

**People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
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**Redefining Royalty: Prince Harry and Meghan
Markle as Catalysts for Change in the British
Monarchy (2018 – 2023)**

Dissertation submitted to the department of English as a partial fulfilment of
the Requirements for Master's Degree in Literature and Civilisation.

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Academic Year

2023 – 2024

DEDICATION

Far and foremost, All praise and thanks to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, for granting me the strength, knowledge, opportunity and resources to complete this dissertation. Without His guidance and blessings, this achievement would not have been possible.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my family, who has been my constant pillars of support and inspiration throughout this journey. I am especially grateful to my loving parents, who have sacrificed so much to get me where I am today. Without my mother's unwavering love and care and my father's encouragement and efforts, I would not have been able to pursue this degree. I am as much grateful to my dear grandfather, my idol in this life.

I am extremely grateful to my two loving sisters; Ines & Aya , and my brother Mohammed , without missing the one and only little bean ; Annya my angle .

To my whole family , to my dear sisters Manel, Inchirah and Fatima , who have been with me through ups and downs of this “ dramatic ” journey , through laughs , cries , studies and gossip . To all the great friends I made along the way, Hidayat my favorite mate , to the Athenians, I am deeply grateful to all the memories.

I pray that Allah blesses everyone who have been my rock throughout this entire process and contributed to this dissertation in any way , making a beautiful closure to five years of an unforgettable experience .

Al HamdulilAllah

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*I would like to express my warm love and appreciation to my dearest supervisor, Dr Souad
HAMIDI.*

*I would also like to thank the jury members Professor Wassila Mouro and Dr Amel
Rahmouni for their kind efforts reviewing my work,*

Big thanks to all the teachers and members of the English department.

ABSTRACT

Great Britain's symbol of resilience, power, identity and tradition has always been embodied in its monarchy. Today, the monarchy has reached its current state after surviving through a critical path of change for centuries since its emergence. Recently, this latter continued facing numerous challenges and changes which carried on testing its ability to adapt to the modern-day times. At first Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's marriage then their "Megxit," which refers to the decision they made to step back from their roles as senior royals, has highlighted a significant debate about the relevance and future of the monarchy. This dissertation aims to explore the effect of the Megxit on the reshaping of royalty in contemporary society, particularly within the eyes of the media and the public. By studying the public's interactions and view to it , the press, and certain members of the royal family and the institution itself , this research paper is written with the aim of shedding light on the strategies that the British monarchy is following to navigate the complexities of the modern age cultural change and diversity. In order to achieve a deeper understanding of the obstacles in the monarchy's way to fit to the speed of the changing times and its adaptation to the aftermath of the "Megxit", this dissertation draws a path of analysis through the monarchy's historical events , the changing royal representation and the public perceptions .

Table of Contents:

Dedication.....	I
Acknowledgements.....	II
Abstract.....	III
Table of Contents.....	
List of Figures.....	IV
List of Acronyms.....	V
General Introduction.....	1

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition Between History and Modernity

1.1 Introduction.....	
1.2 Emergence and Evolution of the British Monarchy.....	16
1.2.1 Origins of the Monarchy and its Early History	16
1.2.2 The British Monarchy after the Anglo-Saxons.....	17
1.2.3 The Norman Impact of 1066.....	19
1.2.4 The Aftermath of the Magna Carta on the British Monarchy.....	21
1.3. Resilience and Adaptation as a Response to Societal Transformation.....	23
1.4.The British Monarchy in the Modern World and the Role of Media	26
1.4.1 The Impact on Royal Duties and Privacy.....	27
1.5.Prince Harry and Meghan Markle significance in the Monarchy.....	27
1.5.1 The Duke of Sussex	28
1.5.2 The Duchess of Sussex.....	29
1.5.3 Meghan Markle Breaking Rules of Royal Marriages.....	30
1.5.4 The Meghan Markle Effect.....	32
1.6. Conclusion.....	34

Chapter Two : The Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

2.1	Introduction.....	38
2.2	Reasons Behind the Megxit.....	39
2.2.1	Media Intrusion and Harassment.....	39
2.2.2	Racial Prejudice and Cultural Differences.....	42
2.2.3	Desire for Financial Independence	43
2.2.4	Family Dynamics and Cultural Differences	45
2.3	The Impact of the Departure on the Royal Family.....	47
2.4	Meghan Markle and Prince Harry’s Media Engagements as Catalysts for Change.....	49
2.4.1	The Oprah Interview.....	50
2.4.1.1	The interview’s Revelations and Analysis.....	50
2.4.1.1.1	Meghan Markle’s Suicidal Thoughts.....	50
2.4.1.1.2	Racism Towards the Biracial Duchess of Sussex.....	53
2.4.1.1.3	Prince Harry Feeling Trapped.....	54
2.4.1.1.4	Prince Harry’s Relationship with His Family.....	55
2.4.2	The Netflix Documentary Series “Meghan and Harry”.....	56
2.4.3	Prince Harry’s Memoire “Spare”.....	58
2.5	Institutional and Public Response to the Media Engagement	58
2.5.1	The Media’s Response.....	59
2.5.2	The Public’s Reaction.....	60
2.6	Redefining Royalty	62
2.7	Conclusion.....	67

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 01 : Britain - AD 500-700..... 17

LIST OF ACRONYMS

USA: The United States of America.

UK: The United Kingdom.

General Introduction

General Introduction

While going through different times with its evolution, the British monarchy went through different phases with a variety of rulers and eras. These latter had a significant role in influencing the monarchy to change through time and reshape its role in representing the United Kingdom as a whole. Jumping from having absolute power into being a constitutional monarchy, the British royal family has been sentenced to survive the challenges faced by change happening in the Kingdom and adapt to different timelines while still maintaining its traditions, values and duties.

From the times of the Anglo-Saxon rule to the transformative year of 1066 , the signing of the Magna Carta to the late modern century , the most recent changes in the British monarchy happened due to Prince Harry and Meghan Markle tying the knot in 2018 . Meghan, as an American mixed-race actress, highlighted a special moment in the British monarchical history by becoming a member of the British royal family. The marriage was seen as a symbol of a more diverse and inclusive monarchy, resonating with modern society and challenging traditional norms.

However, in this particular event, the one of the “Suits” star becoming a British royal was not challenge-free. By entering the royal circle and becoming a part of it, scrutiny and criticism from both the press and nationalists were obstacles that she had to go through. The British monarchy was always confined to being a traditional conservative institution , the Duchess of Sussex appeared like a breath of fresh air in the institution for her independency and uniqueness. She assured her special place in the public’s hearts and became their next Princess Diana with her bravery to break royal protocol, speaking up about a variety of social issues, but that did not prevent the intense scrutiny attacks on her.

In addition to the complexity of Duke and Duchess’ situation and their royal life, their decision to leave their senior roles in 2020 was contributed by several factors which started

General Introduction

off the pressure they received as royals and its consequences , the couple have put the world in a massive shock hold. Rising up from the desire to reach complete independence, the couple confirmed their “Megxit “ leaving the UK and heading to North America. This move, lit up a debate around the future of the monarchy and the changes it would implicate to its members in the modern world.

Following such unfamiliar occasions, the monarchy was faced with a divided public reaction at the aftermath. While Meghan and Harry’s supporters were many around the world sympathizing with their well-being, others put them under a harsh criticism for leaving their duties and traditions and family behind. The British media, especially, played a crucial role with controlling the public’s opinion and opening doors to several debates surrounding the couple's departure.

