



109. The British Monarchy

W: Today I would like to talk about The British Monarchy. Does anyone have something to say about it?

Sarah: I have a question actually. I wonder how long will the United Kingdom still remain a monarchy?

W: well I guess until people can't tolerate it anymore as it happened in France. An opinion poll last week confirmed that the monarchy is still very popular.

Sarah: some say that the monarchy is out of kilter with a modern democracy and if it is to survive, it will have to modernize.

W: Certainly. The monarchy is outdated in more than one way but most British people are deeply attached to it. I think the difficulty for the United Kingdom is to adapt to a changing world while preserving the legacy of the past.

Sarah: Well, I have read that the British taxpayer often has the feeling that the money spent supporting the royal family is squandered, and royal scandals tarnish the monarchy's image regularly.

W: I agree that the royals are often criticized for their conspicuous consumption, their remoteness and the rigidity of their upbringing, but Prince Charles is the heir to the throne of a country where traditions are still revered. I think for most Britons, the monarchy gives a sense of stability in a world full of uncertainty.

Sarah: you're probably right Wentworth.

GLOSSARY:

The British Monarchy: la monarchie Britannique	Taxpayer: le contribuable
To wonder: se demander	The feeling: le sentiment
To remain: rester, demeurer	The money: l'argent
To tolerate: tolérer	The royal family: la famille royale
To happen: arriver	Royal scandals: des scandales royaux
To confirm: confirmer	The royals: les membres de la famille royale
To be out of kilter: être déphasé, en décalage	Their conspicuous consumption: leur consommation ostentatoire
To survive: survivre	Their remoteness: leur attitude distante
To modernize: se moderniser	The rigidity: la rigidité
To be outdated: être désuet, dépassé	Their upbringing : leur éducation
To be attached to : être attaché à	The heir: l'héritier
To adapt: s'adapter	The throne: le trône
To preserve: préserver, maintenir	Traditions: les traditions
To spend/spent/spent: dépenser	Britons: les Britanniques
To support: aider, soutenir	A sense of stability: un sentiment de stabilité
To squander: gaspiller	Uncertainty: l'incertitude
To tarnish: ternir	Popular: populaire
To criticize: critiquer	More than one way: à plus d'un titre, de plus d'une façon
To rever: vénérer	Deeply: profondément
An opinion poll: un sondage	Regularly : régulièrement
A modern democracy : une démocratie moderne	
The difficulty : la difficulté	
A changing world : un monde en changement	
The legacy of the past : l'héritage du passé	