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The Representation of Queen Elizabeth II in “The Crown” Series

Mr. Pongsatorn Suksuphrot

An Independent Study Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements

For the Degree of Master of Arts in European Studies

Inter-Department of European Studies

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Chulalongkorn University

Academic Year 2020

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การนำเสนอภาพของสมเด็จพระราชินีนาถเอลิซาเบธที่ 2 ในภาพยนตร์ชุด “เดอะคราวน์”

นายพงศธร สุขสุพรด

สารนิพนธ์นี้เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษาตามหลักสูตรศิลปศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต

สาขาวิชายุโรปศึกษา สหสาขาวิชายุโรปศึกษา


บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

ปีการศึกษา 2563


ลิขสิทธิ์ของจุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

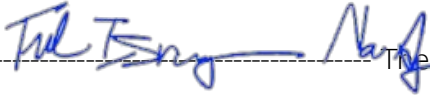
Independent Study Title	The Representation of Queen Elizabeth II in “The Crown” Series
By	Mr. Pongsatorn Suksuphrot
Field of Study	European Studies
Thesis Advisor	Assistant Professor TUL ISRANGURA NA AYUDHYA, Ph.D.

Accepted by the GRADUATE SCHOOL, Chulalongkorn University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement of the Master of Arts


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พงศธร สุขสุพรต : การนำเสนอภาพของสมเด็จพระราชินีนาถเอลิซาเบธที่ 2 ในภาพยนตร์ชุด “เดอะคราวน์”. (The Representation of Queen Elizabeth II in “The Crown” Series) อ ที่ปรึกษา
หลัก : ผศ.ดร. ตฤย์ อิศรางกูณ ณ อยุธยา

งานวิจัยที่จัดทำขึ้นนี้มีจุดมุ่งหมายที่จะตอบคำถามงานวิจัยซึ่งต้องการจะหาคำตอบเกี่ยวกับ
แนวความคิดและมุมมองของสื่ออังกฤษที่มีต่อพระราชวงศ์อังกฤษ ผลการวิจัยแสดงให้เห็นถึงความคิดของสื่อ
อังกฤษโดยเฉพาะอย่างยิ่งที่มีผลต่อสมเด็จพระราชินีนาถเอลิซาเบธที่ 2 ซึ่งสามารถแบ่งแนวคิดของสื่ออังกฤษที่
นำเสนอภาพสมเด็จพระราชินีนาถผ่านภาพยนตร์ชุดเดอะคราวน์ได้เป็น 4 ด้านหลัก ดังนี้ 1) การนำเสนอใน
ฐานะพระมหากษัตริย์ 2) การนำเสนอในฐานะพระประมุขแห่งเครือจักรภพ 3) การนำเสนอในฐานะพระ
ประมุขแห่งศาสนจักรอังกฤษ และในฐานะของการเป็นความมั่นคงของพระราชวงศ์อังกฤษ 4) การนำเสนอใน
ฐานะพระชายาและพระมารดา การแสดงให้เห็นภาพทั้งสี่ด้านของสมเด็จพระราชินีนาถเอลิซาเบธที่ 2 นั้นพระองค์
สะท้อนให้เห็นถึงมุมมองของสื่ออังกฤษที่มีต่อพระองค์ ที่มีเพียงแค่มองพระองค์ในมุมมองของการเป็นประมุข
ของรัฐ หรือสถาบันหลักต่างๆเท่านั้น แต่ทว่าสื่ออังกฤษยังมองพระองค์ในมุมมองที่เป็นส่วนพระองค์ซึ่งผ่าน
การนำเสนอในการที่ทรงเป็นทั้งพระชายา และพระมารดา สำคัญไปกว่านั้น ภาพยนตร์ชุดเดอะคราวน์ทำ
ให้เห็นถึงความคาดหวังของสื่ออังกฤษที่มีต่อพระราชวงศ์และสถาบันพระมหากษัตริย์อังกฤษในอนาคตซึ่ง
ได้รับการตีความผ่านมุมมองของการนำเสนอสมเด็จพระราชินีนาถในฐานะของความมั่นคงต่อสถาบันอันเก่าแก่
ของอังกฤษ

สาขาวิชา ยุโรปศึกษา
ปีการศึกษา 2563

ลายมือชื่อนิสิต.....
ลายมือชื่อ อ ที่ปรึกษา.....



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Crown” Series Advisor: Assist. Prof. TUL ISRANGURA NA AYUDHYA, Ph.D.

This paper aims at answering the research question: what is the perception of the British media towards the British Royal Family? The answer is that the British media (the CROWN series) obviously focused on the representation of the protagonist of the series, Queen Elizabeth II, which is their view could be depicted into 4 main characters: the Sovereign, the Head of the Commonwealth, the Head of the Church of England and the Stability of the British Monarchy, and a Wife and Mother. These four depictions of the Queen showed that the perception of the British media towards the Queen was not only the formal dimension which was depicted through the representation as the head of the institutions, but also showed the personal dimension through the representation as a Wife and mother. Most importantly, the result showed the prospect of a future British Monarchy in which the British media showed in the representation of the Queen as the stability of this old institution.

Field of Study: European Studies
Academic Year:2020

Student's Signature.....
Advisor's Signature.....

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Pongsatorn Suksuphrot

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Introduction

The British Royal Family is one of the most famous royal families in the world. No one can deny the familiarity with the members of the British Royal Family; some might come across the members by his/ herself, while some have an opportunity to meet the member of this notable family in person. Indeed, the media is another approach for today's society which allows people to catch a glimpse both inside and outside story of the British Royal Family.

The British Royal Family and the media do not always have a good relationship with each other. The story of a relationship between the media and the British Monarchy can be traced back to the late Victorian Era. The paper of Jeffrey Richard clearly said that, it was the cinema which first came in Britain around 1890s as the centre of people's amusement. Since the time of Queen Victoria until her grandson, King George V, the media itself had played a significant role in collecting the remarkable ceremonies and memories of the British history¹: one jubilee celebration of Queen Victoria; two funeral processions of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII; and also two coronation processions of Edward VII and George V. As the years progressed, the media was given the more access to be closer into the life and home of the Royal Family, while taking a different step and approach. First, as discussed by Jeffery Richard, he emphasised the role of the media in the Coronation ceremony, given that the sacred ceremony did not allow the camera to get inside the Abbey, but from 1937 onwards, at the coronation of King George VI, the cameras had a chance to capture the moment.² However, there was no other coronations that the media received the permission to film and broadcast the ceremony rather than of Queen Elizabeth II in

¹ Jeffrey Richards, "The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and Film," *The Court Historian* 9 (2004): 69.

² Richards, "The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and Film," 70.

1953 — the first ever coronation ceremony to be televised in the UK and around the world. This paper explored that, since the time of the coronation in 1937 to 1952, the media was inspired by the ceremony and decided to make neither a film nor a documentary which represented the coronation and the sovereign who was the crucial part of the ceremony. The paper described, after the passing of King George V, the media was allowed by the new sovereign, King Edward VIII, to produce a film which was based on the coronation ceremony: *Victoria the Great, A Queen is Crowned, Elizabeth is Queen*. These two documentaries and one film story enabled the public to see the ceremony which took place a hundred years ago even before the media existed, while the other two films showed the details of the ceremony and finally became a successful documentary worldwide.

As the royal films and documentaries gains a lot of public attention, it also brings the question — prior before the media was come into existence, which approach that was utilised to attract the British Royal Family. The research of Pat Robins obviously answered that, the formal royal occasions and the royal wedding were a source of receiving public popularity and more importantly representing the ties between the state and the sovereign. Later, when the media took its form, the relationship between the Royal Family and the national family were being positively more intertwined³. As far as the British Royal Family is concerned, the royal wedding is used to represent itself to link the nation and the individual, as described in the paper: binding the personal feelings with the nation, and regarding the royal wedding as a national pride and celebration, not just for one's family.

³ Pat Robins, "Media Representations of the British Royal Family as National Family," *The European Journal of Women's Studies* 2 (1995): 114.

The study of Pat Robins pointed out the approach of the British media which dominated the representation of the royal family. The magazines are used as a tool to represent the sovereign depending on its category. The Women's magazines represent the femininity of the sovereign, given that it is picking gender as an approach to represent the Queen who is a part of being head of state, she also be a wife and mother (family woman) — making the Queen look as ordinary as other woman in the UK⁴. Some magazines compare the 'royal life' with 'family life' — pointing out to the expenditure of both houses⁵. These two scenarios totally represent the Queen as being normal as others. However, the proliferation of the royal films and documentaries are also escalating — it has become the main media in the present time to best represent the British Royal Family. The royal documentary has been played a vital role to the media and the Royal Family especially during the 1950s - 1990s. As said in the book by Erin Bell and Ann Gray that Queen Elizabeth II was being filmed three major documentaries: *Elizabeth R*, *Monarch: The Royal Family at Work*; *Our Queen*. These documentaries represented the Queen mostly through her daily routine and annual engagement — the film *Elizabeth R* (1992) emphasised on the role of the Queen as the sovereign of the country, which included the daily work to the state reception. Actually, the royal documentary tended to divide its part into a theme, as Jeffrey Richards wrote in his paper, giving an example of the Queen's 1953 Commonwealth Tour which the documentary pointed out two major themes that the Queen would be represented; the first dimension was the representation of the Queen as a figure of the Constitutional monarchy through the exercising of her power — the opening of the Parliament⁶; the second dimension was represented as Head of the Church of England. Another famous royal

⁴ Robins, "Media Representations of the British Royal Family as National Family," 114.

⁵ Robins, "Media Representations of the British Royal Family as National Family," 114.