To tackle these matters, the research beforehand raises some queries with the aim of being answered properly:

- How did the British monarchy evolve with modern influences like media?
- Are the Duke and Duchess of Sussex driving change in the monarchy?
- What caused "Megxit," and how did the institution and public react?

The questions proposed above may lead to the following hypotheses:

- The British monarchy survived several hardships throughout history and is still doing so.
- Meghan and Harry’s both marriage and departure had a deep impact on the monarchical image.
- The British monarchy has gotten out of the circle of its tradition and been redefined because its own members in the 21st century.

General Introduction

What have been tackled above is going to be divided into two chapters. The first chapter unveils a detailed explanation on the power time has over shaping the British monarchy from the day of its emergence to this day, merging into the transitions it is going through because of Meghan Markle and her Prince husband.

While the second chapter delves into the reality behind the couple's departure and their actual reasons behind it . It sheds the light on the aftermath of the Megxit and its affect on the institution.

In conclusion, Meghan and Harry's fairytale and shocking departure from the royal family revealed the reality of the challenges faced by today's royal members while trying to balance between tradition and their personal autonomy. Their journey examined the evolutionary state of the British monarchy and the increasingly high influence of the media on being a royal. As the institution is obliged to carry on adapting with the changing times, the legacy of the Duke and Duchess' departure will continue to be set as a reminder of the complex struggles of royal life in the 21st century, forming a modern factor to push the British monarchy towards change.

**Chapter One: The British
Monarchy in Transition,
Between History and
Modernity**

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

1.1. Introduction

The British monarchy as a symbol of traditional complex-knitted right into the fabric of history has actually continually altered throughout the centuries, mirroring the transformative changes of culture from its tribal beginnings to a stately constitutional monarchy. This marvelous change is secured by enormous turning points like the issuance of the Magna Carta and the facility of Parliament which have discreetly changed imperial authority from outright regulation to symbolic motions, lining up the crown with the throbbing heart of modern-day freedom.

The monarchy is not simply continual by its organizations, however, it is likewise deeply entrenched in routine as well as the religious welcome of the Church of England which with each other weave a tapestry of nationwide identification and a connection. Ceremonial sights like the coronation as well as the Trooping of the Color offer to embroider the monarchy's public picture as well as historic tradition right into the cumulative nationwide awareness. As it enters the 21st century, the monarchy faces a puzzle of challenges tottering public assistance, magnified media analysis and a deadly ask for transparency expected from the royal family, everything of which bump it in the direction of a crucial transformation.

These obstacles push the monarchy to reinvent itself accepting sustainability and international social involvements while anchoring its significance to electronic modernity therefore aiming to maintain its importance among the developing societal landscape. The fragile dancing of adjustment showcases the monarchy as a long-lasting legend that browses the elaborate ballet of custom and also progression within the theatre of modern-day British culture.

On its way reaching the present day, in the 21st Century, the monarchy has undergone some serious and radical changes. These latter touched both superficial and

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

sensitive areas within the royal family's regulations and its image, from the fifth Century to the 21st one, what can be considered exactly as the factors which have incited all those transformations throughout each era of the British monarchy affecting the royal life , and does Meghan Markle and prince Harry's marriage come as one of the factors within the modern-day time.

1.2. The Emergence and Evolution

The institution of the British monarchy, one of the forty three monarchies in the world has come to its present days from a complex and a very rich history. It evolved from the 11th Century for over more than a millennium, a long period of time for it to face unmatched transformations which traces through multiple key phases that reflect societal changes beginning from its early foundation to the present day. The monarchy came from starting off as small fragmented kingdoms to reaching the constitutional one in today's modern times.

1.2.1. Origins of The British Monarchy and Its Early History

The British monarchy is a democratic constitutional monarchy and is one of the most long-lasting monarchies in the world which evolved from its early beginnings in response to political, economic and social pressures that has been marked by pivotal events.

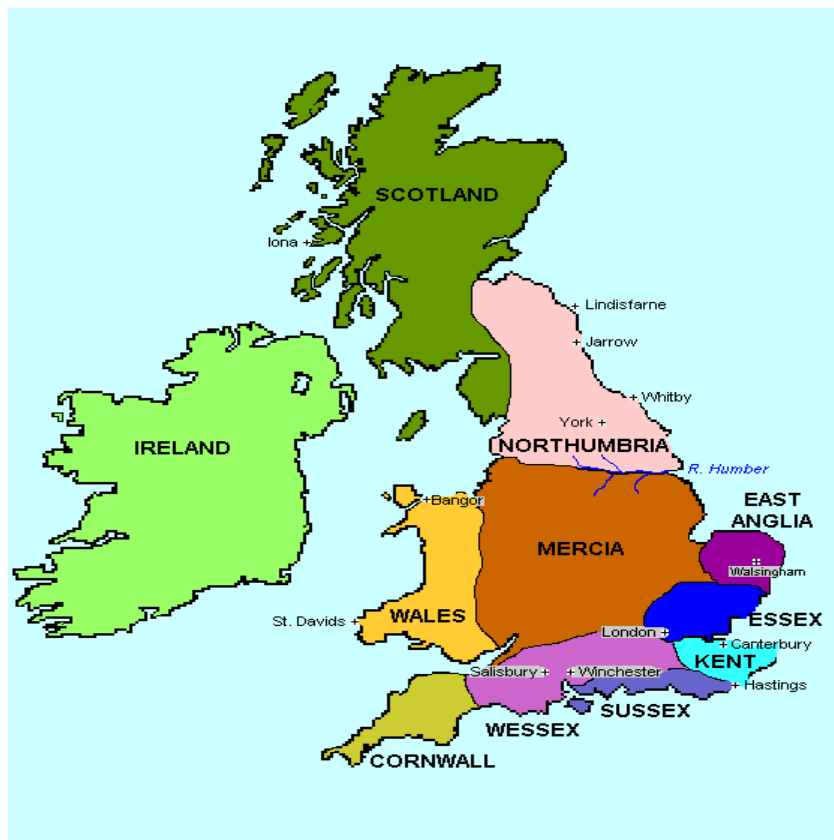
Its origin may be traced back to a time that long predates the United Kingdom itself, way before the formation of England as a single polity out of the kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon and early Scotland which then merged in the late 9th century to become the

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

Kingdoms of England and Scotland ruled by Alfred the Great¹. As for the first ever British monarch, it has to be James I² the first ruler over both England and Scotland, while Queen Anne³ was the first queen to sit on the throne of the United Kingdom.

1.2.2. The British Monarchy after the Anglo-Saxon Times

The beginning of the British monarchy can be mapped back to the medieval period when the Roman control over Britain became weaker and finally vanished in the 5th and 6th centuries. Then immigrants from Denmark, Germany and Holland or Netherlands came to British Islands. These later were settled by immigrants from these areas including



¹ Alfred the Great : Alfred (born 849—died 899) was the king of Wessex (871–899), a Saxon kingdom in southwestern England. He prevented England from falling to the Danes and promoted learning and literacy. (Britannica , Para 01).

² James I (born 1566 - 1625) was the king of Scotland (as James VI) (1567 - 1625) and first Stuart king of England from 1603 to 1625, who styled himself “king of Great Britain.” James was a strong advocate of royal absolutism, and his conflicts with an increasingly self-assertive Parliament set the stage for the rebellion against his successor, Charles I. (Britannica, 2024, para01)

³ Queen Anne I : (born 1665 - died 1714) was the queen of Great Britain and Ireland from 1702 to 1714 who was the last Stuart monarch. (Britannica, para1)

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

Angles, Saxons and Jutes. These groups formed several different states which now form England.

