

Who is she?





The UNITED KINGDOM

a democracy?

a constitutional

monarchy?

BRITISH MONARCHY



1. *The appearance*
2. *The reality*





The appearance

- “the Crown”- legal authority of the monarch

The head of the state is a King or Queen

British royal dynasties

Norman (1066-),

Plantagenet (1154-),

Lancaster (1399-),

York (1461-),

Tudor (1485-),

Stuart (1603-),

Hanover (1714-1901),

Windsor(1901/1917-present)

The Windsors



George V

The Windsors



Edward VIII



George VI

The Windsors



- Queen Elizabeth II
the head of the state.



- Queen Elizabeth II
6 February 1953

- Succession to the throne is hereditary.
- the oldest males offspring of the monarch.
- The heir has the title of **the Prince of Wales**

- **Queen Regnant**
- **King/Prince Consort**



Queen Elizabeth II and
Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh




The reigning monarch is not only the head of the state but also a symbol of the unity of the nation.

The reality

- The Queen has almost no power at all
- She receives her authority from Parliament and her power is limited.

She reigns, but does not rule.

- 
- the Crown is only sovereign by the will of Parliament.
 - The country is actually governed by Her Majesty's Government.
 - the Queen has to act on the advice of her ministers.

Prime Minister

→ the leader of the party
which has won the majority
in the House of Commons

Windsor Castle - Royal residence



Buckingham Palace – The Queen's working residence



Civil List

- The money which the Queen and some of her relatives get from Parliament each year



British *sovereignty* consists in
3 elements:

- **the Crown**
- **Government**
- **Parliament**

Politics in Britain

The Government and Parliament



The Government

- **Prime Minister:** leader of the party which has the majority in the Parliament and appointed by the Queen
- **The Cabinet:** Prime Minister appoints a team of main ministers as the Cabinet (about 20 people).

The Cabinet meets at the
Prime Minister's house –
number **10 Downing**
street.



The Parliament

- Functions:

1. passes laws;
2. provides the means of carrying on the work of government by voting for taxation;
3. scrutinises government policy, administration and expenditure;
4. debates the major issues of the day.

- British Parliament works in a large building called the Palace of Westminster or The House of Parliament
- British Parliament is divided into 2 houses: House of Lords and House of Commons