⁶ Elliot Bulmer, *Constitutional Monarch in Parliamentary Democracies* (Strömsborg: International IDEA, 2014), 5.

family documentary which became known publicly, and later the Queen herself did not allow this to be aired — the 1969 Royal Family Documentary. This documentary, as described by Pat Robins, was the great appetiser for public attention certainly because this documentary showed an insight story of the Royal Family which was not seen before — especially the family moment when the Queen, Prince Philip and the rest of their family were having a barbecue at Balmoral Estate. However, even this was the first time that the media gained a level of closeness into the family affair, but Pat revealed that in such a case, it did not inadequate for the public demand, as this kind of documentary was never frequently allowed⁷. The media instead turned their direction to film about the personal relationship and the conflicts between the member of the Royal Family, given that it reflected the feeling in which the royal also has as the people.⁸ Pat Robins also explained in the study that by publishing the tension of the Royal Family, it could be better to stimulate the media's attention. The similar argument also discussed in the article of Andrew Higson which clearly described that the royal films has formulated and represented the inside and outside of royal's life. The outside or the public was being seen through the execution of power of the sovereign — representing the sovereign as a 'national figurehead', however, the inside or private side illustrating as the rift behind the palace's gate became a main characteristic of the modern royal film⁹. Two examples of modern royal film as appeared on the book, *The King's Speech* (2010) and *The Queen* (2006). These two modern royal films as explained by Deidre Gilfedder, made the The King and The Queen as a starring actor of the film, but different in its representation. *The Queen* is based on the actual story and situation of Queen Elizabeth II

⁷ Robins, "Media Representations of the British Royal Family as National Family," 114.

⁸ Robins, "Media Representations of the British Royal Family as National Family," 114.

⁹ Andrew Higson, "From Political power to the power of the image: contemporary 'British' cinema and the nation's monarchs," in *The British monarch on screen*, ed. Mandy Merck (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2006), 351.



when she faced with the public scrutiny following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, plus with Queen's receiving Tony Blair as a new British Prime Minister — the film pointed out the problem of The Queen and her prime minister, and also with her own family. *The King's Speech* is inspired by the true story of King George VI who was shown in the series struggling with the stammer. Apart from representing the intimate side of George VI, this film also presented the turning point in his life e.g. the abdication of his brother, and the transition period of the Commonwealth of Nations. From the comparison of both modern royal films, it showed that each film had a different approach to represent the Crown.

The 21st century is the peak time of technological development which, of course, is affecting to the film industry. *NETFLIX* has become a new phenomenon of the world, replacing the old way of consuming the media. This is also a chance to the *NETFLIX* production team to select the story of the British Royal Family to portray in a more different way — more insightful, grander, and more intense than any other film. The series known as '*The CROWN*', for now, has 4 seasons and is counted for over 40 episodes. This independence study attempted to interpret the implication of the series, given that it is rather the interpretation based on the series, not a historical context in the first place. The study was divided into four representations which specifically focused on Queen Elizabeth II, the protagonist of the whole series; the representation as Sovereign, Head of the Commonwealth, Head of the Church of England and the Stability of the British Monarchy, and the Wife and Mother. The study was guided and based on the question, what is the perception of the British media towards the British Royal Family.



Queen Elizabeth II represented as the Sovereign

The United Kingdom has long been adopted the concept of constitutional monarchy as the main instrument to govern the country. Given the definition of the ‘constitutional monarchy’, a state is headed by a monarch who does not rule but govern the country under the democratic process of the country¹⁰. Within the framework of constitutional monarchy, laid down another concept called ‘Parliamentary Sovereignty’, the concept clearly defines the role, power, and relationship between two main institutions of the United Kingdom: Monarch or Sovereign and Parliament which consists of the two Houses: the House of Lords and the House of Common (Prime Minister). According to the concept of Parliamentary Sovereignty, the salient features of the sovereign and the British prime minister are to support each other’s decisions and actions. First, the sovereign (king or queen) and the prime minister share the same feature, they are expected to give and take the ‘advice’¹¹. The sovereign hold what so called a ‘prerogative power’ for appointing the prime minister¹², also grant a private audience (weekly audience) to the prime minister at Buckingham Palace which is mostly held on Tuesday¹³. By the same way, the prime minister is obliged to keep the sovereign well-informed either the sovereign stay in the United Kingdom or away for a state visit¹⁴. Another two important roles for the prime minister are

¹⁰ Vernon Bogdanor, *The Monarchy and the Constitution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), 2.

¹¹ The word ‘advice’ in this context means that the sovereign has no option to reject the advice offered by the prime minister, however, must accept it. In the case that the sovereign rejected the advice, the prime minister must resign.

¹² Bogdanor, *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, 61.

¹³ Bogdanor, *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, 71.

¹⁴ Arthur Baker, "World Affairs: Queen Elizabeth II and Her Minister", no.4(1957): 103..



to keep the sovereign out of any political association¹⁵ and protecting the image of the royal family, the sovereign in particular.

From *the CROWN* series, the first representation of Queen Elizabeth II as the Sovereign of the United Kingdom showed mainly in the following episodes, Act of God (season 1: episode 4), Scientia Potentia Est (season 1: episode 7), 48:1 (season 4 : episode 8) and Coup (season 3 : episode 5). There are two mains aspects which can be pointed out from the series according to the first representation: the concept of the Constitutional Monarchy (the role and duty as Queen), and the relationship with her prime ministers which can be interpreted from the series.

In 1947, prior before Elizabeth became queen, she made her solemn dedication to the UK and throughout the empire that she would dedicate all her life to serve the people and the country she cherished most¹⁶. Upon the premature death of her father, King George VI, in 1952, Elizabeth succeeded the throne. What the series firstly presented was to show a young Queen Elizabeth reign as a new Elizabethan age, said Winston Churchill. The Queen was influenced and trained mostly by her mother and especially by her grandmother, Queen Mary, who immediately wrote a letter and said:

"I know how much you loved your papa, my son. And I know you will be as devastated as I am by this loss. But you must put those sentiments to one side now, for duty calls... Your people will need your strength and leadership... And while you mourn your father, you must mourn someone else. Elizabeth Mountbatten. For she has now been replaced by another

¹⁵ Bulmer, *Constitutional Monarch in Parliamentary Democracies*, 4.

¹⁶ "A speech by the queen on her 21st Birthday," 1947, accessed April 9, 2021, <https://www.royal.uk/21st-birthday-speech-21-april-1947>.

person, Elizabeth Regina. The two Elizabeths will frequently be in conflict with one another. **The fact is, the Crown must win. Must always win.**" — Queen Mary (S 1: EP 2: Hyde Park Corner)

This excerpt is part of a letter showing in *the CROWN* series. It said that the series tended to show the main theme or the core concept of the whole series through this letter. What Queen Mary tried to emphasise was that there was a heavy burden lying ahead and the great tasks fell upon your shoulders, for the country, it now needed the strength and continuity to move forward. The Queen's grandmother also pointed out the 'conflict' in which Elizabeth must encounter throughout her reign, such a conflict would happen within the two Elizabeths, one was Elizabeth Mountbatten who represented as a person, while Elizabeth Regina represented as a sovereign or the Crown. By being Elizabeth Regina, she had to get rid of Elizabeth Mountbatten, paving the way for the Crown to take precedence and whatever challenge Elizabeth might face in the future, the duty as sovereign must come first. From now on, Elizabeth had to act constitutionally, exercised her basic constitutional functions especially to symbolise and represent the nation which was the most important of all¹⁷. The series showed one crucial scene which, of course, made the new queen realise that she was now the sovereign of the country, the scene that Her Majesty Queen Mary curtsy to her granddaughter. In reality, throughout Queen Elizabeth II's reign, she attempted to set up a benchmark for herself in balancing both public life (Elizabeth Regina) and private life (Elizabeth Mountbatten), one of the very key for success was that she always prioritised and fulfilled her duty as sovereign as perfect as possible.

*"In 1867, Walter Bagehot wrote, There are two elements of the constitution, the efficient and the dignified. The monarch is the dignified and the government, the efficient. **These two institutions only work when they support each other, when they trust one another.** Your actions, your breaking of that trust was irresponsible and it might have had serious*

¹⁷ Bogdanor, *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, 61.

ramifications for the security of this country” — the Queen (season 1 : episode 7 : Potentia Scientia Est)

From this quotation, the key message that the series wanted to express not just the constitutional structure of the United Kingdom or the role and duty of the British sovereign and the British prime minister, but the series tried to point out the importance, the challenges or conflicts that both of them might face during the working process. With regard to the constitution, the sovereign and the prime minister are the essence of the constitution of the United Kingdom, as Bagehot described that the sovereign is the *dignified* and the government or the prime minister is the *efficient*¹⁸, given that both of them have to commit with themselves to give support and trust to one another without fear or favour. As also showed in episode *Misadventure*, reassuring that the support would always be given: The Queen talked with Harold Macmillan who came to consult with the Queen about the Suez Crisis, said *‘the prime minister always has the sovereign’s support’*. Moreover, the series illustrated the conflicts of these two institutions, the conflicts of “Trust”. Apart from the supports, the two institutions only worked when the sovereign and the prime minister gave out their trust, the trust which referred to the revealing of the secret or not hiding any information between the two. In episode *Potentia Scientia Est*, representing the Queen in the mood of anger and disappointment by the action of Winston Churchill who tried to hide the truth about his declining health, she described that his action not only brought the effect to the security of the United Kingdom, but also affected to the personal relationship between them. Far more important than that, it brought a great constitutional challenge to the Queen as well.

¹⁸ Bogdanor, *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, 62.

Next, the series provided the major role and power of the sovereign. According to the principle, the sovereign has a prerogative power to appoint the prime minister who win the majority vote in the general election¹⁹. Traditionally, the newly elected prime minister will have the first audience with the sovereign at Buckingham Palace where the sovereign will then ask the prime minister to form a new administration on his/her name. In the series, there were many scenes showing the moment of the appointment of the prime minister by Her Majesty the Queen, for example, Harold Wilson, Margaret Thatcher, Edward Heath, etc. What the series showed is the formal words of appointment said by Her Majesty the Queen, for example, the Queen appointed Harold Wilson and Margaret Thatcher, said:

*“Mr. Wilson, the country has spoken. Your party has won the election. The duty befalls me, as sovereign, to ask you to form a government in my name. **Congratulations, Prime Minister.**”*

— the Queen (S 2 : EP 1 : Olding)

*“Mrs. Thatcher, your party has won the election. It is my very great pleasure to invite to form a government in my name. **Congratulations, Prime Minister.**”*

— the Queen (S 4 : EP 1 : Gold Stick)

These two scenes obviously implied the formal procedure of the appointment that the Sovereign and the prime minister were required by the constitution to conduct. In these quotations, the Queen started calling by their names as Mr./Mrs. and after the procedure ended, the Queen instead referred to them as Prime Minister, for emphasising that from now on, he/she was the prime minister of the United Kingdom and had to run the government and country in the name of the Sovereign. Paradoxically, the series showed a less procedure of appointment as in the case

¹⁹ Bogdanor, *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, 84.

of Harold Macmillan, who succeeded Antony Eden. Due to the resignation of Antony Eden, Macmillan as showed in the series, did not receive the formal appointment by the Queen, comparing with others. The Queen just simply congratulated Macmillan on his succession to the position.