In the eleventh century, the earliest English or Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Wessex ; Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in Southern England, were marked by their fighting societies that placed a premium on staying true to their chiefs and kings with limited power who were usually acclaimed during fights or elected by free men congregations .

At first these leaders were mainly war-leaders that succeeded at resisting the Viking invasions contributing to the increasing development of the English governance .Their authority relaxed on their capacity to shield their region plus individuals from constant intrusions. Amongst these very early kings Alfred the Great sticks out plainly; ruling from 871 to 899. He was critical in safeguarding his kingdom against the Viking's raids and also is distinguished for his payments to the lawful together with academic reforms of his time. Alfred's lawful code with an emphasis on common obligation coupled with ethical conduct, outlined the foundation for succeeding monarchial regulation.

The conversion of the Anglo-Saxon kings to Christianity, which started in the late 6th century with a ruler named Æthelberht of Kent⁴, was an important factor shaping The Monarchy. The Christian Church offered both organizational template and an ideology that helped to justify divinely ordained monarchy.

“The adoption of Christianity by all the Anglo-Saxon royal houses during the seventh century helped the development of Kings found Christianity attractive because of the role it gave them as Christ's representative. Kings

⁴ Æthelberht of Kent: (died 616 or 618) was the king of Kent (560–616) who issued the first extant code of Anglo-Saxon laws. Reflecting some continental influence, the code established the legal position of the clergy and instituted many secular regulations.(Britannica , para1)

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

were the most important benefactors of the religious houses within their kingdoms.” (Lapidge, 1999, 271).

The shift from fragmented kingdoms to a system of governance under the impact of Christianity, laid the fundamental frameworks of the monarchy. These stages marked the direction of movement for the monarchy’s transformation into a crucial body in British history, which later developed to take the form of the British monarchy known today. These early times have set the stage for future leadership themes, linking secular and sacred authority as well as continuous adaptation to external pressures in addition to internal dynamics.

1.2.3. The Norman Impact of 1066 :

The transformative year of 1066 noting William the Conqueror's⁵ intrusion of England is a pivotal event that had a sincere impact on the British monarchy alongside with his invasion of England in that same year, introducing a system that organized the country under the ownership of the monarch and transitioned from Anglo-Saxon rule to Norman control which lead to the establishment of a feudal British monarchy in which different properties if not all were considered the monarch’s property..

In January 1066, Edward the Confessor⁶, the last Anglo-Saxon king passed away leaving no heir, which lead with Harold Godwinson⁷ to be crowned as king. However, his reign did not last as much when king William the Conqueror advocated that he was promised the throne. By September 1066, William landed in Sussex and carried on invading England.

⁵ William I (born 1028]—died 1087) was a noble who made himself the mightiest in France and then changed the course of England’s history through his conquest of that country in 1066.(Britannica,2024, para1)

⁶Edward (born 1002/05, Islip, Eng.—died Jan. 5, 1066, London; canonized 1161; feast day originally January 5, now October 13) was the king of England from 1042 to 1066. Although he is often portrayed as a listless, ineffectual monarch overshadowed by powerful nobles.(Britannica, 2024,para1).

⁷ Harold II (born 1020—died 1066) was the last Anglo-Saxon king of England. A strong ruler and a skilled general, he held the crown for nine months in 1066 before he was killed at the Battle of Hastings by Norman invaders under William the Conqueror.(Britannica, 2024, para1)

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

Later on October 14, 1066, and at the battle of Hastings, he defeated Harold Godwinson's army who got was taking over the throne and it was his defeat as he died in the battle .

With that victory, King William paved the way to the Norman reign as he was put as the King of England on December 25, 1066. Although his reign was faced with resistance, Considerable change in monarchical power appeared after the coronation of the new king which characterized with the intro of the feudal system. The number one change that he implicated was the redistribution of land which altered the English social and political landscape. His system redefined the partnership in between the king along with his worthy's. The king was at the top followed by his barons and earls. He developed a powerful structure in which lands were provided in exchange for army solution. The Norman reign did bring cultural and architectural changes with it, the French language became used among the elites, and castles were constructed of stone.

William's power was considerably a centralized authority, settling his power by designating friends to essential placements and also by commissioning the Domesday Book in 1086, the turning point in the history of the British monarchy, which catalogued all the landholdings and sources of England guaranteeing a much more reliable system of tax as well as administration.

William I played a pivotal role in shaping the British monarchy and its transition. Despite him facing numerous challenges to his reigning, his focus on power and strategic alliances mainly like his marriage to Matilda of Flanders⁸, greatened his position as a king.

⁸ Matilda of Flanders : died in 1083 was the queen consort of William I the Conqueror, whom she married c. 1053.(Britannica, para1)

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

1.2.4. The Aftermath of the Magna Carta on the British Monarchy

An additional foundation in the growth of the British monarchy was the finalizing of the Magna Carta in 1215 by King John⁹ which had significant and profound effects on the monarchy's development. The king was faced by disobedience from his barons, a move that did not bring peace and which led to the Baron's war (1215 – 1217), king John was forced to consent to a charter that dramatically subdued the powers of the monarchy. Following his death, in 1216, his son Henry III¹⁰ reissued the Magna Carta in (1217-1225) but by still keeping the same core principles.

Magna Carta subjected the monarchy to new principles, it mainly pointed at the subjection of the king to the law which drew a massive turn in the nature of the monarchy at that time when the king was given the absolute power and the law was set following his own will, in addition to the limitation of his freewill, he was offered a council of barons that later became the English parliament. This shift to a constitutional monarchy whose prerogatives were reduced especially after the English civil war (1642 – 1651) and the Glorious Revolution of 1688, led to a new system where the monarchy is controlled by law and balanced by Parliament .

Specifications for "Due Procedure" coupled with " Right to Justice" are attended to be very early affirmations of what would certainly later on develop right into an autonomous monarchy influencing its role and fostering the development of a parliamentary system . Even

⁹ King John : (born c. 1166—died October 18/19, 1216, Newark, Nottinghamshire, England) was the king of England from 1199 to 1216. (Britannica, para1).

¹⁰ Henry III : (born 1207—died1272) was the king of England from 1216 to 1272. during which he had effective control of the government, he displayed such indifference to tradition that the barons finally forced him to agree to a series of major reforms.

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

though the Magna Carta suppressed the monarchy's absolute power, it eventually added to its durability by establishing it within a framework that reflected the political landscape.

Throughout the middle ages succeeding rulers proceeded to form the political landscape of England. Henry II that ruled from 1154 to 1189 was specifically significant for his comprehensive lawful reforms which better established the typical legislation system. His facility of royal courts as well as the consultation of royal courts aided to combine the lawful procedures throughout the kingdom relocating far from feudal standards as well as in the direction of a system that central judicial authority under the crown.

The development of the monarchy from these very early beginnings via the middle ages duration outlined the fundamental administration frameworks as well as lawful criteria that would certainly remain to affect the English– coupled with later on British– political system. These advancements highlight the monarchy's change from an unpredictable organization based upon specific management as well as army expertise to a keystone of administration bound by law as well as usual legislation. This very early background establishes the phase for recognizing the succeeding improvements that the British monarchy would certainly go through as it relocated in the direction of the modern-day constitutional structure.

1.3. Resilience and Adaptation as a Response to Societal Transformations

The British monarchy has actually revealed an amazing capability to adjust as well as remain appropriate via significant social changes, such as the Industrial Revolution the development of the British Empire in addition to the relocate towards a much more autonomous culture in the 20th century. Each of these durations provided significant difficulties social upheaval due to the poor working conditions that lead to an economic shift

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

because of the Industrial Revolution, and then came the political reforms of 1832 , 1867 and 1884 which gradually reduced the influence of the monarchy over Parliament.

