

THE UNITED KINGDOM

BRITISH POLITICS

The **United Kingdom** is a parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy.

- **1689** : **Bill of Rights** (still in effect) that lays down limits on the powers of the crown and sets out the rights of **Parliament** (the requirement for regular elections to **Parliament** for example)
- **1920** : **Government of Ireland Act** : created the partition of **Ireland** : the republican southern part of **Ireland** became **Republic of Ireland (Eire)**, leaving **Northern Ireland** part of the **UK**
- **1973** : accession of the **UK** to the **European Communities**
- **2015** : The **800th anniversary** of the **Magna Carta** or the **Great Charter** : this document spelled out the rights and responsibilities of **King John of England** and the ruling class in **1215**. It is regarded as the first statement of citizen rights in the world
- **31 January 2020** : the **UK** withdrew from the **EU**

I. POWERS

- **The monarch** : **King Charles III**, head of state, the role of the monarchy today is mostly ceremonial
- **The Prime minister** : **Keir Starmer**, head of government. He lives on **10 Downing Street**.
- **The cabinet** :
 - **Chancellor of the exchequer** = head of **his Majesty's Treasury**
 - **Home secretary** (mainly immigration) = ministre de l'intérieur
 - **Foreign secretary** (quite obvious)
 - **Leveling up secretary** (housing & communities)
 - **Deputy prime minister** (if the **PM** is absent, he takes the lead)

Separation of powers

- **Legislative** : held by the **Parliament**, made up of the **House of Lords** and the **House of Commons** (**The Scottish Parliament**, the **Welsh Assembly** and the **Northern Irish Assembly** have legislative powers but they don't have as much authority as **Parliament**)
- **Executive** : controlled by the **British Government**, which works on behalf of the **king**.
- **Judiciary** : kept independent of the legislature and executive. The highest court : the **Supreme Court**.