The last area of sovereign's duty is the sovereign has to grant a private audience or known as weekly audience to the prime minister, which usually takes place at Buckingham Palace and mostly held on Tuesday. The private audience is not just the meeting between the two figureheads of the UK to discuss privately, however, this is the place where the sovereign, according to the basic trinity right of Walter Bagehot, can consult, advise, and warn the prime minister²⁰. By the same way, this is also the opportunity to the prime minister to ask the sovereign to have a comment on national matter or government policy. It was said in one of the three propositions by Sir William Heseltine, the Queen's private secretary, that the conversation during weekly audience with the Queen were being kept confidentially²¹ between the two, never such a word was leaked out to the public. From that reason, it enables the prime minister to express his/her private matter, although the constitution is not allowed. The series showed the scene of the weekly audience almost every episodes, rather than that, the conflicts which happened during the audience also presented in episode 48:1. Constitutionally, the prime minister must keep the sovereign well-informed whether the sovereign stayed in the UK or left for a state visit²², the series showed the scene when the Queen attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Bahamas. During the visit, Thatcher obliged to

²⁰ Bogdanor, *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, 69.

²¹ Bogdanor, *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, 71.

²² Baker, "World Affairs: Queen Elizabeth II and Her Minister," 103.

has an audience with the Queen on the Royal Yacht Britannia where the conflict between the two began, as Thatcher disagreed with the Queen to sign on the matter of economic sanction to South Africa, resulted from the apartheid. The Queen was unsatisfied with Thatcher's decision in denying her advice:

"... Forty-Eight countries of the Commonwealth are now preparing a statement condemning the South African regime and recommending tougher sanction. What I would like you to do is sign that statement." Thatcher replied, *"If I didn't know it better, **that sounded very much like a directive.**"* The Queen then responded, *"**Think of it as a question.**"* — (S 4: EP 8 : 48:1)

The conversation between the Queen and Thatcher showed the constitutional conflict because actually, the prime minister and sovereign must always have each other's support. Nevertheless, as the core concept applied, *the CROWN* must win, and the Queen finally won this battle. Furthermore, another important issue of the concept of Constitutional Monarchy which the series also pointed out is the constitutional crisis. Following the CHOGM in Bahamas, it seems that the tension between the Palace and the Downing Street has escalated. As the *Sunday Times* reported about the expression of the Queen towards her Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. It is widely accepted that the sovereign must be political neutrality²³, not to express his/her view publicly, this is partly because of the constitution which tries to conceal and protect the sovereign from criticism as we can see in episode 48:1, said:

*"In the 33 years she has been on the throne, the queen has never once express a point of view about her prime minister, positive or negative, and never will. **Political impartiality and support of her prime minister is an article of faith to her.**"* — Michael Shea (S 4 : EP 8)

²³ Bogdanor, *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, 161.

However, what the series showed is rather a crisis between the two figureheads and the struggling in which the Queen and Thatcher suffered from the public scrutiny derived from the constitutional violation, although the series implied that the news slipped out to the press by the Queen's Press Secretary, Michael Shea. The key message of this situation is to present the crisis when the sovereign and the prime minister were in conflict.

Apart from what we mentioned, another essentially duty that the sovereign of the United Kingdom is obliged to do: to safeguard the democracy of the United Kingdom. In episode *Coup*, showed particularly the political and economic dilemma as a result of Wilson administration. There were a Coup d'état attempt led by Cecil King, the Chairman of the *Daily Mirror*, who tried to persuade the Queen's cousin, Lord Mountbatten of Burma, to take part in his project and would replace him as a prime minister²⁴. Lord Mountbatten later described that the *Coup* in the United Kingdom was likely impossible, as pointed out in the series, to succeed the *Coup*, it needed five elements: (1) control of the media; (2) control of the economy; (3) capture of the administrative targets; (4) loyal of the military; and (5) legitimacy. Mountbatten also said that, in practice, this was further to happen, unless you had the support from the sovereign who had the highest authority to perform, as said:

"... unless we had the support of the one person not yet mentioned. The Crown has at its disposal unique constitutional power which could still make something like this possible... And in 1920, the Emergency Power Act was passed, which gave the sovereign power in certain circumstances to declare a state of emergency by proclamation. Meaning our Queen could dissolve Parliament and appoint a new government, and a prime minister as well." — Lord Mountbatten (S 3 : EP 5 : *Coup*)

²⁴ Peter Wright, *Spy Catcher, The Candid Autobiography of a Senior Intelligence Officer* (Victoria: Heinemann, 1987), 907.

From the details that Mountbatten explained is exactly to what the UK's constitution has defined, the sovereign will have the prerogative power or reserve power, not just for appointing the prime minister, but also to dissolve the Parliament²⁵ as well. Plus, the military and the armed forces are all swear allegiance directly to the sovereign, not the government, making the *Coup* has no chance to take place. From the side of the sovereign (the Queen), the series represented her very clearly that she gave support fully to her prime minister and disagreed with Mountbatten, shown in a conversation in episode *War*:

Mountbatten asked the Queen, “*Why would you protect a man like Wilson?*”, the Queen then replied, “*I am protecting the prime minister. I am protecting the Constitution. I am protecting democracy.*” The Queen also explain, “*Doing nothing is exactly what we do, and bide our time, and wait for the people that voted him in to vote him out again ...*” — (S 3 : EP 5 : *War*)

For the things that the Queen said to her cousin, she tried to emphasise that being the sovereign or a member of the royal family, you were not allowed to be associated with the politics or be in company especially in leading the unconstitutional coups. The Queen herself never ever violated the constitution which would bring the criticism and also destroyed the image of the royal family especially to the sovereign who supposed to safeguard the democracy and constitution of the UK.

As it was already discussed about the formal relationship between the sovereign and the prime minister, which was established by the constitution, normally take the form of power, role, and duty that both of them have to perform together. It is mentioning the informal relationship

²⁵ Bogdanor, *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, 49.

between the sovereign (the Queen) and the prime minister, an intimate and private relationship which will be interpreted based on *the CROWN* series and the producer's perspective. Generally, the queen has enjoyed a happy relationship with all of her prime ministers. Since she has been on the throne, 13 prime ministers have come and gone, some of them become much-loved and respect, while some are less impressed, or the queen has found difficulty to deal with. According to the series, it clearly represented 3 important British prime ministers of the Queen's reign: Winston Churchill, Harold Wilson, and Margaret Thatcher. The series also pointed out the conflicts, the happy and sad moments which they had been through.

During the formative years of the Queen's reign in the 1950s, apart from her mother and grandmother, she was enormously guided and taught by Winston Churchill, who once led the nation through the Second World War and entitled to be a *National Saviour* or as Eden referred in the series, *Father of the Nation*. One of the scene showing how much the British people admired Churchill is the scene of the Wedding of the then Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip at Westminster Abbey, as Churchill and his wife arrived at the Abbey, and were making their way to the seat, the patriotic song, *I vow to thee my country*, was playing and the congregation stood up for him. The Queen herself was greatly fond and respected him partly because Churchill had seen the Queen since she was a young princess until she became queen, and Churchill had the honour to serve as her first prime minister. It was also reported that the Queen very much enjoyed the weekly audiences with Churchill. As obviously seen in the series, following Churchill's resignation, the Queen accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh attended a farewell dinner at Number 10. The Queen paid tribute to Churchill which can interpret the personal relationship between the two:

*“My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. **Dear Winston and Lady Churchill.** My confidence in Sir Antony is complete. And I know he will lead the country on to great achievements, but it would be useless to pretend that either he or any of those successes. Who may one day follow him in office, will ever, for me, be able to hold the place of my first prime minister, to whom my husband and I owe so much. **And for whose wise guidance, during the early years of my reign, I shall always be so profoundly grateful.** I will remember you always for your magnanimity, your courage at all times... **I take comfort from the fact, that in losing my constitutional advise, I gain a wise counsellor,** to whom I shall look for help and support in the day which lie ahead.”*

— the Queen (S 1 : EP 9: Assassins)

Secondly, Harold Wilson happened to be another much-loved prime minister of the Queen. Having been the first Labour prime minister of the Queen’s reign who also strongly believed in socialism and not a royalist, his relationship with the Queen was such a predicament. As the series pointed out the first time of Wilson’s appearance, he was suspected as being the member of MI5, a spy for the Soviet Union, and the Queen, of course, hesitated to give her trust. Later, the series made it clear that Wilson was no longer a spy who was working for the Soviet Union. The relationship between the Queen and Wilson was more intertwined by the situations that they both struggled, Aberfan was an obvious example showing in the series. In 1966, in Aberfan, a small village placed in South Wales, the coal mining was collapsed and greatly affected especially the school, resulted to the death of most children. Wilson as the prime minister, had to report the news to the sovereign and unexpectedly persuaded her to visit the actual scenes to comfort the people who were injured and lost their family, but the Queen



denied to visit, given that was unconventional and unconstitutional to visit the site²⁶ and to show any sentimental moment, as the series showed the conversation between the two, said:

“One of the most unfortunate things about being Sovereign I have discovered is that you paralyse virtually any situation you walk into. The very last thing that emergency and rescue services need when they working against the clock is the queen turning up.” the Queen added in a visit to the site, *“Put on a show?, the Crown doesn’t do that.”* — the Queen (s 3 : EP 3 : Aberfan)

