

**Thema:** Impact of Harry's Book *Spare*

**M 4** **The beginning of the end? – Discussing Prince Harry's book** / Aufgaben zum Textverständnis und kreative Aufgaben zum Thema bearbeiten (PA, UG, EA)

**Hausaufgabe:** Einen Artikel auswählen und vorstellen (*task 5*)

**Benötigt:**  Internet und digitale Endgeräte zur Bearbeitung der *LearningApp* und für die Recherche



## M 1

## Some highlights of Charles' life – Working with pictures



What do you already know about the British king?

1



2



3



4



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## Tasks

- With a partner, work with the pictures 1 to 4:
  - Describe the photos.
  - Speculate which photos were taken when Charles was still Prince of Wales and which ones were taken when he was already King. Give reasons.
  - Choose one of the photos and research online about the occasion of the picture.
  - Prepare a three-minute presentation about your findings.
- Choose a photo of Charles III from a German newspaper or social media and cut or print it out. Prepare a short, written presentation with background information about the occasion to be shown in a gallery walk in class.

## The beginning of the end? – Discussing Prince Harry’s book

M 4

Have you heard of Prince Harry’s book *Spare*? Let’s talk about it.

### Prince Harry’s book could be ‘beginning of end’ for royals, warns Charles['] biographer

*Catherine Mayer says anger over racism, misogyny and wealth in the royal family can undermine public consent for a monarchy*

The “absolutely catastrophic” implications<sup>1</sup> of attacks on the behaviour of the royal family in the new memoir<sup>2</sup> from the Duke of Sussex are being ignored, according to Catherine Mayer, the royal analyst<sup>3</sup> and biographer of King Charles. Early publication of the Spanish edition of *Spare*<sup>4</sup> has put the focus on personality clashes, some of it fed by the royal publicity machine<sup>5</sup>, and this could threaten the constitutional monarchy, whether or not the British public is calling for such a change, Mayer believes.

“It is possibly something that will mark the beginning of the end of the monarchy, and that is what we should discuss. It is important, given the lack of trust in the state at the moment and an upsurge<sup>6</sup> in rightwing politics. Members of the royal family have become our proxies<sup>8</sup> for anger about racism, misogyny<sup>9</sup> and wealth. This is, after all, an institution that stands for inequality, so there are huge things at stake<sup>10</sup>.”

Mayer, whose book *The Heart of a King* was subject to similar re-publication<sup>11</sup> security leaks<sup>12</sup> and distortion<sup>13</sup> when it came out in 2015, argues<sup>14</sup> that fundamental questions raised by Harry [...] are being<sup>15</sup> Accusations of bullying<sup>16</sup>, racism and misogyny, as well as the class distinctions<sup>17</sup> shored up<sup>18</sup> by the monarchy, will eventually combine to undermine the basis of the consent<sup>19</sup> by which the royal family rules if they are not addressed, she predicts.

“There is a general misapprehension that this is a light story about a British tourist attraction. The polarisation<sup>21</sup> on both sides of the row is styled<sup>22</sup> as a defence of the monarchy, but it’s not that,” said Mayer. “This is not just a celebrity<sup>23</sup> knockabout story<sup>24</sup> what we are talking about is the status of a significant<sup>25</sup> institution of state<sup>26</sup>, with significant powers and significant taxpayer funding<sup>27</sup>, so whether you are pro- or anti-monarchy, it deserves to be considered seriously.”

[...] The prospects of reconciliation<sup>28</sup> were remote<sup>29</sup> even before the book, Mayer said, “but there is a strong incentive for King Charles to initiate<sup>30</sup> some kind of truce<sup>31</sup> bringing down the fallout<sup>32</sup> from his first marriage and questions about Queen Camilla are resurfacing<sup>33</sup> already.”

Mayer notes that the alleged<sup>34</sup> racism, bullying and image manipulation inside the institution<sup>35</sup> are not being examined. Left alone<sup>36</sup>, they have the power to dissolve<sup>37</sup> both in the idea of a hereditary<sup>37</sup> head of state.

[...] “The whole family is meant to be an idealised reflection of the British people themselves and Harry’s marriage to Meghan made the job much easier,” she said. “The failure<sup>38</sup> of that project is absolutely catastrophic for the royal family.”

The emotional impact of the new book gains extra weight when Harry tells Bradby<sup>39</sup> about his feeling of numbness<sup>40</sup> following the sudden death of his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales in 1997: “I cried once, at the burial<sup>41</sup>, and you know I go into detail about how strange it was and how actually there was some

guilt that I felt and I think William felt as well, by walking around the outside of Kensington Palace<sup>42</sup> ... Everyone thought and felt like they knew our murder and the two closest people to her, the two most loved people by her, were unable to show any emotion in that moment.”

