

= Coronation =

A coronation is a ceremony marking the formal investiture of a monarch and / or their consort with regal power , usually involving the ritual placement of a crown upon his or her head and the presentation of other items of regalia . A ceremony without the placement of a crown on one 's head is known as an enthronement . The ceremony may include the taking of special vows by the monarch , acts of homage by the new ruler 's subjects and the performance of other ritual deeds of special significance to the particular nation . Once a vital ritual among the world 's monarchies , coronations have changed over time for a variety of socio @-@ political and religious factors ; most modern monarchies have dispensed with them altogether , preferring simpler enthronement , investiture or benediction ceremonies . Coronations are still observed in the United Kingdom , Tonga , and several Asian and African countries . In common usage today , coronation normally refers to the official investiture or enthronement of the monarch , whether or not an actual crown is bestowed .

In addition to investing the monarch with symbols of state , Western @-@ style coronations have often traditionally involve anointing with holy oil , or chrism as it is often called . Wherever a ruler is anointed in this way , as in Great Britain and Tonga , this ritual takes on an overtly religious significance , following examples found in the Bible . Some other lands use bathing or cleansing rites , the drinking of a sacred beverage , or other religious practices to achieve a comparable effect . Such acts symbolise the granting of divine favour to the monarch within the relevant spiritual @-@ religious paradigm of the country .

In the past , concepts of royalty , coronation and deity were often inexorably linked . In some ancient cultures , rulers were considered to be divine or partially divine : the Egyptian Pharaoh was believed to be the son of Ra , the sun god , while in Japan , the Emperor was believed to be a descendant of Amaterasu , the sun goddess . Rome promulgated the practice of emperor worship ; in Medieval Europe , monarchs claimed to have a divine right to rule . Coronations were once a direct visual expression of these alleged connections , but recent centuries have seen the lessening of such beliefs due to increasing secularization and democratization . Thus , coronations (or their religious elements , at least) have often been discarded altogether or altered to reflect the constitutional nature of the states in which they are held . However , some monarchies still choose to retain an overtly religious dimension to their accession rituals . Others have adopted simpler enthronement or inauguration ceremonies , or even no ceremony at all .

= = History and development = =

The coronation ceremonies in medieval Christendom , both Western and Eastern , are influenced by the practice of the Roman Emperors as it developed during Late Antiquity , indirectly influenced by Biblical accounts of kings being crowned and anointed . The European coronation ceremonies , perhaps best known in the form they have taken in Great Britain (the most recent of which occurred in 1953) , descend from rites initially created in Byzantium , Visigothic Spain , Carolingian France and the Holy Roman Empire and brought to their apogee during the Medieval era .

In non @-@ Christian states , coronation rites evolved from a variety of sources , often related to the religious beliefs of that particular nation . Buddhism , for instance , influenced the coronation rituals of Thailand , Cambodia and Bhutan , while Hindu elements played a significant role in Nepalese rites . The ceremonies used in modern Egypt , Malaysia , Brunei and Iran were shaped by Islam , while Tonga 's ritual combines ancient Polynesian influences with more modern Anglican ones .

= = = Antiquity = = =

Coronations , in one form or another , have existed since ancient times . Egyptian records show coronation scenes , such as that of Seti I in 1290 BC . Judeo @-@ Christian scriptures testify to particular rites associated with the conferring of kingship , the most detailed accounts of which are

found in II Kings 11 : 12 and II Chronicles 23 : 11 .

The corona radiata , the " radiant crown " known best on the Statue of Liberty , and perhaps worn by the Helios that was the Colossus of Rhodes , was worn by Roman emperors as part of the cult of Sol Invictus , part of the imperial cult as it developed during the 3rd century . The origin of the crown is thus religious , comparable to the significance of a halo , marking the sacral nature of kingship , expressing that either the king is himself divine , or ruling by divine right .