However, as the week passed, the criticism towards the Queen had intensified, some said she was cold-hearted for not comforting her people. Subsequently, the Queen made the visits and was disappointed later by her delayed of the prompt reaction which she thought to herself that those people should have get a comfort immediately. This situation gave a big lesson to the Queen who acted as the Head of State (Sovereign) on how the sovereign should do in response to the accident, or do the duty as sovereign according to the constitution was necessary for such an event. As the series highlighted one person, who, in return, comforted the Queen amidst her distraction, Harold Wilson, said during the private audience where the conversation would be kept secretly:

*“I have never done a day’s manual work in my life. Not one. I am an academic, a privilege Oxford don, not a worker. I don’t like beer. I prefer brandy. I prefer wild salmon to tinned salmon. Chateaubriand to steak and kidney pie. And I don’t like pipe smoking, I far prefer cigars. But cigars are a symbol of capitalist privilege. So I smoke a pipe, on a campaign trail and on television. Makes me more approachable. Likeable... **We can’t be everything to everyone and still be true to ourselves. We do what we have to do as leaders. That’s our job. Our***

²⁶ As appeared on the series, the Queen has prior discussed the actual visit with her private secretary who also invited the Queen to do so, but the Queen give a reason that *“Why would I go?. The Crown visits the hospitals, Martin, not the scenes of accidents.”*

job is to calm more crises that we creates. That's our job, and you do it very well indeed." —
Harold Wilson (S 3 : EP 3 : Aberfan)

From what Wilson said to the Queen, it can be interpreted that sometimes we may not be and get everything that we accustom to. We will have to abandon thing that we prefer, for the good to ourselves, even this is not the way we are. He had to change his preference, smoking pipe in public instead of cigar, for gaining his vote in the election and to make people think that he was approachable, not a privilege he represented. By the same token, Wilson wanted to convey to the Queen that what she faced during the week was rather a constitutional challenges against herself, but if she put the constitution to one side, and allowed the real sentiment to shine out, the people would think that our queen was more approachable than we imagined, and would, of course, be touched by many. Nevertheless, as Wilson added that whatever came in the future, but as the Sovereign of this country, she had done her job perfectly in visiting the actual scene to heal the mind of her people and to mitigate the situation. In reality, it was very obvious that the relationship between the Queen and Wilson was in a good direction, as his resignation came later, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, once again gave an honour to him the same way as they did to Churchill, attended the farewell dinner at the Number 10, assuming that Wilson was one of the Queen great prime minister and companion, who taught her an ordinary life and experience she would never find.

Another important prime minister of the Queen's reign which the series highlighted the most is Margaret Thatcher. She was the Queen and the UK's first female prime minister who was ever to be elected. During her first time in office, it seemed that Thatcher was found to be incompatible with the Queen, or some considered her as less-impressed prime minister. As we can see from the series that the relationship between the two powerful women of the country



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was always in conflicts. What the series represented for such a conflict relationship could be found in the scene of the private audience between the Queen and Thatcher, as in episode 48:1 showed:

“ ... I think we have enough respect for one another personally to ask ourselves some of the bigger questions, woman to woman. We are the same age, after all ... Just six months between us.”, said Thatcher. The Queen then response, *“Oh? And who is the senior.”*. Thatcher replied to the Queen, *“I am, ma’am.”*

From this conversation, we can assume that the dynamic of the conversation is intense, this is partly because of the conversation happened shortly after the great rift between the sovereign and the prime minister. Another scene of the series represented the incompatibility of Thatcher, which was not just to the Queen, but to rest of the Royal Family. It was found in episode *Balmoral Test* which presented Thatcher as an antagonist of the story. Traditionally, the Queen would move to Balmoral Castle in Scotland during her summer retreat, where the prime minister would be invited to stay for a week. According to the study which clearly said that when both the Queen and the Prime Minister were together at Balmoral, there would be the absence of formality²⁷, but what the series showed was far more a relax mode, but rather to a more serious situation between the Queen and Thatcher, the way which the Prime Minister unsuitably dressed for a stalking, or showed an unenjoyable mood in a traditional Brema gathering, made Thatcher seem to be failed in the *Test* she was put. However, during Thatcher was forced to leave from the Number 10, as showed in the series, the queen moved by her departure which she said:

²⁷ Baker, "World Affairs: Queen Elizabeth II and Her Minister.",103.



*“ I was shocked by the way in which you were forced to leave office. And I wanted to offer my sympathy. Not just as Queen to prime minister but woman to woman. **Throughout the time we worked together, people tend to focus on our many differences** which was lazy and misleading, I think. **And overlooked the many things we have in common.** Our generation. Our Christianity. Our work ethic. Our sense of duty. **But above all our devotion to this country that we both love.**”*

— the Queen (S 4 : EP 10 : War)

These words of tributes from the Queen to her first female prime minister can be regarded as the sovereign’s personal sympathy and affection, showing that in the end, how far the relationship between the two had progressed during a decade of Thatcher’s office. It would be a rough beginning, but the final chapter turned out to be better, as the Queen pointed out the things that the two women who were at the same generation having something in common and in different. However, of all the time since Thatcher was the prime minister, she proved herself that how much she changed the UK, and the Queen, as showed in the series, gave an honour to her with the Order of Merit²⁸ for the meritorious and priceless services she has done.

Queen Elizabeth II represented as Head of the Commonwealth

“The Sun never sets on the British Empire”

This aphorism has long existed in the United Kingdom for centuries. Since the reign of Queen Victoria, the great-great grandmother of the current Sovereign, Britain has taken the lead in the

²⁸ The Order of Merit, is the British order that will be granted upon the sovereign appointment. It is granted to people in recognition of their dedication to science, art, literature, and culture. The order limited to only 24 members. "The Order of Merit," accessed April 11, 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Order-of-Merit>.

colonisation; the countries all over the world are dominated by the UK and become her colonies. Consequently, the word 'British Empire' is not exaggerated, as we can count that more than half of the world's population is parts of Britain's society. During the late 17th century, most of the British colonies began to become independent countries; some gained a fully independent, while some countries, as described, gained a semi-independent — known as the British Dominions²⁹. By the early 1900s, the members of the former British colonies, now the British Dominions, gathered in London to attend the 1926 Imperial Conference in which the members of the British Dominions unanimously agreed that the equality must be the essence amongst the members who were parts of the British Empire³⁰. As a result of the conference, the members decided to establish the community which include all party to the Empire, called the Commonwealth of Nations. The sense of the Commonwealth relies heavily on the share of a common interests, traditions, and ideas because they try to represent as described by Duncan Hall, as *The Spirit of Community*³¹. In such a divided government among the members of the Commonwealth of Nations, the sovereign played a huge part in this community, given that since the early time of the Commonwealth — the members gave their allegiances to the British sovereign, but not being ruled³². Not more than three decades after the establishment of the Commonwealth of Nations, some members needed to become fully independent — the republic. In 1947, India provoked the sense of community by declaring its independence from Britain, however, wanted to remain as a member of the Commonwealth³³. The departure of India

²⁹ "The Commonwealth, Our History," accessed May 21, 2021, <https://thecommonwealth.org/about-us/history>.

³⁰ "The Commonwealth, Our History."

³¹ Duncan Hall, "Commonwealth and Queen," *World Affair*, winter 120 (1957): 101.

³² "The Commonwealth, Our History."

³³ Ruth Craggs and Harshan Kumarasingham, "Losing an Empire and Building a Role: The Queen, Geopolitics and the Construction of the Commonwealth Headship at the Lusaka Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting, in 1979," *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth* 43 (2015): 82.



implied that India did not want to owe its allegiance to the British Monarch, but still needed to be part of the community. Nevertheless, the Commonwealth members agreed to welcome India back as a member, while placing the king as Head of the Commonwealth³⁴.

Two years after the Indian situation, the London Declaration of 1949 was ratified by the British sovereign at that time, King George VI — witnessing the start of the Modern Commonwealth of Nations in which George VI himself served as the first head of this modern community³⁵. However, the King held this position just only two years — he passed away at the beginning of February 1952. Upon the death of the King, it raised the question among the Commonwealth's members — who would be next Head of the Commonwealth of Nations. In fact, the position of Head of the Commonwealth is not an inherited position, so the new Queen Elizabeth II would have no power to automatically become the head³⁶. It said that, Nehru invited the new queen to take on this role as Head of the Commonwealth, immediately after she became queen³⁷. Ever since Elizabeth II succeeded this position, she performed and fulfilled her duty as the symbol of this community very well indeed. This chapter discussed about the Queen's role as Head of the Commonwealth and her personal feeling towards this community.

³⁴ Craggs and Kumarasingham, "Losing an Empire and Building a Role: The Queen, Geopolitics and the Construction of the Commonwealth Headship at the Lusaka Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting, in 1979," 82.

³⁵ Craggs and Kumarasingham, "Losing an Empire and Building a Role: The Queen, Geopolitics and the Construction of the Commonwealth Headship at the Lusaka Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting, in 1979," 82.

³⁶ Craggs and Kumarasingham, "Losing an Empire and Building a Role: The Queen, Geopolitics and the Construction of the Commonwealth Headship at the Lusaka Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting, in 1979," 84.

³⁷ Craggs and Kumarasingham, "Losing an Empire and Building a Role: The Queen, Geopolitics and the Construction of the Commonwealth Headship at the Lusaka Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting, in 1979," 84.



We take into account, the interpretation based on *the CROWN* series — the main episodes that was used are Dear Mrs. Kennedy (season 2 : episode 8) and 48:1 (season 4 : episode 8).

