

#### Journal of Anglo-Turkish Relations Volume 4 Number 1 January 2023

# A Definition of the "Modern" Monarchy: What is and what is not $Batuhan\ ULUK\ddot{U}T\ddot{U}K^1$

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the longest reigning monarch in United Kingdom history passed away in early September 2022. This event, which is important for the history of the United Kingdom and the world, has led to the redefinition of the current status of monarchical structures and their importance and position in the last 50 years.

As it is known, as the historical ages progress, the speed of development of humanity increases at the same rate, and the developments recorded in a certain time period are accelerated in terms of number and quality over the years. In recent years, when the speed of this global development has gained the greatest momentum ever, monarchical structures - especially those in Europe - have assumed the role of subject and object of a transitional period. Replacing the perception that they have traditionalist and conservative images with those that have become dynamic and encouraging institutions is of course not easy for monarchical governments, and it also requires a lot of social and administrative work. "Can monarchical administrative structures survive under the conditions of this century?" In order to answer "yes" to the question, institutions directly affiliated to the monarchy carry out some strict activities in many countries.

## The place and importance of the monarch in the administrative structures subject to a constitutional monarchy in which there is still a monarch

The existence of a monarch can be summarized as the existence of an inclusive and independent supreme authority in modern constitutional monarchies. Administrative structures headed by a government appear as the product of a political environment. According to the opinions of all political viewers who are candidates for the performance of an administrative duty, the principle that the area in which they act has an identity is provided by the monarch in countries where the constitutional monarchy is dominant and is also symbolized by the duty of representation. Symbolizing the existence of a situation where common interests and national identity - according to the period - are at the forefront, the monarch constitutes the highest authority as a representative of the wishes and views of the

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bilkent University, Department of Translation and Interpretation, E-mail: batuhanulukutuk@gmail.com, https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7892-5519



#### Journal of Anglo-Turkish Relations Volume 4 Number 1 January 2023

society, as a structure that entrusts their duties to the people and groups who will serve in the administrative offices as a result of political competition.

The mentality can simply be defined as those individuals and groups who will serve in state institutions performing the duties entrusted to them for a temporary period, but that the main state structure is a permanent office that meets the administrative needs of the society, is met by a monarchical structure under a monarch.

The protection of a free environment in which every idea and thought in the society can survive and the active implementation of personal/ideational rights and freedoms can also be achieved through an independent and liberal administration. Societies that want to provide the environment I have mentioned above are also able to be governed by the presence of an independent and greater authority that protects equal opportunities and prevents the extremism of any political view. The point to be considered here is that in monarchical structures, the essential thing is to meet the wishes of the society and of course to serve the society. The independent political supremacy of the monarchy derives from the goal of preventing political extremism, ensuring that the political environment is responsive to the needs of the society, and preventing possible harm from the monopoly of interest groups, rather than the manifestation of an authoritarian policy.

#### The place of the monarchy in the transition period

Contrary to the conflicting views on whether monarchical structures can continue to exist in an age full of rapid developments that I mentioned at the beginning, of course, monarchy, like every worldly element, continues to evolve and continue to exist. What is important here is the fact that monarchies are also a natural system arising from natural needs. Every new structure brought by the ages gives a new face to the monarchy. As I mentioned before, the monarchy is responsible for ensuring that the society can develop more easily away from the negativities and progress by increasing its current prosperous situation. The illusion that the monarchy is a conservative institution, then, derives mainly from the one value it retains: welfare. Of course, in order to preserve welfare, it is inevitable for the monarchy institution to update itself by following liberal views. As a matter of fact, monarchical institutions have important responsibilities in the contribution of every element that will carry humanity one step forward, such as technological advances, new views and movements, to the structure of society in a beneficial way.



### Journal of Anglo-Turkish Relations Volume 4 Number 1 January 2023

In line with these definitions, monarchs who know that the monarchy is not a reflection of the stubbornness of a primitive system to the modern age and that implement parallel policies can answer yes to the first question.

In summary, the monarchy bases its main value on the development of the society in a prosperous environment, and updates itself by keeping up with the requirements of the age in order to present the refined structure necessary for this to the society. Keeping this up-to-datedness parallel to the age and society of the monarchy is due to the fact that it emerged as an alternative response to human needs, stemming from natural conditions. To summarize the main responsibilities of the monarchy to the society and its own concept; It is to eliminate the obstacles to the welfare of the society with its preventive and protective role under all circumstances, to stop the possible negative effects of extremism, to take an encouraging role in creating quality works in every field in order to preserve the refined structure of the society, and to meet the basic needs of the society.