A shift had to be made towards a intensely democratic system that needed the monarchy to redefine its function within an altering socio-political landscape; as a result within the aftermath of the Industrial Revolution, the rapid urbanization created a shift in economic structures leading to the birth of new social and political demands which were hard for the monarchy to address, alongside with the growing influence of the middle class during that time.

The industrial transformation, which started in the late 18th century, signified considerable financial and also social modifications with its extensive effect on the farming cultures of Britain. As cities broadened as well as the working course expanded the monarchy needed to browse a landscape noted by technical development together with the increase of an economically effective center course.

Under Queen Victoria's¹¹ power the monarchy dealt with to symbolize nationwide satisfaction as well as part of imperial events like the Great Exhibition of 1851 highlighted the monarchy's recommendation of commercial development along with British resourcefulness therefore cultivating a feeling of unity together with nationwide identification in the middle of extensive social adjustment.

Later on, the 20th century was noted by a definitive change in the direction of democratization, with the monarchy going through considerable changes to straighten with the brand-new freedom principles. The abdication situation of 1936 where King Edward VIII

¹¹ Queen Victoria : (born 1819- died 1901) was the queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (1837–1901) and empress of India (1876–1901).

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

surrendered his throne for the sake of marrying Wallis Simpson¹² who was twice divorced and American, noted a critical minute in showing that monarchical power was not outright yet based on public and also legal points of view.

Post-World War II, as Britain accepted a much more autonomous administration version, the monarchy progressively took on an event duty along with the sovereign's powers being greatly symbolic as well as worked out on the guidance of chosen authorities. This period likewise saw the Royal Family carrying out even more public involvements plus philanthropic tasks straightening themselves with the well-being of the general public coupled with social solution therefore preserving their significance together with love among the British population.

Essentially the British monarchy's historic trip with the Industrial Revolution the British Empire, coupled with the democratization of British culture shows a vibrant organization that has actually ably changed its outside expressions plus interior worth to reverberate with as well as mirror the altering worth together with facts of its time. This versatility has actually been essential in preserving the monarchy's importance plus proceeded presence in the modern-day age.

As much as these incidents marked deep changes within the structure of the British society and the monarchy itself, it indeed did not miss the royal part of the kingdom. The royal family was not immune to these transformations and did in fact pass another stage of change.

¹² Wallis Simpson : (born June 19, 1896, U.S.—died 1986, Paris, France) was an American socialite who became the wife of Prince Edward, duke of Windsor (Edward VIII), after the latter had abdicated the British throne in order to marry her.(Britannica, 2024, para1)

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

The constant change of the monarchy over the centuries from an era to another has significantly affected the British royal family and reshaped its whole image to the public eye, its roles and internal dynamics. The political power of the royal family was reduced due to the shift from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional one, which means that the monarch's role was quite more symbolic and ceremonial. This rooted transition put obligations on the royal family to act more representative and less authoritative.

The influence was not only implicated on the political side, it touched the internal dynamics of the British royal family. This later was highly influenced by the expectations of the public and the new values that have been set, including marriages, divorces and the internal relationships generally of the members, in addition to their roles as royals to the Kingdom.

The more time passed by, the more the media advanced with all its ways and tools , including newspapers , radios , television and last but not least the internet , which as a whole shed the light more on the royal family's life and the visibility of it . Alongside with the exposure of this later, scandals and controversies were involved as well , on top of them comes the marital issue of Prince Charles¹³ at the time and Princess Diana¹⁴ to more recent ones .

1.4. The British Monarchy in the Modern World and the Role of Media

In the modern-day age, following up different historical millstones and adaptations to various societal change .This development was mostly driven by the demand

¹³ Charles III : (born 1948, England) is the king of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from September 8, 2022. He is the eldest child of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, duke of Edinburgh.(Britannica, 2024, para1)

¹⁴ Princess Diana of Wales :(born July 1, 1961,England—died August 31, 1997, Paris, France) was the princess of Wales, former consort (1981–96) of Charles, prince of Wales (later Charles III); mother of the heir apparent to the British throne, Prince William; and one of the foremost celebrities of her day.

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

to stabilize conventional monarchical authority with the arising autonomous ideals that gained momentum after major events like the Magna Carta. Over the centuries, this scope has gradually limited the unlimited powers once held by the British monarchy keeping up with the effects of the political and social of changing times. In the modern era, the Monarchy continues to maintain its duties and national symbolism . This continuous adjustment has actually proved the monarchy's survival and significance, changing it right into a sign of connection as well as security in the main public eye.

The British monarchy encountered the double obstacle of keeping significance and also browsing the intricacies presented by a swiftly progressing media landscape. This connection in between the monarchy and also media has actually transitioned from typical regulated interactions to a vibrant communication formed by 24/7 information cycles in addition to the increase of electronic systems.

Historically, the monarchy made use that media improves its picture alongside with connecting its function as a supporting power within culture. Very early communications were identified by a formal determined technique that saw the monarchy leveraging print along with program media to share symbolic interactions throughout considerable nationwide occasions. As innovations developed, so did the nature of this connection. The arrival of TV brought imperial occasions straight right into individuals' residences substantially boosting the general public's feeling of connection with the monarchy.

1.4.1. Impact on Royal Duties and Privacy

As time passes with the developments accruing in the world, the increase of electronic media has actually brought brand-new difficulties. The personal privacy of king's

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

participants is often jeopardized with numbers like Prince William plus Prince Harry dealing with extreme media analysis that impacts both their individual lives and also public functions. This examination can have both negative and also favorable impacts: while it enables royals to advertise philanthropic reasons to a huge target market, it likewise results in misstatements together with invasions of personal privacy sometimes causing claims and also public conflict.

In reaction, the imperial household has tactically accepted contemporary interaction innovations to handle its public picture proactively. Using main social media ¹⁵sites systems, sites along with involvement in docudrama jobs permits the monarchy to craft plus regulate its story straight. This method assists establish their program plus respond to false information much more properly.

1.5. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's Significance in The Monarchy

Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's journey, each alone and together as a pair have had a profound impact on the British Monarchy and their surrounding society. Their backgrounds, past, careers and significance as a couple did not only shape their lives, but personal choices also influenced the perception of the public eye and swayed the future of the royal family.

1.5.1. The Duke of Sussex

Prince Harry , or as formally named Prince Henry Charles Albert David , Duke of Sussex and a member of the British Royal family , was born on September 15th , 1984 in London , England as a second and younger son to Prince Charles and Princess Diana After the birth of his eldest brother Prince William . Harry, who was born as a prince to the British

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

royal family, has always been under the spotlight with every move of his being watched globally whether by the media or the public.

As a child that faced difficult times adjusting to school initially , he later on got over that phase and turned into a healthy sociable child with a tense sense of humor , just like his older brother William , Harry went to private schools in London and graduated college in the year of 2003 . Princess Diana, his late mother, made sure to give her sons a normal life despite their royal status so they could experience the world outside of the privileges they have in order to see life from a more humanized point of view.

His childhood was a mixture of prince privileges and the tragedy of losing his mother at the age of 12 years old in 1997 in a tragic car crashes while being chased by the paparazzi. This incident marked a changing point in his life and his loss deeply affected him.