(560 words)

Source: Vanessa Thorpe: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/08/harrys-book-end-of-monarchy-royal-biographer> [last access: 25/07/2023]

1 **implication**: effect, impact – 2 **memoir**: die Lebenserinnerungen – 3 **analyst**: die Biografin – 4 **Spare**: title of Prince Harry's memoir, written together with a ghostwriter, published on 2 January 2023, accidentally already available on 5 January in Spain, title *Reserve/Spare* refers to Harry having been the second in line for the throne after William – 5 **royal publicity machine**: sensational papers and other media – 6 **upsurge**: der steile Anstieg – 7 **rightwing**: here: rechtspopulärisch – 8 **proxy**: der Stellvertreter – 9 **misogyny**: die Frauenfeindlichkeit – 10 **(to) be at stake**: auf dem Spiel stehen, es geht um – 11 **pre-publication**: die vorzeitige Veröffentlichung – 12 **security leaks**: die Sicherheitslücke – 13 **distortion**: die Verzerrung – 14 **(to) argue**: (to) give reasons – 15 **(to) be accused**: (to) be pushed – 16 **bullying**: das Mobbing – 17 **class distinctions**: die Klassenunterschiede – 18 **to be shored up**: gestützt werden – 19 **consent**: die Zustimmung, die Billigung – 20 **misapprehension**: das Missverständnis, die falsche Auffassung – 21 **polarisation**: here: die Unverwundbarkeit – 22 **(to) be styled**: here: (to) be called – 23 **celebrity**: die Berühmtheit – 24 **knockabout stories**: die Scherzgeschichten – 25 **significant**: important, considerable – 26 **institution of state**: die staatliche Einrichtung – 27 **taxpayer funding**: die Finanzierung durch den Steuerzahler – 28 **reconciliation**: die Versöhnung – 29 **remote**: far away – 30 **(to) initiate**: (to) cause sth. (to) begin – 31 **truce**: der Waffenstillstand – 32 **fall-out**: bad results – 33 **(to) resurface**: (to) come to the surface again – 34 **alleged**: angeblich – 35 **the institution**: name for the Royal family, the same as “the firm” – 36 **left alone**: here: gelassen – 37 **hereditary**: here: mit ererbtem Titel – 38 **failure**: das Scheitern – 39 **Bradby**: Tom Bradby, a famous journalist and author – 40 **numbness**: die Erstarrung – 41 **burial**: die Beerdigung – 42 **Kensington Palace**: London residence of Prince Charles and Princess Diana

## Tasks

First, read the article. Then do the tasks.

1. Fill in the gaps. Look at the text again to find the words you need.

Catherine Mayer, King Charles' \_\_\_\_\_, warned against the dangerous \_\_\_\_\_ of Prince Harry's new book (*Spare*), because its content threatens the \_\_\_\_\_. Due to the insecure political situation because of rightwing politics and lack of trust, the British monarchy is at \_\_\_\_\_. The book coming up with stories of \_\_\_\_\_, racism and misogyny together with class \_\_\_\_\_ will promote resentment among the people. The controversy is not meant to defend the \_\_\_\_\_, but it is an attack on the Royal family and this concerns the \_\_\_\_\_ as well. Mayer is of the opinion that Charles has to find a way to \_\_\_\_\_ the family, but this is not easy as there are more problems to cope with: negative fall-out from Charles' \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ about Queen Camilla. Mayer is aware that racism, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Royal family have not been addressed. But on the whole, because of all that, people might have second thoughts about their \_\_\_\_\_ who had not been elected by them but is a hereditary \_\_\_\_\_.

For further practice, do this extra task in *LearningApps*:

<https://learningapps.org/watch?v=pjp3qb6dt23>



- Work with a partner. Prepare a role play. Read the role cards and decide who is the father and who is his daughter/son. This is the situation: at home in the living room, the Browns – father, mother and their daughter/son – have been watching the evening news which had been reporting on Prince Harry's new book and on some of its shocking topics. While Mrs Brown is more interested in her new copy of the magazine *Woman*, Mr Brown and his daughter/son have a discussion and are of different opinions concerning Harry and his tell-all book. Present it in class.

#### Role card 1: Mr Brown

You are the family father – aged 52 – working as a train conductor. You are a loyal voter of the Labour Party, a good family man, liberal, and harmonious in your relationship with your wife and daughter/son and always open to other views. While you used to admire Queen Elizabeth, you now view the new king with scepticism. You have never forgiven him for how he treated poor Diana and his affair with Camilla. On the one hand, you are shocked because of the revelations made by Harry. On the other hand, you cannot understand why Harry is giving out so much information to the public that should remain confidential. You say, "He (Harry) does not understand how privileged he is. One doesn't do this to one's own family".

#### Role card 2: Susan/Evan

You are Mr Brown's 20-year-old daughter/son and you enjoy engaging in discussions about topics turning up in the news, like politics or the Royal family with your father. While your father strongly believes in the ideas of the Labour Party, you have a far more open-minded approach to new aims in politics, but you are – like your mother – a strong supporter of the Royal family and the monarchy as a whole.

- Against the background of the newspaper article, write a comment for a newspaper answering the question, "Should the monarchy go?"
- Choose a position on the topic in a German newspaper or on social media and prepare a short statement in class.
- Find a German article on a similar topic on the difficulties the Royal family is facing and prepare a short presentation. Present it in class.



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