The precursor to the crown was the browband called the diadem , which had been worn by the Achaemenid rulers , was adopted by Constantine I , and was worn by all subsequent rulers of the later Roman Empire . Following the assumption of the diadem by Constantine , Roman and Byzantine emperors continued to wear it as the supreme symbol of their authority . Although no specific coronation ceremony was observed at first , one gradually evolved over the following century . The emperor Julian was hoisted upon a shield and crowned with a gold necklace provided by one of his standard @-@ bearers ; he later wore a jewel @-@ studded diadem . Later emperors were crowned and acclaimed in a similar manner , until the momentous decision was taken to permit the Patriarch of Constantinople to physically place the crown on the emperor 's head . Historians debate when exactly this first took place , but the precedent was clearly established by the reign of Leo II , who was crowned by the Patriarch Acacius in 473 . This ritual included recitation of prayers by the Byzantine prelate over the crown , a further ? and extremely vital ? development in the liturgical ordo of crowning . After this event , according to the Catholic Encyclopedia , " the ecclesiastical element in the coronation ceremonial rapidly develop [ed] " .

In some European Celtic or Germanic countries prior to the adoption of Christianity , the ruler upon his election was raised on a shield and , while standing upon it , was borne on the shoulders of several chief men of the nation (or tribe) in a procession around his assembled subjects . This was usually performed three times . Following this , the king was given a spear , and a diadem wrought of silk or linen (not to be confused with a crown) was bound around his forehead as a token of regal authority .

= = = Middle Ages = = =

According to Adomnan of Iona , the King of Dal Riata Áedán mac Gabráin came to the monastery at Iona in 574 to be crowned as King by St Columba . In 610 , Heraclius arranged a ceremony in Constantinople where he was crowned and acclaimed emperor . In Spain , the Visigothic king Sisenand was crowned in 631 , and in 672 , Wamba was the first occidental king to be anointed as well , by the archbishop of Toledo . In England , the Anglo @-@ Saxon king Eardwulf of Northumbria was " consecrated and enthroned " in 796 , and Æthelstan was crowned and anointed in 925 . These practices were nevertheless irregularly used or occurred some considerable time after the rulers had become kings , until their regular adoption by the Carolingian dynasty in France . To legitimate his deposition of the last of the Merovingian kings , Pepin the Short was twice crowned and anointed , at the beginning of his reign in 752 , and for the first time by a pope in 754 in Saint @-@ Denis . The anointing served as a reminder of the baptism of Clovis I in Reims in 496 , where the ceremony was finally transferred in 816 . His son Charlemagne , who was crowned emperor in Rome in 800 , passed as well the ceremony to the Holy Roman Empire , and this tradition acquired a newly constitutive function in England too , with the kings Harold Godwinson and William the Conqueror immediately crowned in Westminster Abbey in 1066 .

The European coronation ceremonies of the Middle Ages were essentially a combination of the Christian rite of anointing with additional elements . Following Europe 's conversion to Christianity , crowning ceremonies became more and more ornate , depending on the country in question , and their Christian elements ? especially anointing ? became the paramount concern . Crowns and sceptres , used in coronations since ancient times , took on a Christian significance together with the orb as symbols of the purported divine order of things , with the monarch as the divinely ordained overlord and protector of his dominion . During the Middle Ages , this rite was considered so vital in some European kingdoms that it was sometimes referred to as an " eighth sacrament " . The anointed ruler was viewed as a mixta persona , part priest and part layman , but never wholly either .

This notion persisted into the twentieth century in Imperial Russia , where the Tsar was considered to be " wedded " to his subjects through the Orthodox coronation service . Coronation stones marked the site of some medieval ceremonies , though some alleged stones are later inventions .

Crowning ceremonies arose from a worldview in which monarchs were seen as ordained by God to serve not merely as political or military leaders , nor as figureheads or historical symbols ? a role played by most royals today ? but rather to occupy a vital (and very real) spiritual place in their dominions as well . Coronations were created to reflect and enable these alleged connections ; however , the belief systems that gave birth to them have been radically altered in recent centuries by secularism , egalitarianism and the rise of constitutionalism and democracy . During the Protestant Reformation , the idea of divinely ordained monarchs began to be challenged .