After graduating from Eton college, the prince took a year off to travel to Australia and occupy with a children's charity in Lesotho . In 2005, Harry began his military career which takes a big part of his personal life and got into a decade-long military journey serving in the British army. He was commissioned as an officer in 2006 here he first served in Afghanistan for a 10-week deployment from 2007-2008, and was promoted to Captain in 2012. In addition to his passion with the military, he is also found of charitable work, especially concerning mental health awareness and support for wounded veterans.

In 2016, the prince's life took another turn which was driven by his personal love life. He crossed paths with Meghan Markle , an American actress , after they were set up to a blind date from a mutual friend . The couple fell in love and quickly went forward with the relationship and got engaged. They announced their engagement in November 2017 and had their official marriage on May 19th, 2018 at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

ceremony was done under a shadow of a mixture between the British formal tradition and the modern style.

1.5.2. The Duchess of Sussex

Meghan Markle, her full name is Rachel Meghan Markle . She was born on August 4, 1981, in Los Angeles, California. Coming from a mixed-race heritage, Meghan was raised by her mother Doria Ragland whom she was very close to, and her father Thomas Markle which are regular citizens that worked as a Yoga Instructor and Television lighting director. Growing up in the middle of a variety of cultures; African American on her mother's side and Dutch-Irish on her father's, shaped her personality and what she stands for. Despite the divorce of her parents at a very young age , she still managed to keep a good ad close relationship with both of her parents in addition to her half-siblings .

Markle went to Immaculate Heart High School which is a private Catholic school for girls only and proceeded to get two degrees; Theater and World Studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois where she grew her passion with acting and global issues. Meghan started her acting career with small simple roles in TV shows like "General Hospital" and "CSI: NY."; an American police procedural television series that ran on CBS from September 22, 2004 to February 22, 2013. She became well-known for playing Rachel Zane on the legal show "Suits," where she acted from 2011 to 2018.

Beyond acting she has always been an active humanitarian and had a long lasting commitment towards social causes as she served as a global Ambassador for World Vision and worked with UN women to promote for gender equality.

1.5.3. Meghan Markle Breaking the Rules of Royal Marriages

The rules for a British prince to marry have evolved over time, it involves a combination of legal , religious and traditional requirements in order for him to bring a new

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

member to the royal family . While there have always been specific and strict legal and religious requirements, many traditional expectations have changes and adapted reflecting contemporary values and attitudes. To this day , the monarchy has shown a wide adaptability in embracing more modern and different practices regarding royal marriages and this was revealed with the marriage of Prince Harry .

According to the Royal Marriages Act of 1772, royal descendents are always required to seek the monarch's approval before proposing to their significant other and failure to obtain this consent would automatically disqualify the groom and his bride from ascending to the throne. As prince Harry was sixth in the line to the throne at the time of his and Meghan's marriage, they required the consent of Queen Elizabeth II to marry respecting the Succession to the Crown Act of 2013 that replaced the Royals Marriages Act of 1772 , the monarchy follows this rule assuring that the monarch has a say in the marriages of those closest in line to the crown .

The British monarch is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, traditionally throughout history, royals were always expected to marry within this faith and it was strictly prohibited to marry a Roman Catholic for those in the line until the Succession to the Crown Act of 2013 which allowed that as long as the monarch is not Catholic . Although Meghan Markle was raised as a catholic and attended a Catholic high school, she was baptized and confirmed into the Church of England in order for her to tie the knot with Prince Harry following the religious regulations of the Kingdom and expected from senior royal members.

Traditionally, British royals have followed a path of marrying members of aristocracy or even other royalties. However this tradition have changed over the years and that includes the marriage of Prince Harry since his wife Meghan is an American actress and

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

a divorcée , she broke some traditional expectations making a modernizing step into the monarch and royal family . She even retained her American citizenship after her marriage from the prince, after several discussion around whether she would apply the British citizenship or not but as she departed from their royal duties she did not complete the process.

Usually , royal marriages are a subject to the public eye and a great target for the media always under their microscope getting a significant amount of attention from the media , therefore, the choice of the spouse can influence the public opinion and with that affect the image of the monarchy . Meghan and Harry faced severe media scrutiny and such a negative press coverage similar to the one of princess Diana but a more severe one that over-passed limits with racism towards the biracial Duchess , the daughter of an African-American woman even though she was not the first person of color to join the monarchy but she was seen as “ The Black Duchess “ instead of just a regular royal and that mostly goes back to the lack of diversity and understanding for racial issues, the pressure of press that was put on her because of how different she was to the royals have pushed the couple to step aside from the monarchy .

1.5.4. The Meghan Markle Effect

Meghan Markle's entrance right into the British monarchy noted a substantial transforming factor in the Royal family's connection with the media, her arrival enhanced the analysis of the imperial procedures as well as the family members' ways to modern concerns.

Meghan had the ability to put an enormous impact on the media in several aspects, and was registered as an influencing figure in the world since she was put under the spotlight after getting involved with her current husband prince Harry grandson of the late Queen

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

Elizabeth II. Her name invaded the headlines and the British press on a worldwide level, however, she was not only engaged in political matters or royal ones, her influence went to a more positive one. She shed the light on her media platforms on issues of women's rights inspiring young women

“My favorite thing about Meghan is that, when she was about my age, she made a company change their advert that suggested women are only meant to be in the kitchen. It's a great thing for someone in the Royal family to have achieved. “ (ELLE, 2018, para 06)

Meghan had a significant affect on fashion and beauty, this influence was referred at as “The Meghan Markle Effect “. She was considered as a global figure and a fashion icon influencing consumers' tastes within the industry with her style such as her wedding dress, her engagement announcement outfit which was sold out within hours after her appearance, or the couch that her and her husband prince Harry showed up sitting on in their interview with Oprah that got also sold out by the next day.

Beyond fashion, Meghan's power over the media globally has put the royal family and the monarchy more and more under the spotlight, as she redefined royalty in the eyes of the public by being the first woman of color to be a member of the British royal family helping people from her race relate to the monarchy, in addition to her personal background.

Unfortunately, the Duchess' relation with the media was not always a friendly one, she herself had her own battles with the press and she became quite visible about that as much as she is with other matters. Meghan's visibility concerning her battles with media stress as well as the monarchy's interior characteristics subjected the institution to unmatched public evaluation. This exposure has actually triggered international discussions concerning

Chapter One : The British Monarchy in Transition; Between History and Modernity .

the function and relevance of the monarchy in today's culture highlighting the requirement for innovation and also higher level of sensitivity to the individual health.

The experience of Meghan Markle, that signed up with the royal family members come with by a flurry of media interest highlighting the influence of media stories on public point of view as well as the interior characteristics of the imperial family members. Her as well as Prince Harry's succeeding choice to step far from imperial tasks and also participate in independent media tasks such as take care of Netflix as well as Spotify, mirror a modern method to managing media stress. This technique additionally highlights just how modern-day royals can take advantage of media impact to advertise individual and also philanthropic campaigns while preserving a level of freedom over their public characters.

1.6.Conclusion

The British monarchy has gone through an unmatched evolution that shaped its current state. Coming from an Anglo-Saxon origin through the Norman Conquest , surviving the Industrial Revolution and diving into the modern centuries' regulations , has given the monarchy an image of resilience and adaptation capability . The consistent change of the British monarchy whether in a political or a social way , it has indeed affected the royal family as well and what it is like to be a royal , the level of change has increased and the type has changed depending on the factors that caused it .

The latest influence has been the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who put the institution in an ongoing must to adapt with the transparency with media and the various societal expectations trying to balance between tradition and change.