The House of Parliament

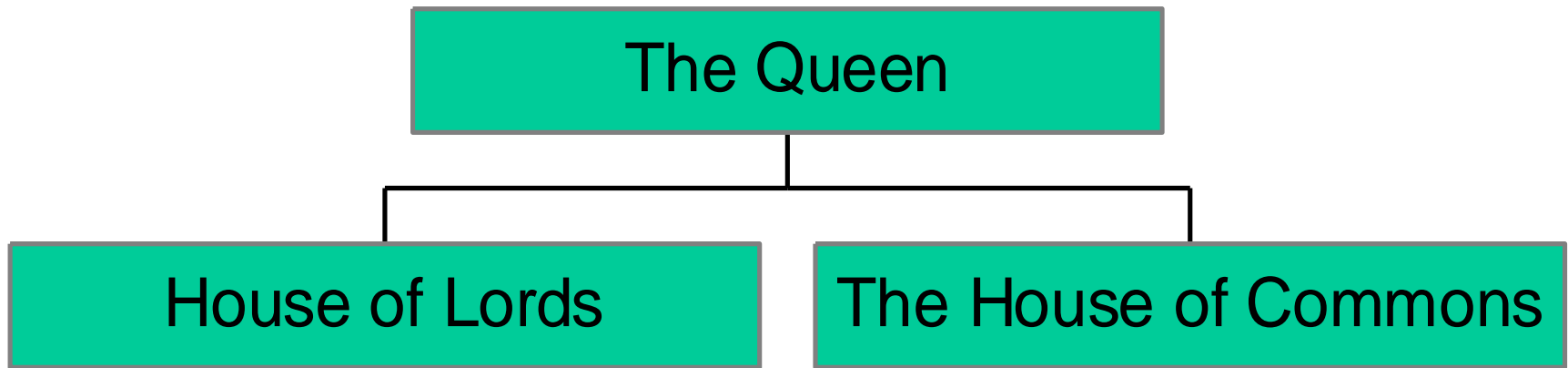


British Central Office of Information

Contains

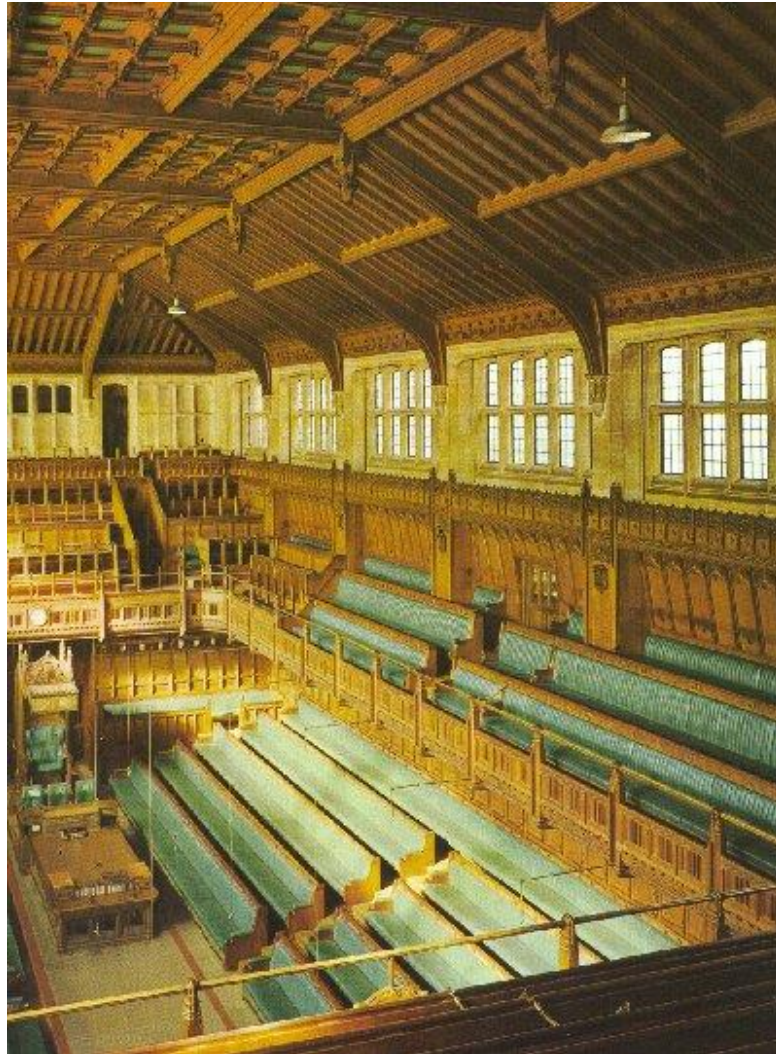
- Offices
- committee rooms
- Restaurants
- bars
- libraries
- and even some places of residence

Parliament consists of **the House of Commons and the House of Lords.**



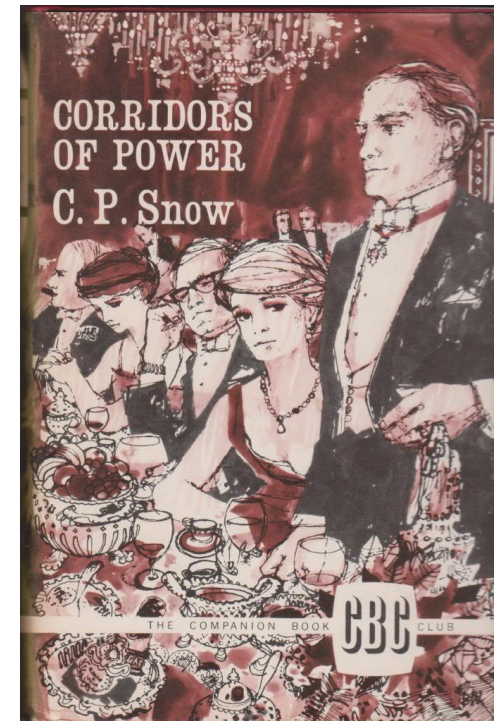
650 MPs.

The House of Commons



The House of Commons

There are at present **650 members** of the House of Commons, who are elected by people **every five years**. Members of the House of Commons are known as MPs (Members of Parliament)



The Speaker

- The Speaker is the person who chairs and controls discussion in the House



House of Lords

- Has no real power and only limited influences
- Four different types of Lords
 1. Life Peer
 2. Law Lords
 3. Bishops and archbishops
 4. Hereditary peers

The atmosphere of the Parliament

- Seating arrangements: two rows of benches face others
- No special place for MPs to stand when they are speaking



The atmosphere of the Parliament

- No desks for MPs
- The room is small (there isn't enough room for all MPs)



Atmosphere?

- Formal

- Informal



Informal

**MPs are forbidden to address one another by
NAME**

**my honourable member for Winchester or my
right honourable friend
MPs never say "you"**