The special bond between the Queen and the Commonwealth can be traced back at the time when princess Elizabeth accompanied her parents to visit one of the Commonwealth of Nations, South Africa, in 1947. As *the CROWN* series obviously illustrated at the beginning scene of episode 48:1, the young princess Elizabeth declared herself to the service of the imperial family:

“On the occasion of my 21st birthday. I welcome the opportunity to speak to all the people of the British Commonwealth and Empire wherever they live, whatever race they come from, and whatever language they speak. As I speak to you today from Cape Town, I am 6,000 miles from the country where I was born. But I am certainly not 6,000 miles from home. That is the great privilege of belonging to our place in the worldwide Commonwealth. There are home ready to welcome us in every continent of the earth. Before I much elder, I hope I shall come to know many of them ... If we all go forward together with an unwavering faith, a high courage and a quite heart, we shall be able to make this ancient Commonwealth, which we all love so dearly, an even grander thing. More free, more prosperous, more happy and a more powerful influence for good in the world than it has been in the greatest days of our forefathers. To accomplish that, we must give nothing less than what my father, King George, the first head of the Commonwealth, calls ‘the whole of ourselves.’ There is a motto which has been borne by many of my ancestors. A noble motto — ‘I serve’. I should like to make that dedication now. It’s very simple. I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and to the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong...” — the Queen (S 4 : EP 8 : 48:1)

From the very first time Elizabeth promised to dedicate all her life to the Commonwealth of Nations until today, the Queen never broke that vow. She put her duty and role as Head of the Commonwealth seriously, she was fond very deeply of her Commonwealth of Nations; she knew



what was going on and what happened within this community. She regarded twice about the Commonwealth as her second family as showed in the series, the Queen said:

*“There are two families I care about. My own family and the Commonwealth family of Nation. **Keeping them all together is my life work.**” — the Queen (S 4 : EP 8 : 48:1)*

*“Those of you who know me will be aware that **the Commonwealth of Nations is a second family to me**, as it was to my late father, King George VI...” — the Queen (S 4 : EP 8 : 48:1)*

These two quotes already proved to be true, for over the last sixty years that the Queen was serving as Head of the Commonwealth, she treated all member equally as if they were her real family members.

Throughout the Queen’s tenure as Head of the Commonwealth, her presence at the countries of which they are parts of this community is very crucial. The Queen first official Commonwealth tour as its Head was in 1953, shortly after her Coronation; the Queen accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh undertook a 6 months tour of the Commonwealth, Australia, and New Zealand. It was recorded in Australian history, that was the first time in which the British Sovereign paid a visit to Australia³⁸. Normally, the Queen’s tour or a state visit is arranged neatly, not because of the Queen’s personal security only, but, more importantly, the sovereign — the Queen must not be seen to be involved with any political situation, as she has

³⁸ G.V. Portus, "The Queen and The Commonwealth of Nations," *The Australian Quarterly* 26 (1954): 9.

to remain political impartiality even serving as Head of the Commonwealth³⁹. In the episode *Dear Mrs. Kennedy*, it presented this significant situation. During the mid-18th century, Britain's powerful role was once again challenged, as some members of the Commonwealth of Nations declared themselves to become republics e.g. Ghana. In the case of Ghana, which showed through the series, the country led by President Nkrumah wanted to change Ghana into a republic, and took side with Russia for the benefit of his own dam project. Nkrumah gave the reason why Ghana departed from being part of the Commonwealth:

"Friends. We meet here today not as Ghanaians, Guineans, Moroccans, Algerians, Senegalese or Malian, but as Africa — tired of being disrespected and abused by the concept and imperial power of the past. The time has come to forge new alliances. Those who understand the strategic importance of Africa and are willing to treat us as equals. Not as subordinates. And not as slaves. This is our time. We must choose our own destiny. A socialist Africa. For Africa."

— Nkrumah (S 2 : EP 8 : *Dear Mrs. Kennedy*)

The speech of Nkrumah triggered the relationship not just between Ghana and the other Commonwealth country, but to African countries as a whole — especially the UK. The Prime Minister of the UK at that time, Harold Macmillan, reported the news to the Queen and find a prompt reaction to this situation. As showed, the anti-imperialism in Ghana emerged, as in the scene showing the Ghanaians were removing the official portrait of the Queen. The Queen herself decided to make a visit to Ghana as Head of the Commonwealth in order to mitigate the tension, but it was strongly opposed by the Prime Minister, given that it was very risky for the sovereign to be in Ghana, and essentially being involved in political situation which was incompatible with the

³⁹ Craggs and Kumarasingham, "Losing an Empire and Building a Role: The Queen, Geopolitics and the Construction of the Commonwealth Headship at the Lusaka Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting, in 1979," 85.



constitution. Prior to this situation, it said that Nkrumah invited the Queen to pay an official visit to Ghana in 1959⁴⁰. Almost three years after the Queen received the invitation from Nkrumah, she and the Duke of Edinburgh paid a visit to Ghana amidst the instability and escalating circumstances. It said that this visit was the Queen's personal intention, as she took her role as Head of the Commonwealth very strictly, said Macmillan⁴¹. The series showed the conversation between the Queen and Macmillan before her departure to Ghana:

The Queen said *"Why don't you send me to Ghana? On what would be seen as a personal trip... A visit from the Crown to Ghana would be seen as a huge compliment."* Macmillan argue that *"Too great a compliment. And doing so, we risk alienating Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanganyika."* The Queen asserted, ***"But surely singling out Ghana, that might be just the thing to keep Nkrumah away from Russia and in the Commonwealth... But as Head of the Commonwealth can I not permitted just once to defence it?"*** — (S 2 : EP 8 : Dear Mrs. Kennedy)

During the visit, the Queen made a historic moment — she danced (foxtrot) with Nkrumah. From that historic moment, the series obviously showed that it was the Queen's own decision to dance with the President, surprising everybody who was in the reception. However, the Queen's visit to Ghana seemed to be a success tour⁴², as she gained a lot of public admiration after returning to Britain.

⁴⁰ Craggs and Kumarasingham, "Losing an Empire and Building a Role: The Queen, Geopolitics and the Construction of the Commonwealth Headship at the Lusaka Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting, in 1979," 85.

⁴¹ Craggs and Kumarasingham, "Losing an Empire and Building a Role: The Queen, Geopolitics and the Construction of the Commonwealth Headship at the Lusaka Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting, in 1979," 85.

⁴² Craggs and Kumarasingham, "Losing an Empire and Building a Role: The Queen, Geopolitics and the Construction of the Commonwealth Headship at the Lusaka Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting, in 1979," 86.



Another approach that the Queen uses to associate and communicate with the Commonwealth of Nations is through the attending of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting or widely known as CHOGM. The CHOGM is a platform for the leaders of all nations of the Commonwealth to gather every two years⁴³. The meeting place is done via a rotating system — means that all members of the Commonwealth of Nations will have the opportunity to host the meeting in their own countries. The Queen herself determined to attend every CHOGM, as appeared in the journal — the Queen said to her private secretary that, “it is her duty as Head of the Commonwealth to be present at all future meeting.”⁴⁴. However, since the last CHOGM which was held in London in 2018, it was the last time that the Queen has attended the meeting as head of the Commonwealth, before she handed over the title to her heir, the Prince of Wales, to carry on this role. As mentioned before, this role is not an inherited title in which Charles can succeed, but the members of the Commonwealth of Nations gathered at Windsor Castle to find a final result. The assembly agreed that the role as Head of the Commonwealth would be succeeded by Prince Charles, as the Queen herself prior gave the implication of her personal wishes at the Opening Ceremony at Buckingham Palace, the Queen said:

*“... It remains a great pleasure and honour to serve you as Head of the Commonwealth and to observe, with pride and satisfaction, that this is a flourishing network. **It is my sincere wish that the Commonwealth will continue to offer stability and continuity for future generations, and will decide that one day The Prince of Wales should carry on the important work started by my father in 1949...**”*⁴⁵ — the Queen

⁴³ "Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)," accessed May 22, 2021, <https://thecommonwealth.org/chogm>.

⁴⁴ Craggs and Kumarasingham, "Losing an Empire and Building a Role: The Queen, Geopolitics and the Construction of the Commonwealth Headship at the Lusaka Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting, in 1979," 86.

⁴⁵ "19th April 2012 CGHOGM Opening Ceremony, Speech by The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth," accessed May 22, 2021, https://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/HM_CHOGMOPENINGSPEECH.pdf.

Queen Elizabeth II represented as Head of the Church of England and the Stability of the British Monarchy

On June 2nd, 1953, a year after Elizabeth succeeded the throne, she was subsequently crowned as Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II which was planned meticulously finally took place at Westminster Abbey to mark the beginning of a new Elizabethan Era. When Elizabeth was crowned, she is not only the Queen of the Kingdom and the Commonwealth that she inherited, but she is also the Head of the Church of England and Defender of the Faith⁴⁶, a Christian sect in which her predecessor, King Henry VIII established. By adopting the Protestant, in the UK called Anglicanism, it rejects the power of pope, for having the Archbishop of Canterbury instead at the top of priest's hierarchy and to perform a ceremony. That is why in the Coronation ceremony, the sovereign will be crowned by the Archbishop, not from the others. In episode *Smoke and Mirror of the CROWN* series, presented the important ceremony and above all represented the Queen from the moment which she was an ordinary young woman and transformed into a woman whom God himself selected, the Queen.

First, as the series presented that the Coronation of a new Queen should be more modern and forward-looking, as Elizabeth herself appointed her husband, Prince Philip to be the Chairman of the Coronation Committee, replacing the Duke of Norfolk who traditionally run the Coronation ceremony of the United Kingdom. As widely known that Prince Philip has such forward-looking character, as described in the series:

⁴⁶ Douglas Hurd, *Elizabeth II, The Steadfast* (New York: Two Palms, 2015), 81.

“... In such circumstances, the temptation is to roll out the red carpet and follow the precedents set by the grand and successful coronations of the past. But looking to the past for our inspiration would be a mistake in my view... That is why I think we should adapt this ceremony. **Make it less ostentatious. More egalitarian.** Show more respect and sensitivity to the real world. We have a new sovereign, young and a women. **Let us give her a coronation that is befitting of the wind of change that she represents, modern and forward-looking at the moment in time where exciting technological developments are making things possible we never dreamt of...**”

— Prince Philip (S 1 : EP 5 : Smoke and Mirror)

From Philip’s determination to rearrange the Coronation, he suggested that the committee should provide a camera access and importantly allowed the Coronation ceremony to be televised. The television access was strongly concerned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, and the Coronation committee. Nevertheless, the committee agreed, for the first time in history, that the Coronation would be televised throughout the world⁴⁷. The restriction was made for the filming which the television camera was not given an access to film the *Anointing*. The anointing is the most crucial procedure of the Coronation ceremony which will be conducted only by the Archbishop of Canterbury⁴⁸. Thanks to the series for illustrating such an important scene which enables us to catch a glimpse into the most sacred part of the ceremony, given that this is the private area reserved for the God and sovereign. The series implied the significant of the anointing through what King George VI said to the young Princess Elizabeth when he asked her to portray as the Archbishop for the Coronation rehearsal:

⁴⁷ Roy Strong, *Coronation from 8th to the 21th century* (London: HarperCollins, 2005), 128.