**Chapter Two : The
Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and
Meghan Markle**

2.1. Introduction

The “Megxit”, a portmanteau of “Meghan” and “exit” that refers to the departure of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry from their royal duties as senior members of the royal family which was announced on January 8th, 2020. The news that caused a major shock on a worldwide scale was announced by the couple through Instagram sharing their departure and becoming financially independent. Their split from the monarchy leaving behind their roles as senior members in the royal family was a significant decision that garnered global attention and shed the light on discussions around the British royals .

On February 19, 2021, Buckingham Palace confirmed that Prince Harry and the Duchess of Sussex are going to relinquish their royal presence and are no longer members of the royal family as the couple perused alongside with their children financial independence and freedom in their daily lifestyle free of the pressure of the media and the press.

The American lead actress of the series “ Suits ” and her prince husband took the decision of their departure with such complex process under unexpected circumstances for the royal family and the public, due to different factors ? where did their shocking decision come from and what are the reasons pushing them to make such unusual move and in what way would that affect both the institution and their community .

2.1. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle Departure from Royal Duties

In January 2020, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle came up to the public with the shocking decision that stopped the world in its ways by stepping back from their duties as senior members of the British royal family . In other words , that announcement was pointed at as the “Megxit “ was a result of a number of factors which come from a combination of

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

personal ,professional and public pressures that widely impacted their lives and the royal institution

2.2. Reasons Behind the Departure

The multifaceted decision made by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex was driven by combination of intense media scrutiny, professional and personal independence, financial issues and deep-rooted family problems.

2.2.1. Media Intrusion and Harassment

Becoming a princess and marrying into the monarchy has to be every girl's dream fantasy. However, Meghan markle along side with her former Prince husband did not complete two years of marriage within the monarchy and yet proceeded to quit their royal duties by stepping back from their roles. One of the main reasons behind the shocking decision significantly goes back to the persistent media intrusion and harassment.

The media harassment was more targeted towards the Duchess Meghan Markle than her husband Prince Harry and that came as a result to a number of factors contributing in the media attack on Meghan. The Duchess of Sussex faced racial undertone press coverage, sexism and racism as a biracial American divorced woman. She was frequently criticized with her behavior, background and even her family history, always compared with Kate Middleton . Before surviving under all this pressure, Markle went through a significant evolution along side with the media's portrayal of her marked with various contrasting narratives and different degrees of scrutiny .

When Meghan first appeared to the public eye as the Prince's girlfriend back in 2016 , the media coverage was mostly positive from a perspective of a modern fairytale , seeing her as a biracial American actress and the first none white person to marry a prince

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

from the British royal family as a progressive step done by the monarchy . Afterwards , a shift accrued and took a negative path as her relationship with Harry progressed , tabloids and newspapers began to publish an increasingly negative stories focusing on her biracial background , American nationality and her career as an actress using such offensive headlines , and on the top of them was *THE DAILY MAIL* so the tabloids continued the onslaught .

"Now that's upwardly mobile! How in 150 years, Meghan Markle's family went from cotton slaves to royalty via freedom in the U.S. Civil War ... while her dad's ancestors included a maid at Windsor Castle" was the Mail spread in 2017. It was accompanied by a flowchart about her mother, titled: "MUM'S SIDE: DIRT POOR IN DEEP SOUTH." (TRT World , 2018 , para 07)

This latter represents a complex intersection of celebrity culture, secrecy and journalistic ethics. Because of how publicly exposed the couple is due to their social titles, they have been subjected to relentless scrutiny , with press and paparazzi getting used to go beyond doing their job ethically and cross boundaries only in pursuit of sensational stories gaining, it started back at the beginning when the two first started dating and got exposed to the public eye back in 2016. With news emerging that the 35 years old American actress was dating the 32 years old British Prince, Who a statement issued by his office accused the press of targeting Meghan to racially-tinged wave of abuse and stated .“ He knows commentators will say this is the price she has to pay and that this is all part of the game . He strongly disagrees . This is not a game its is her life and his “(ABC News. 2016, November 8).

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

From Markle's mother to her father having constant struggle with the paparazzi living rent free at their door steps , ex-boyfriend , ex husband , every friend , co-worker and loved one in her life had been targeted by the press receiving substantial bribes with so much thirst for sensational stories .

“ Markle's mother had been forced to struggle past journalists camped outside her front door , the statement said , and reporters and photographers had tried to gain illegal entry to the home “ (ABC News. 2016, November 8).

This circle continued going on none stop for them as a public married couple from invasive paparazzi tactics to tabloid speculations and the dozens of rumors here and there every now and then , Meghan Markle and Prince Harry have been under the spotlight and constant surveillance, surviving under the pressure of royal lifestyle and facing serious mental health challenges .

Meghan and Harry's experiences seems quite familiar to the British royal family's history, with so much parallels between Meghan's and Diana's experiences, since Meghan echoes those of Princess Diana , Prince Harry's mother , who died in a tragic car crash in Paris 1997 while being chased by the paparazzi on motorbikes which was blamed as a main factor for her crash , following her split from prince Charles which strained the prince's relationship with the press . They both faced intense public attention which undoubtedly affected their lives and mental state despite their largely different circumstances and backgrounds as members of the British royal family. Markle's media coverage has been widely criticized as racist and “bullying” as it was described by her husband who linked it to the treatment of his late mother with her history with the press .October 2019 , in an ITV interview Harry said that his mother's death was like “a wound that festers.” “I think being

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

part of this family, in this role, in this job, every single time I see a camera, every single time I hear a click, every single time I see a flash, it takes me straight back,” he said. “So, in that respect, it’s the worst reminder of her life, as opposed to the best.”

2.2.2. Racial Prejudice and Cultural Differences

One of the major things that sheds the light on why the “Suits” alum and Prince Harry proceeded to step back from their roles as senior royal members was the racial prejudice that she faced within the British royal family and the society since her relationship with prince Harry became public and became more intense after their marriage and her getting into the monarchy . The couple marked a significant moment in the royals history by leaving the monarchy and that decision was influenced by a combination of racial prejudice and cultural differences creating a hostile environment for the couple .

From the very beginning of the Duke and Duchess’ relationship, they were a victim to an increasing amount of media scrutiny. As a biracial woman, Meghan the American actress was the main target subjected to racist commentary in the press, media coverage and main headlines focused more on her heritage and background with seemingly every newspaper , magazine and article talking about their relationship from that angle . This ongoing harassment pushed the prince to step out and speak about the “racial undertone “ in the way the press treated his girlfriend at that time in the most sexist and racist way to the point where she was obliged to declare her “ blackness “ after marrying into the royal family while being subjected to all that negative media coverage .

The coverage Meghan received wasn’t only relentless but grossly cruel , the racism she received went further with comparing her to other members of the royal family questioning and judging every move of hers . She faced double standardization and harsher

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

criticism on her actions and behavior despite how regular it was using racist language and stereotypes , picturing Meghan in the eye of the public as an outsider and sometimes directly referencing her biracial heritage in derogatory terms. Between her and Kate Middleton, from the way they speak, act, dress and style their hair , they were always pitted against each other . For instance, the things that the media gushed when Kate Middleton did were described as a shocking lack of common human decency and an insult to the royal family protocols when Meghan Markle does the exact same acts.

It happened once that Kate was skipping the Earthshot Prize ceremony in Singapore because she prioritized staying with prince George for his exams , a while after that , Meghan missed her first half of the “ Invictus Games” , in order to make sure her little ones; Archie and Lili were settling into the new school year . Even though the two situations are quite similar and the two women are doing the same thing, but the reactions they received couldn't be more different. Kate was considered as a good mother that is putting family first and praised for that, on the other hand for Meghan it turned into an issue of serious speculations over what it meant for the state of their marriage.

