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LA14 Homework

Commentary on the second document

The death of the Queen Elisabeth II and the coronation of the King Charles I have revived debates on the legitimacy of the monarchy and the royal family. This topic is tackled by a web post, which was published on April 2016, of Joseph William Vans, who is an active republican supporter, on the website «*British Republican Blog* » . Within it he questions and criticizes the monarchical system and casts doubt on the usefulness of the royal family. A key question to ask would be what are the outstanding issues within the monarchical system in Britain. After a thorough analysis of the defects of this obsolete system, a questioning of the legitimacy of the Royal Family will be carried out.

The monarchical system which lost a paramount amount of its powers in the year 1689 due to the Bill of rights, despite being still strongly popular, is increasingly being questioned. Indeed, the criticisms of this system, which derive mainly from the Republican Party are justified, especially by the exorbitant costs of maintaining it and for the little it provides in return “*According to the lobby group, Republic, the total cost of maintaining & continuing the Monarchy, in total, to the taxpayer is around £202.4 million.*” . It is, in particular, the taxes paid by all citizens for financing this system that are making the republicans grumbling. This is all the more confusing since people do not seem to revolt against this system which is yet such a social and monetary purge. “*To allow a wrinkled piece of breathing history to continue to rob the people of GB (each year,*

[...], a total of £35 million), and to count on their stupidity & inability to investigate & think [...], is no cause for happiness or joy; but instead for [...] – nationwide condemnation.” In fact, this significant amount of funds could be used on more concrete projects like investing in public services instead of funding a system without useful powers. *“Approximately, this amount of money could be used to employ 9,000 nurses & 8,000 policemen. Are we spending this money wisely? Can the Monarchy, used only for ceremonial purposes and of whom haven’t any real power in the modern world, be worth more to us than the safekeeping of our streets & lives?”* This is actually the main problem; the Monarchical system has enormous funds for non – essential duties like “important” meetings or religious events which could be done by members of the Parliament or Bishops who, despite being more adequate for the job, would be, in addition, cheaper to pay. *“they are travelling the world on our behalf’s & setting a good example; but [...], don’t we have a Prime Minister for that? This person who is much cheaper to maintain”* Moreover, the irony is that the British are represented at these meetings by a system to which they have not even had the occasion to elect the representatives since it is a birth-granted title *“whom we as a people have selected to represent us”* . Imagine hard-working for a salary that is reduced just because a royal family somewhere in Britain needs it to live since they do not want to work by themselves *“Why then are we, the taxpayers & hard workers, having 59p per head taken out of our pay checks which we have earned through blood, sweat & tears to fund a family of whom are much worse than the common, [...]that they may continue to avoid ever having to work a day in their lives. “.* This is why The monarchical system is terribly lacking in modernity, particularly in terms of its longevity but also in its non-egalitarian aspect, but is it also lacking in the same way in the royal family?

The royal family, which is are the official representatives of the monarchical system in Britain, is at the center of the viewfinder. Indeed, their birth-granted rights and supreme authority are a real threat to the democracy and a huge privilege over citizens “ *We are not living within a democracy. And this will remain the case for so long as the British Monarchy exists*”. As a matter of fact, it is even contradictory and opposed to democracy that every citizen is informed that through hard work he will be able to practice any profession he wishes except one, which is being a member of the royal family “*we are told, where our leaders are elected and where anyone, for that matter, can become such a leader. Regardless of the background any one British citizen is born into, he or she may become [...] through tireless work & effort, a councillor, an MP, a Prime Minister; but not ever the head of state*” . Despite being completely unfair and against equality, it is even outrageous given the authority that this family detains and the supremacy of the Monarch over the government in certain fields “*Consider the following: the head of state [...] holds supreme power & ultimate control & authority over the armed forces of the United Kingdom*”. In addition, even if this problem has not yet occurred, it is essential to consider the possible birth of a member of the royal family with mental defiance or simply the coronation of a too young King or Queen which could end badly “*we have a ruler of mental questionability? Someone who simply isn’t all there; someone that is hot headed [...] end up with an idiot on the seat of the throne, or a warmonger, or a child, or a person of disagreeable beliefs & politics*”. With such a leader the stakes of leading the country to insanity are high, especially if the next Monarch is misguided things could turn out very badly for not only the country, but for

the whole world *“someone that is hot headed, and that would declare war over an ant hill; or who, more seriously, would without thought plunge the entire country into death & chaos?”* . This potential threat is the main reason why Republicans are complaining about the royal family authority, they are fed up of being ruled by people who were not elected equally and complicated jurisdictions.

Eventually, Grand-Britain came to a point where the Monarchical system is too expensive for what it provides. Indeed, the royal family is a simple privileged family with granted powers that are potentially dangerous and, on top of that, are a huge symbol of non-equality in the country which could be seen as contemptuous for the citizens. Maybe the time has come for Grand Britain to change their habits, rewrite the law or abolish the Monarchical system in profit for a fairer system that would give equal powers to every person standing on that land or to simply give to the Monarchical system a more important role, as in Spain, so that its existence might be justified.

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