⁴⁸ Keith Robbins, *Oxford History of the Christian Church England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales The Christian Church 1900-2000* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), 312.



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*“You have to anoint me, otherwise, I can’t be King. **When the holy oil touches me, I am transformed. Brought into direct contact with the divine.** For forever changed. Bound to to God. This is the most important of the entire ceremony.”*

— King George (S 1 : EP 5 : Smoke and Mirror)

According to George VI’s explanation, Elizabeth then realises that one day she would receive the same. Even though Elizabeth did not expect that her own Coronation would come ahead of schedule, when the time has come we can see that how well-trained she was, as shown in the series that she could remember the words in which the Archbishop of Canterbury supposed to say as a prelude to the anointing and of course she saved his day, said: *“Is Your Majesty willing to take the oath? Will you maintain and preserve **inviolably?***, for the Queen then replied, *‘I will’*.

The series paid particular attention into the process of anointing, a process which changed Elizabeth’s life forever, given that from the moment she was anointed and crowned, she would then be symbolised the Church of England as its Supreme Governor and Head. After Elizabeth took the oath before the Archbishop of Canterbury, the anointing officially conducted under the golden canopy by the Archbishop who anointed the Queen with the holy oil at three positions: hands, breast, and forehead. During the anointing, the Archbishop of Canterbury said:

*“**Be thy hands, anointed, with holy oil. Be thy breast, anointed, with holy oil. Be thy head, anointed with holy oil.** As Kings, priests, and prophet were anointed. And as Solomon was anointed King by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, so be then anointed, blessed, and consecrated Queen over the peoples, whom the Lord thy God hath given thee the rule and govern, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.” — the Archbishop of Canterbury (S 1 : EP 5 : Smoke and Mirrors)*

At the time of anointing, Elizabeth contacted directly with God to whom she was blessed and consecrated to serve the country and its people, to some extent, her role and duty are being bound to the religion⁴⁹. Moreover, the series also tried to represent that the anointing process was not the ritual which transformed Elizabeth into sovereign, but also transformed her into a goddess-like, said the Duke of Windsor, who did not attend and witness the Coronation of his own niece:

“Now we come to the anointing. The single most holy, most solemn, most sacred moment of the entire service... An ordinary young woman of modest ability and little imagination. But wrap her up like this, anoint her with oil, and hey presto, what do you have? A goddess.”

— the Duke of Windsor (S 1 : EP 5 : *Smoke and Mirrors*)

What the Duke of Windsor described in the series emphasised that the whole ceremony shaped the Queen from an ordinary young woman into a goddess who had the highest authority in the country. As the series prior mentioned at the middle of the episode, *Smoke and Mirrors*, the Duke of Edinburgh tended to avoid kneeling before his own wife whom he must pay homage so that, it is the answer why he has to perform, simply because he has to pay homage not because she is his wife, but she is the Queen, a goddess-like which God himself chose to govern the country. Subsequently, as showed in the series, Prince Philip reluctantly knelt down to his wife and paid homage by saying:

“I, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, do become your liege man of life and limb and of earthly worship. And faith and truth I will bear unto you, to live and die, against all manner of folks. So help me God.” — Prince Philip (S 1 : EP 5 : *Smoke and Mirrors*)

⁴⁹ A.N. Wilson, *The Queen* (Croydon: CPI Group, 2016), 60.



A decade after the grand Coronation of Elizabeth II ended, Britain changed beyond expectation especially during the time of the 1960s, a period which witnessed the rapid transformation of the world. The 1960s seemed to be a tumultuous decade for the Queen and the Royal Family, as she saw the turning point of the British politics, the image of herself and Royal Family beyond one would anticipate. In 1964, Harold Wilson who came from the Labour Party was elected as the new British prime minister, for the first time of the Queen's reign to appoint the Labour politician as the prime minister. A year later, she lost her first Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, whom she extremely adored. As far as the Queen and the Royal Family are concerned, the stability of this establishment is essential. According to the series, as represented in episode *Bubbikins*, the production team first needed to present that the Queen and the Royal Family should adapt themselves to be consistent with the society, for the wind of change might accompany with the conflicts if they did not open up.

Based on the true story, the Royal Family was being enormously scrutinised by their expenditure, it said at that time that the Queen spent exceeding her Civil List⁵⁰, not including other members of the Royal Family who also received the Civil List. From this situation, it did not only brought a big trouble to the Queen and her family, but also allowed the criticism to be surrounded; people who do not normally support the Royal Family will question and ask the government to review the royal finances. The Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, took this responsibility after consulting with his cabinet, as showed in the series, with strong disagreement with the royal expenses, given that it was inconsistent with the unstable economic condition Britain was facing. As a result of the discussion, Wilson then came to consult with the Queen:

⁵⁰ Wilson, *The Queen* 67.

“It was the reaction from the rest of them that concerned me. The fence-sitters. Before the article, I would have said there were six headlines in Cabinets in favour of cutting the Civil List against 14 whom we might call moderates. Now the figure are more like ten to ten. That’s a significant and worrying swing... and well, I have been an ardent supporter of the monarchy, as the record shows. But when it’s come to a plea of poverty from the husband of the richest woman in the world and an appeal to the British taxpayer for a pay rise at a time like this, even I myself find myself conflicted.” — Harold Wilson (S 3 : EP 4 : Bubbikins)

From what Wilson reported to the Queen, it brought a lot of pressures and concerns to the Queen to reconsider and find a solution. In the light of this situation and amidst the perception of the British people especially the Labour cabinet, the Royal Family is seen as an old-fashioned representing a hierarchy⁵¹. The series continued to present that Prince Philip, who was considered as the moderniser of the Royal Family, stepped up to rest the rumour and to prove that the royal expenses was not wasted; it was spent into national agenda e.g. the state receptions, state banquets and etc. Subsequently, Prince Philip came up with the idea to make a film which was called *The Royal Family Documentary* (1969), he described in his own words:

“It’s a documentary film... It will follow all of us in our daily lives to prove to everyone out there what we in here already know. How hard we all work. And what good value we represent. How much we deserve the taxpayers’ money.” — Prince Philip (S 3 : EP 4 : Bubbikins)

According to what the series made, comparing it with the actual situation, it turned out to be exactly resembled. Provided that the Royal Family and the Media are always incompatible, but it was William Heseltine who tried to encourage that the Royal Family and the Media should be coexisted⁵². The idea of the Royal Family film finally approved by the Queen was the first time

⁵¹ Ingrid Seward, *My Husband and I* (Croydon: CPI Group, 2017), 297.

⁵² Jennie Bond. Elizabeth, *A Celebration in Photograph of the Queen’s Life and Reign* (London: Carlton Publishing Group), 66.

that the cameras were given such a special access to film the royal family both formal and informal moments. Some of the famous scenes of the Royal Family documentary are the royal engagements up and down the country, the Queen and her family having a barbecue at Balmoral Estate in Scotland as well as the Queen herself shopping at the local shop⁵³. Shortly after the Film was released, it gained a lot of public attention which estimated viewers at that time around 38 million, including both the BBC and ITV⁵⁴. However, the expectation of a successful documentary; an attempt to represent the Royal Family as an ordinary people, turned out to be failed to the eyes of the people, as showed in the series, Prince Philip himself described:

*“Well, it’s seems the documentary not only failed to achieve what I had hope for, it has somehow achieved the opposite. **Instead of writing about what we good value for money we represent, these commentators are united in their mockery of our woodenness, our stupidity, our vanity, extravagance.**” — Prince Philip (S 3 : EP 4 : Bubbikins)*

According to what Prince Philip said, it can be assumed that the Film might mislead the people, given that instead of being spontaneous, the film represented the Queen and the Royal Family in the opposite way. As the series pointed out when Wilson told the Queen about his view on the Film:

*“... I like to think I understand television as well as anyone in the country. I owe my political life to it. And that’s because I have learned, over time, how to do it. How to make it work for me. Perhaps the royal family is not best suited to it. **Television is good for normal people... But people don’t consider you (the Queen) to be... They don’t want you to be normal, other than we want you to ideal. An Ideal.**” — Harold Wilson (S 3 : EP 4 : Bubbikins)*

⁵³ Elizabeth, *A Celebration in Photograph of the Queen’s Life and Reign* 66.

⁵⁴ Andrew Marr, *The Diamond Queen Elizabeth II and her people* (Croydon: CPI Group, 2021), 238.

Wilson tried to explain to the Queen that the Royal Family, particularly the Queen may not be a good company with the television who tried to represent the ordinary life of the Royal Family by getting rid of all the ceremony and mystery that they used to represent. In contrary, the people as a whole wanted the Royal Family to represent and to be the ideal queen, however, the Queen strongly opposed on such concept. The Queen herself explained in the series:

“No human being is ideal...which is why I’d favour the royal family being kept out of sight, out of mind, for our own survival and sanity. But the thing is we can’t be hidden away. We have to be in full view all the time. So what’s the answer. The best we’ve come up with so far is ritual and mystery. Because it keeps us hidden while still in plain sight. The smoke and the mirrors, the mystery and the protocol, it’s not there to keep us apart. It is there to keep us alive.”

— the Queen (S 3 : EP 4 : Bubbikins)

The Queen attempted to emphasise that the more the Royal Family was unseen or felt by the public, the better for them to be stabilised. However, the Queen fully understood that the time changed, the best way for the Royal Family to survive and to sit in the people’s hearts was to be seen in public all the time, which was why she agreed with the idea of the Royal Family documentary, for hoping that it must be represent that the Royal Family was still worth to this country and more importantly to assert the *stability* of this establishment in which Elizabeth II herself headed.