Her cultural differences played a significant role in the difficulties she faced in blending in within the royal life , she was born and raised in Los Angeles , California and brought an American culture perspective into the British monarchy in addition to being a Hollywood celebrity and a well known former star in the series “ Suits “ facing a more intense lack of privacy of the critical invasive British tabloid press .

2.2.3. Desire for Financial Independence

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

When the Duke and Duchess of Sussex announced in 2020 that they wanted to step back from their roles as senior members of the British royal family it appeared later that their desire for financial independence was one of the pivotal reasons for them making that decision. They expressed their desire for financial independence in their declaration when they decided to leave, they wanted a greater control over their lives starting on from earning and owning their own money free from expectations of royal duties.

As senior royals in the British monarchy, most of their income came from the Sovereign Grant and Prince Charles' Duchy of Cornwall private estate. This comes with massive benefits but also with severe strings attached since the income brings certain obligations with it and instructions on what they are allowed and not allowed to do for example they are expected to fulfill duties of the monarchy , in addition to rules and regulations around branding and personal freedom . Technically , Meghan Markle's and Prince Harry's wish to be financially independent was much more about freeing themselves from these regulations and bounds just like wanting to build a more sustainable, less state-funded model . Stepping away from their royal duties would mean having more control over their earnings and therefore more control over their lives and where they spend their times.

Financial independence would give them the ability to make decisions without relying on public funds and would reduce media scrutiny gaining more privacy which they lacked severely since they started their journey as a couple and while building a family in the middle of the mess of the British press providing better security as a family which was Harry's main concern since his mother's incident in 1997.

The couple decided to transfer to a new method to gain their income, a model which they as Duke and Duchess of Sussex prohibited from doing. By relinquishing the money received from the Sovereign Grant and focusing on their own earnings, they wanted to plan

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

a way so they would be able to support themselves and their family but still continue their charitable work and establish new organizations.

2.2.4. Family Dynamics and Internal Pressure

The British royal family has always had the aim of creating a flawless, happy family image but yet it was always challenged by the public revelations of fractures and scandals appearing here and there within the institution. After the third World War , the monarchy made a change within its cultural focus and shifted it towards children and families . With the birth of Prince Charles in 1948, it was the right opportunity for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip to portray the function of a contemporary , young , powerful and flawless family allowing the British government to promote the idea of how family connects the British community with one another . However, this perfect image did not last that long with the various fractures and scandals appearing within the royal family only a couple of decades later following the divorce of prince Charles and princess Diana, “The Princess of People’s Hearts” the one that exposed the true story after the collapsed marriage of her and Prince of Wales and how her cries seeking a helpful hand to drag her out of her mental struggles were ignored.

The fall of the royal family’s image proceeded to get worse with the departure of Diana’s son and his wife Meghan Markle. One of the major reasons that contributed in the American actress and Prince Harry taking the decision of leaving behind the life of senior members in the royal family was the different dynamics within the family and all the internal pressures faced by the couple especially the spouse.

From a general view , the relationship between the Duke and Duchess with the other family members have always been marked with tension and differences , as previously mentioned about the matter of how the media and the press preferred Prince William and

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

Kate Middleton over Harry and Meghan creating an atmosphere of rivalry . With the pressure and mess, Meghan was the one to feel most discomfort as a member that came from a different country where she had a particular career , a different race , holding different mentality and yet did not receive any understanding from the family while seriously struggling with mental health issues leaving her with the feeling of receiving no support either emotional or practical in the face of a war with the media and press . According to her husband, members from the family gave tabloids information about him and his family and leaked their personal lives

“There’s leaking, but there’s also planting of stories. So, if the comms team wants to be able to remove a negative story about their principal, they will trade and give you something else about someone else’s principal,” he explains. “You can always say, ‘I didn’t know about this.’ But have you done anything to stop it? And the answer is no. “ (Vogue , 2022 , para 05)

The British royal family always kept its balance under a number of strict rules and protocols and a certain expected behavior from its members . This particular factor , put a significant pressure on Meghan and Harry which usually conflicted with their values so these regulations made it even harder for them to stick to their roles . Therefore, the couple did not fulfill and maintain the media image expected from them and their stressful relationship with the media got intensely messier by time.

Having such busy and open life to the public eye made achieving a balance between the personal private and public life wad difficult, considering their profound desire for privacy and a stable calm personal life that was far away to reach, this situation pushed them another step towards their departure to gain a full control over their lives and freedom in making decisions that align with their personal values .

2.3. Impact of the Megxit On The Royal Family

The “ Megxit “ or in other words , the departure of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex from their positions as seniors in the royal family leaving a remarkable gap in their roster, has had profound and multifaceted effects on the monarchy and its public image. As Meghan brought a new level of diversity to the royal family being a daughter to an African American and white couple who worked as an actress well known on a worldwide level, however, her negative experience of racism have shed the light on the ongoing problems within the monarchy putting it under the microscope of the media challenging the royal family to address its inclusivity and adaptability in a changing world

“ There are now major cracks in the royal family foundation, and this weakness gives anti-monarchists to further their case even more. King Charles has had a rough go in his first year on the throne, and now, the only thing people are thinking about is what could have been if the royal family had reached a compromise with Harry and Meghan to keep them in the palace fold. ” (SheKnows , 2024 , para 05)

The couple has had the drop that flooded the cup and was intensively done with baring all the pressure, stress and mental exhaustion that was increasingly put on them. Weeks before publicly announcing their departure , Meghan and Harry began negotiations concerning their exit , they suggested a scenario of combining public duties with their business outside the royal family which was rejected by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles who insisted they fully commit to being working royals and so negotiations around the Megxit began a while before the shocking announcement “ Their plan to take a different approach was set in motion when they jetted to Canada with their eight-month-old son, Archie, for Christmas. “(Entertainment , 2020 para 02)

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

After useless trials of the prince trying to communicate with the queen not in terms of negotiations but rather as from a grandmother to a grandson which was not possible eventually . On January 08th 2020, and on a Wednesday ten minutes before posting a post on Instagram that put the world in shock , Harry sent a copy of his statement that was previously prepared to prince Charles

“After many months of reflection and internal discussions, we have chosen to make a transition this year in starting to carve out a progressive new role within this institution It is with your encouragement, particularly over the last few years, that we feel prepared to make this adjustment,” (Instagram , 2020)

Following the announcement , the couple moved out to spend some quality time in Canada living on Vancouver island which was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic and due to the fact that airports were closing and flights were getting canceled they moved out quickly to the United States in late March 2020 and settled in California , North America .

Post-departure, Meghan Markle and prince Harry have been engaging in a number of professional ventures and that includes podcast production on “ Archewell Audio Productions focusing on areas such as mental health gender equality and justice , content creation for Netflix signing a multi-year deal programming documentaries, series, feature films, scripted shows, and children's programming , and a chaotic re-entry into the entertainment industry . The aim of their work is to reflect their commitment to produce a positive imagery and use their platforms in favor to social issues and giving the royal family an opportunity to evolve , however , while building this strong connection with the public they also have been continuously outing on stains on the image of the royal family by

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

opening up and having a “ no question is off-limit “ conversations online about their experience within the royal family making it face an inevitable back and forth pressure with the media and the world’s view to the monarchy.

Times that came after the departure weren’t at all easier for the royal family , as the previous Duke and Duchess of the British monarchy made several steps that put more pressure and exposed the family lifting several curtains tackling subjects that have been debated on and on over the previous two years of their marriage and their relationship in general .