= = = Modern history = = =

The Age of Enlightenment and various revolutions of the last three centuries all helped to further this trend , until the religious dimension of the ceremony has become relatively meaningless in all but a few kingdoms (mostly in Asia and Oceania) . Hence , many monarchies ? especially in Europe ? have dispensed with coronations altogether , or transformed them into simpler inauguration or benediction rites that better reflect the secular nature of those states . Of all European monarchies today , only the United Kingdom still retains its coronation rite , though even this ritual has been altered in the last few centuries . Other nations that still crowning their rulers include Bhutan , Brunei , Cambodia , Lesotho , Swaziland , Thailand , and Tonga , as well as several subnational entities such as the Toro Kingdom . The Papacy retains the option of a coronation , but no pope has used it since 1963 after Pope John Paul I opted for an Inauguration in 1978 .

= = = Canonical Coronation = = =

A Canonical Coronation (Latin : Coronatam Canonicus) : is a pious institutional act of the Pope , on behalf of a devotion . This tradition still stands in 2015 , in 2014 Pope Francis crowned Our Lady of Immaculate Conception of Juquila . Since 1989 , the act has been carried out through the authorised decree by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments .

= = Coronations and monarchical power = =

In most kingdoms , a monarch succeeding hereditarily does not have to undergo a coronation to ascend the throne or exercise the prerogatives of their office . King Edward VIII of the United Kingdom , for example , did not reign long enough to be crowned before he abdicated , yet he was unquestionably the King of the United Kingdom and Emperor of India during his brief reign . This is because in Britain , the law stipulates that the moment one monarch dies , the new one assumes the throne ; thus , there is no point at which the throne is vacant . In France , the new king ascended the throne when the coffin of the previous monarch descended into the vault at Saint Denis Basilica , and the Duke of Uzès proclaimed " Le Roi est mort , vive le Roi " ! In Hungary , on the other hand , no ruler was regarded as being truly legitimate until he was physically crowned with St. Stephen 's Crown , while monarchs of Belgium or Albania were not allowed to succeed or exercise any of their prerogatives until swearing a formal constitutional oath before their respective nations ' parliaments . Following their election , the kings of Poland were permitted to perform a variety of political acts prior to their coronation , but were not allowed to exercise any of their judicial powers prior to being crowned .

= = Coronation of heirs apparent = =

During the Middle Ages , Capetian Kings of France chose to have their heirs apparent crowned during their own lifetime in order to avoid succession disputes . This practice was later adopted by

Angevin Kings of England , Kings of Hungary and other European monarchs . From the moment of their coronation , the heirs were regarded as junior kings (rex iunior) , but they exercised little power and historically were not included in the numbering of monarchs if they predeceased their fathers . The nobility disliked this custom , as it reduced their chances to benefit from a possible succession dispute .

The last heir apparent to the French throne to be crowned during his father 's lifetime was the future Philip II of France , while the only crowned heir apparent to the English throne was Henry the Young King , who was first crowned alone and then with his wife , Margaret of France . The practice was eventually abandoned by all kingdoms that had adopted it , as the rules of primogeniture became stronger . The last coronation of an heir apparent , with the exception of the investiture of the current Prince of Wales in 1969 , was the coronation of the future Emperor Ferdinand I of Austria as junior King of Hungary in 1830 .

= = In the modern era = =

Specific coronation rituals by country , arranged by continent or region , are described in the following articles :

Coronations in Africa

Coronations in the Americas

Coronations in Asia

Coronations in Europe

Coronations in Oceania

= = Other uses = =

The term coronation is sometimes used in a semi @-@ ironic sense to refer to uncontested party leadership elections , with all potential party leaders choosing to back a single candidate or to stay silent , rather than stand in an election they are likely to lose . This typically happens where there has been a protracted behind @-@ the @-@ scenes attempt to remove the outgoing leader , leading to a significant amount of time to determine who has the most party support before the election proper .

= = Gallery = =