It could not be easy to the Queen at that time to encounter with vastly criticism to her family, she later commanded that the film should not be seen again. However, partly based on the true story, some of the British people had a positive perception towards the Film and the Queen, as described in the book of Andrew Marr, *“the Queen who doesn’t always look very*



*appealing or animated on newsreel, emerges as a warm, engaging and even girlish person, capable of little giggles of motherly pleasure*⁵⁵. But as her reign progressed, the Queen truly discovered that by breaking some protocols and presenting more natural side to the people, it was the best way for the Queen to represent as the Stability of the British Monarchy.

Queen Elizabeth II represented as Wife and Mother

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip are one of the most famous royal couple in the 21st century. Together, they achieved many milestones in their lives: Prince Philip was the longest serving consort in the British history, while the Queen is the longest serving and living monarch in the United Kingdom. As a couple, they have four children: Charles, Anne, Andrew, and Edward. Throughout the time of their 73 years of marriage, Elizabeth and Philip have experienced the most brightest and darkest days in their lives, from having a different upbringing to a fairy tales-like love story after the weary war year, and to deal with conflicts among themselves and with their children, the Queen and Prince Philip have to unite than ever before. This chapter, according to *the CROWN* series, explored mainly the representation of the Queen as both the wife to her husband and the mother to her four children. The episode used to interpret are as follow: Wolferton Splash (season 1 : episode 1), Windsor (season 1 : episode 3), Act of God (season 1 : episode 4), Favourites (season 4 : episode 4).

⁵⁵ Marr, *The Diamond Queen Elizabeth II and her people* 238.

According to the true story, the Queen and Prince Philip met for the first time at the Naval College Dartmouth in July 1939⁵⁶, it said that the young princess Elizabeth aged 13 fell in love with Philip who was 18 at that time. Actually, both of them were indeed related, as they were a great-great grandchildren of Queen Victoria, making the Queen and Prince Philip the third cousin. Since then, the two frequently exchanged letters to each other and Prince Philip was also invited to stay with the Royal Family at Windsor Castle from time to time. Two years after the Second World War ended, Elizabeth and Philip were engaged, and they got married in November 1947 at Westminster Abbey. Philip once wrote a letter to Elizabeth's mother to reassure that he was totally in love with Elizabeth because Elizabeth's father, King George VI, first disagreed with this marriage, given that she was too young to be married. In a letter, Philip said: "*Lilibet is the only thing in this world which is absolutely real to me and my ambition is to weld the two of us into a new combined existence...*"⁵⁷. Shortly before the two got engaged, Philip renounced his Greek nationality and simply adopted his British surname which was replaced as Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten. However, upon the eve of the wedding day, Philip was invested by his father-in law to be the Knight Companion of most Noble Order of the Garter, bestowed a dukedom as the Duke of Edinburgh and should be a style of a Royal Highness, this procedure appeared in the series (season 1: episode 1 : Wolferton Splash). The main theme of this chapter in which the series wanted to represent is not just the Queen, but also give a limelight to Prince Philip who supposed to be Elizabeth's biggest supporter as well. In episode *Wolferton Splash* emphasised the duty of Philip to his wife, as King George VI said to him while they were going to a traditional duck hunting:

⁵⁶ Seward, *My Husband and I* 57.

⁵⁷ Seward, *My Husband and I* 5.

*“You understand, the titles, the dukedom. They are not the jobs. **She is the job. She is the essence of your duty.** Loving her. Protecting her.”*

— King George VI (S 1 : EP 1 : Wolferton Splash)

What the king said to Philip can be considered as a blueprint of his life and to remind him that those titles and dignities he was given must come after, for Elizabeth, it was the job he had to cherish and protect, because one day she would be the Queen and he would, of course, be the Prince Consort of the UK. Soon after the conversation took place, on February 6th, 1952, Elizabeth's life changed forever, as her beloved father passed peacefully away at Sandringham Estate. On such a tragic moment, it was Philip who broke the news of the King's death to Elizabeth when they were both in Kenya, representing the King's on the Commonwealth tour of Australia and New Zealand. From now on Elizabeth Mounbatten did no longer exist, for Elizabeth Regina was replaced.

The Queen, as represented in the series, was a wife who was very much proud and admired her husband. However, the series also pointed out the important and biggest conflict of the Queen and Prince Philip: the Queen had to decide on the name of the Royal House, a conflict which the two Elizabeths were now in the battlefield. Since 1840, the British Royal House was named Saxe-Coburgh-Gotha as it was derived from Prince Albert, the Consort of Queen Victoria. Later, in 1917, three years after the First World War ended, Elizabeth's grandfather, King George V, proclaimed that the Royal House of Saxe-Coburgh-Gotha would be changed into the Royal House of Windsor and all German titles and dignities would also be relinquished⁵⁸, partly because of the German-hatred. Upon the death of King George VI, creating a huge gap within the

⁵⁸ Robert Lacey, *THE CROWN* (London: Blink Publishing, 2017), 61.



Royal Family, as the name of Royal House would only be descended through male-in line, making Elizabeth ineligible to carry the Windsor name. It was Lord Mountbatten, as pointed out in the series, who told Prince Philip to discuss with the Queen on this matter. The Queen (Elizabeth Regina), as forced by the constitution, had to consult with the Prime Minister, then Winston Churchill, who was after listening to the Queen, was strongly opposed, given that the surname Mountbatten was an adoptive surname in which Philip used. This matter was also protested by Queen Mary, as the series showed: *“The Royal Warrant of 1917 established the House of Windsor. My late husband presided over himself”*. As Elizabeth Mountbatten, she committed to support her husband wholeheartedly, she argued to Churchill in the series, said:

“Yes, I am queen, but I am also a women. And a wife. To a man whose pride and whose strength were, in part, what attracted me to him. I want to be in a successful marriage. I would argue, stability under this roof might even be in the national interest.”

— the Queen (S 1 : EP 3 : Windsor)

From what the Queen said, it can be interpreted that despite the situation and condition were not allowed Philip’s wish to be possible, but as his wife, she had to balance both the duty as the Queen of this country (Elizabeth Regina) and also a wife to her beloved husband (Elizabeth Mountbatten), for the united family and a successful couple life were the other things which was essential to her as well. Unfortunately, the Royal House of Mountbatten did not give its existence, as the opposition to this matter was overwhelmed, leading the Queen to encounter the great conflict with her husband, for Prince Philip once expressed his mind that, *“I am the only man in the country not allowed to give his name to his children”*⁵⁹. The Queen felt very sad and disappointed with the result because she realised all the time how much her husband

⁵⁹ Seward, *My Husband and I* 15.

devoted to her, abandoning his loving naval career to become a man who always stood two steps behind his wife and sovereign. By the end of episode *Windsor*, it obviously showed that the Queen decided to retain the name of the Royal House as *Windsor* for the stability of the Monarchy:

“My Lords, I hereby declare my will and pleasure that I and my children shall be styled and known as the House and Family of Windsor. And that my descendants, other than female descendants who marry, and their descendants, shall bear the name of Windsor.”

— the Queen (S 1 : EP 3 : *Windsor*)

In contrary, the series presented the other side of the Queen, as being a supportive wife. First, the Queen made a decision to confer the power to her husband on the matter of children's education, meant that it was Philip who could make a final decision which school his children attended⁶⁰. However, the series showed slightly a scene of conflicts between the two: it was the Queen's wishes that Charles should be educated at Eton College which was suitable for the future king, but Prince Philip was in favour of Gordonstoun in Scotland, the school Philip himself previously attended. In episode *Paterfamilias*, showed exactly the intention of Prince Philip which he said: “*Then you would be well to remember the promise you make to me. And the consequence breaking those might have on the Crown. Charles's education is my responsibility*”. Subsequently, Philip successfully convinced his wife for Charles's school, and it later said that the Queen herself admitted that the family affair, Philip was the head of the Household. Being a supportive wife and a sovereign simultaneously was a difficult job for Elizabeth, as she had to cope with the problems which came from the government of the day and of her own family. The series pointed out the scene of the Queen trying to convince the

⁶⁰ Seward, *My Husband and I* 227-28.

Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, to allow Philip for taking fly learning. Actually, the Queen was in favour and supported her husband's decision, but it was rejected by Churchill, given that it was risky for the father of the future king to do such a thing. The Queen felt unsatisfied with Churchill and argued:

*"Please do not curtail my husband's personal freedoms any further. **You have taken away his home. You have taken away his name.** There comes a time where one must draw a line in the sand ..." — the Queen (S 1 : EP 4 : Act of God)*

From what the Queen said, it could say that she sympathised her husband enormously, for the government previously rejected the request of Philip to use Clarence House as the home to the Queen's family because the House itself was rebuilt under the control of Philip, plus with the government's protest in allowing Philip's surname, Mountbatten, to use as the name of the Royal House. These reasons made Philip feel that he was betrayed, the Queen as his wife had to step up for settling those problems and gave fully support to her husband in return.

In reality, the Queen and Prince Philip dedicated to each other. Having spent most of the time together and surely when we either meet the Queen or Prince Philip, we could see how happy and supporting they were. As they were blessed with a long and successful marriage, it enabled the Queen and Prince Philip to look back and reflected on how much they had been through after almost 74 years of their marriage. The Queen herself rarely gave her personal feeling about her private life in public. In 1997, the Queen and Prince Philip celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, the Queen gave a speech describing Prince Philip as her strength and stay:

*“... All too often, I fear, Prince Philip has had to listen to me speaking. Frequently we have discussed my intended speech beforehand and, as you will imagine, his views have been expressed in a forthright manner. He is some one who doesn’t take easily to compliments **but he has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years**, and I, and his whole family, and this and many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know ...”⁶¹*

— the Queen

From the Queen’s personal tribute to her husband, it said that despite the conflicts which they both faced, Prince Philip was still and always her source of encouragement. By the same way, Prince Philip also revealed his mind, said that *tolerance* was the key part for their happy marriage:

“... I think that the main lesson that we have learnt is that tolerance is the one essential ingredient of any happy marriage. It may not be quite so important when things are going well, but it is absolutely vital when things get difficult. And you can take it from me that the Queen has the quality of tolerance in abundance...” — Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh

The *CROWN* series exactly presented that the Queen had such a *tolerance* as Prince Philip described in order to get through the conflicts and balance her role as Elizabeth Regina and Elizabeth Mountbatten.

Apart from being a wife, Queen Elizabeth II is also a mother to four children. In episode *Favourite*, presented the relationship between the Queen and each of her children after she was asked by Prince Philip that who was her most favourite child of all, leading the Queen to reexamine her personal feeling with her children. Almost a year after the wedding day, then Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip was welcomed their first child and heir to the throne, Prince

⁶¹ "A Speech by the Queen on her Golden Wedding Anniversary," accessed May 9, 2021, <https://www.royal.uk/golden-wedding-speech>.

Charles. He is quite a sensitive and timid child, for he is being treated as a future king of the country. In 1950, Anne was born to a second child and only daughter of the Queen and Prince Philip. It said that Philip was very delighted and fond of his daughter, as Seward described in her book: Philip told that she (Anne) was the sweetest girl⁶². The series obviously presented the intimate relationship between Princess Anne and her father, when the Queen asked Philip that who was his favourite child, and Philip immediately replied, Anne. Princess Anne has a strong character which resembles to her father; deny all praises and spotlight, has a good sense of humour and gaffes, some said that she is truly her father's daughter. In contrary, Charles is found to be difficult when it comes to the relationship with his father, he rather relaxes with his mother, the Queen. Actually, it was known that by the time in which Charles and Anne were growing up, their mother did not so far unexpectedly become queen. Soon after Elizabeth became queen, she and Prince Philip embarked on the Commonwealth tour for six months, leaving her younger children to be with their nannies and her mother, Queen Elizabeth the Queen mother. Having less well-versed for job led Elizabeth to spend more time to learn about the duty as sovereign and was away for the official functions rather than being with her children. From that reasons, it made Elizabeth seem to be a 'distant mother'. As the series pointed out when the Queen visiting to Charles and Anne, each of their own house, the conversation between she and her two children were very much intense, partly because they were matured and encountered with big problems; Anne was suffering in a conflict with her husband, assuming to be divorced and she was surrounded by journalists whose presence were upset to her, while Charles was entangled with his married life between Diana and Camilla. As also showed in a series, when the Queen arrived, her child were responded with a strange reaction: Anne was

⁶² Seward, *My Husband and I* 187.

quite curious with her presence, however, luckily the Queen and Anne shared the same passion in horses which enabled them to get on quite well. Paradoxically, Charles's passion was incompatible with his mother, as the series presented, he loved nature, organic, and poetry, while the Queen did not pay the same particular interest. Plus, her remote character when she appeared with Charles made a gloomy atmosphere. This is not because the Queen was not fond of her eldest son, but in turn she felt very guilty to Charles, as the series represented:

"It was me that wanted Andrew and Edward... I wanted two more to prove myself that I had it in me and to make up for my feeling especially with Charles. But I remember insisting that I would never let the nannies do it, bath time. But when it came to it, I sat in a chair in the background because I didn't know how to hold him, touch him."

— the Queen (S 4 : EP 4 : Favourites)

From what the Queen said, it can be interpreted that she was a 'distant mother' to her children particularly with Charles because the Queen herself was by the same way distant to him as a consequence of a duty required. Even though, as appeared in the series, she never experienced on such a thing, however, in reality, she never forgets to kiss and say good night to him⁶³.

At the beginning of the 1960, the Queen gave birth to the third child, Prince Andrew, at that time, he is the first child in more than a century who was born during his mother being a reigning monarch⁶⁴. It is twelve years since the Queen delivered Charles and eight years on the throne, which allowed Elizabeth to be more settled both in her private and public life; she had more time to bring up Andrew by herself. It obviously showed in the series, as mentioned in the previous quotation, that it was the Queen's intention to have Andrew, so the public frequently referred Andrew as the Queen's favourite child. It happened to be true that Andrew was always a

⁶³ Seward, *My Husband and I* 186.

⁶⁴ Seward, *My Husband and I* 254.



good company to his mother, as presented in the series, when Prince Andrew came to have lunch with the Queen, the conversation and mood between the two was quite relaxing and happy; Prince Andrew could ask and chat with his mother informally, in the way that two of his elder siblings did not have. During the meeting, Prince Andrew asked the Queen two things: he needed to know about his title in which the Queen would grant him upon his marriage, and he also mentioned about the escalation of the Falklands War. In reality, Prince Andrew decided to join this war as a helicopter pilot, but it said that the Queen was concerned deeply regarding his joining, given that it was very risky⁶⁵. For the case of Prince Andrew, the series clearly concluded his relationship with the Queen, the scene in which Prince Philip gave the final answer to the Queen, he insisted that Andrew was her wife's favourite child.

In the spring of 1964, Prince Edward was born as the last child of the Queen and Prince Philip. At the time Edward born, his parents were settled in their life; the Queen could divide her life between work and bringing up children, given that she had time to bathe and escort him (Edward) to bed⁶⁶. In the real situation, the Queen seems to be a 'caring mother' to her youngest child, but in the series, it represented Elizabeth in another dimension, an uncaring mother. As the series reflected on how uncaring mother the Queen was, the scene when she asked Martin Charteris, her private Secretary to make an appointment with her four children, one by one:

"Martin, I'd like you to arrange for me to see my four children. In private, one at the time. Important, I think, though, that each is unaware that the others have been summoned

⁶⁵ Dean Palmer, *The Queen and Mrs Thatcher: An Inconvenient Relationship* (Gloucestershire: The History Press, 2015), 227.

⁶⁶ Seward, *My Husband and I* 274.

too... *Perhaps a short briefing document ahead of each meeting, focusing on each child's hobbies, interests, and so forth.*" — the Queen (S 4 : EP 4 : Favourites)

From the discussion between the Queen and her private secretary, it could say that she had no idea about her children's passion, assuming the distance relationship between the Queen and her children. One extra example for this can be seen in the series, as it pointed out the scene when Prince Edward visited his mother for a private lunch, in a conversation obviously showing that the Queen never heard that Edward was being bullied when he was at school, Edward himself described:

"I mean, I might have been bullied a bit as normal Eddie Windsor, but as prince Edward, third in line to the throne... they call me Jaws, for my braces. They fill plastic spoons with saliva and flick it at the back of my head. They put superglue on my chair. Gave me a bottle of white wine as a gift, which turn out to be — urine." — Prince Edward (S 4 : EP 4 : Favourites)

From the moment the Queen acknowledged the trouble of her youngest son, she was almost tearing, for she was disappointed that as a mother she never knew how much her children were suffered. In reality, Prince Edward himself asserted that, "Some parent who gave their children to nannies hardly know that their children at all, but the Queen knew hers"⁶⁷.

At the end of episode *Favourites*, the Queen revealed with Prince Philip, after having a private lunch with each of her four children, that all her children were lost in their own ways; Charles and Anne suffered with their breaking couple lives, while Edward severely faced with bullying, only Andrew that she was not express her opinion. However, Prince Philip came to

⁶⁷ Seward, *My Husband and I* 283.

comfort his wife, saying that their children were now grown up and throughout the time of being motherhood, she had done her job as mother seamlessly. It is not frequently for the Queen to tell her family life, both as a wife and mother, but she once expressed her opinion in 1972 on the occasion of her Silver Wedding Anniversary:

*“I think everybody really will concede that on this, of all day, I should begin my speech with the words, “My Husband and I.”... When the Bishop was asked what he thought about sin, he replied with simple conviction that he was against it. If I am asked today what I think about family life after twenty five years, I can answer with equal simplicity and conviction. I am for it.”*⁶⁸

— the Queen

Conclusion

The representation of Queen Elizabeth II according to *the CROWN* series could be categorised into four main aspects; first is the Queen being depicted as the Sovereign or the Head of State in which the series presented in terms of the roles and duties regarding to the concept of constitutional monarchy — how the Queen exercised her prerogative power and protect the democracy of the United Kingdom, and this aspect also illustrated the informal relationship between Queen Elizabeth II and the British prime ministers. Secondly, the series represented the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth, a society which Elizabeth herself served as its head for more than sixty years. This aspect showed mainly about the conflicts within the Commonwealth, the Ghanaian situation at the start of the 1960s — the Queen represented as a person who strongly believed and trusted her Commonwealth of Nations and her roles as Head of the

⁶⁸ Seward, *My Husband and I* 99.

Commonwealth. The series also presented the Queen in the roles of a religious Queen, given that rather being Head of State, she was also Head of the Church of England in which her predecessor set up for centuries. Elizabeth had a strong sense of religion, as the series emphasised that at her coronation in 1953, she was crowned and anointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, which was the key part of the ceremony to symbolise the British Sovereign, the process of turning ordinary human being into a god/goddess-like. During the most instability status of the British Monarchy, Elizabeth II had to step up in maintaining not just for the survival of her own family, but of herself as well. The Queen acted as the Stability of the British Monarchy throughout her long reign, as she could lead her beloved dynasty through the heat of political conflicts, the criticism of her subjects, and the scandal of her own family. The last representation that Queen Elizabeth II was depicted in the series is the Wife and Mother. The series pointed out that the Queen was found to be a supportive wife to her husband as she gave all her trust to her husband, Prince Philip who was depicted in the series as the moderniser of the British Royal Family. In the mother dimension, the Queen was being seen as a distant mother to her four children. However, the Queen had finally discovered the balances of her public and private life and try to keep both of them together which later became the important part of her successful reign.

The contribution of this independence study was placed between the British media and the British Royal Family. Provided that this study given the perception of the British media towards the British Royal Family in many dimensions, not just about politics but also the ordinary ways of a human being e.g. family woman and religious believer. The study pointed out the judgement of the media to the royal family, as obviously showed that the media paid a particular attention to the security of the dynasty more than the happiness of a family life. The



study also revealed the attitudes of the media towards the British establishment in the modern world through the duty of the sovereign in safeguarding the democracy and the humanity. Finally, the study also showed the expectation of the British media to see their Royal Family as it was supposed to be, and more importantly the relationship between the British media and the British Royal Family, as taken *the CROWN* series as an obvious example.



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