2.4.Meghan and Harry’s Media Engagements As Catalysts for change

Since stepping down as senior royals , the prince and Meghan’s engagement with media has been a powerful catalyst for change , by prioritizing more curated engagement , they began reshaping the public discourse around the British royal family bringing attention towards sensitive issues . They followed a particular strategy that works in favor , taking control of their narrative promoting for their philanthropic efforts as a powerful tool for change .

The use of social media have not only worked in the favor of tackling sensitive topics such as mental issues and equality, but it has also been shedding the light on serious inconveniences regarding the traditional norms and expectations within the British monarchy pushing to set new standards for modern royal engagements building a deeper connection with the public sharing their message with their own terms by building sympathetic relationships with reporters .

2.4.1. The Oprah Interview

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

Following the departure of Meghan Markle and prince Harry from the British monarchy as senior royals in the royal family, and exactly a year after their shocking announcement their media engagements which provided a platform for them to showcase their challenges and provide an inside point of view on their personal lives and experiences within the royal family, has started with their two hours interview with the American talk show host, television producer, actress and philanthropist on March 7, 2021, it aired in the US overnight on Sunday and then in the UK on ITV on Monday at 9pm .

That groundbreaking media appearance was a significant event which was arranged couple months ahead of it , after the couple's shocking decision of stepping back hosted by Oprah Winfrey , a close friend to the couple whom they chose due to her reputation in in-depth-conversations . While sitting in a private residence in Montecito , California , where Meghan and Harry reside at a relaxed and intimate atmosphere for such personal discussion

2.4.1.1. The Interview's Revelations

The different conversations within the Prime-Time interview, the Duke and Duchess revealed a number of points concerning their life while being members of the royal family . Whatever their main aim of coming out in this specific bold way, they certainly lifted the lid on several intensely debatable situations and bomb shelled the interview with wide-ranging topics which affected both the public's and the institution reactions.

2.4.1.1.1 Meghan's Suicidal Thoughts

In the highly controversial interview with Oprah Winfrey , Meghan opened up to the world about a lot , but one of the most personal sentimental moments was her experience during the pregnancy with Archie her and Harry's first born . Meghan spoke openly about

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

her mental health struggles while being a senior member of the British royal family and her struggles to fit in

"There was no guidance. Unlike what you see in the movies, there's no class on how to speak, how to cross your legs, how to be royal. That was not offered to me. Even down to the National Anthem - no one thought to say 'oh you're American, you're not gonna know that'. So that's me late at night Googling it..." (SkyNews ,2021 , para 03) .

In addition to the severe scrutiny from the press when she was lacking support from royal institutions about her case .

“Look, I was really ashamed to say it at the time and ashamed to have to admit it to Harry, especially, because I know how much loss he has suffered, but I knew that if I didn’t say it, then I would do it, I just didn’t want to be alive anymore.” (VOX , 2021 , para 02) .

This mental breakdown that led to such suicidal thoughts has come as a result of various factors and pressures that affected as a whole the Duchess’s mental health . Meghan had been a victim of media pressure since 2016 , when her relationship with the prince first became public . By time , and the more time passed and their relationship progressed the more intense the scrutiny got . During the interview, Meghan explained the distress she was put under by the negative and invasive media coverage from the British tabloids which focused on different parts of her personality and mostly her background , race and previous career and her history with acting . Even after she secured the ring and got into the British royal family, that did not prevent her from those attacks but rather put her under more intense pressure , and despite the calls for help she sought from the royal family were not taken under consideration . In fact , she requested for mental care and was faced with denial only

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

. Her mental struggles were coming as a result of the outside pressure but as well from the inside , as the palace refused to refute false stories

"One of the saddest parts," he added, "was over 70 members of Parliament called out the colonial undertones of headlines written about Meghan - yet no-one from my family even said anything. That hurts." (SkiNews ,2021)

She was only told that getting treatment from professional facilities was not possible because of the bad affect it would have on the monarchy and its image while many rumors about her were flying around such as that she made Kate Middleton cry over her daughter's flower girl dress before the wedding which according to Meghan and what she said during the interview , the scenario went the other way around and it was Kate who made Meghan cry .

The couple's experience was quite similar to Harry's mother " The Princess of People's Hearts " , both Meghan and Diana faced severe media scrutiny and a lack of support from the royal family and was widely criticized for being different in one way or another , Harry did express his fears of his wife ending up with his late mother's faith .

In the 90s , Diana was considered as one of the most famous women in the world and not just in the UK for her position in the royal family , her charity work and also her drama with her husband prince Charles . Just like his mother , Harry's wife was as much criticized by the press as Diana was which is why the prince feared " history repeating itself " expressing how she would feel about what happened to his family "I think she would feel very angry with how this has played out. And very sad. But ultimately, all she'd ever want is for us to be happy."(APNews , 2021 , para 06) . Even Meghan mentioned to Oprah her reaching out to Diana's old friend " Because it's like who else could understand what it's actually like on the inside? " (BBC , 2021 , para 01)

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

2.4.1.1.2. Racism Towards the Biracial Duchess of Sussex

Racism impacted severely the couple's lives and their decision to leave their royal duties behind . The Oprah interview did indeed tackle this matter which was a big part of the Duke and Duchess's struggle , they included their experiences within the royal family and the broader societal context in the UK .

Meghan Markle stated that her husband Harry told her how royal insiders were expressing concerns about their child's skin color and how dark skinned will he be while she was pregnant with Archie their first child alongside with other discussions of not granting the baby a royal title with no security . The members were unnamed but Harry assured it was neither Queen Elizabeth II nor her husband Prince Philip . The troubles around their child continued to reach another level to upset the parents a lot more when conversations about him/her not receiving security were happening which the couple mentioned to Oprah ,

"They didn't want him to be a prince or princess, not knowing what the gender would be, which would be different from protocol, and that he wasn't going to receive security.... In those months when I was pregnant... we have in tandem the conversation of, you won't be given security, not gonna be given a title and also concerns and conversations about how dark his skin might be when he's born." (SkyNews , 2021; para 13)

Meghan did also mention the misogynistic treatment she received from the British press and the constant negative, comparative and judgmental portrayal with no internal support . "It confirms what we already knew. The royal family in and of itself is just the lasting remnant of a brutal British empire" , “ The Malcolm Effect “ podcast ‘s host , Momodou Taal , (NBC News , 2021 , para 06) .

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

The Duchess did not speak up about none of these concerns and complains for the previous four years of her and prince Harry being together publicly , she however expressed to Winfrey why they kept their silence for so long .

"I have always been outspoken - especially about women's rights - that's the sad irony of the past four years. I have advocated for so long for women to use their voice and then I was *silenced*....Everyone in my world was given a very clear directive from the moment the world knew Harry and I were dating to always say 'no comment' “. (SkyNews , 2021 , para 10) .

However , the couple made sure they acquitted the family from these advocations and not the institution which is the actual responsible one .

"There's the family, and then there's the people that are running the institution, those are two separate things and it's important to be able to compartmentalize that because the Queen, for example, has always been wonderful to me." (SkyNews, 2021, para 11)

2.4.1.1.3. Harry's Feeling of Being Trapped

Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex , opened up about feeling trapped between the royal family and its institution . After taking Meghan as his wife and dealing with all the media and institutional pressure , he realized that his family and himself were all trapped into that system oppressively , Harry actually admitted he did not realize this fact at all before his relationship with Meghan and it was her perspective that opened his eyes .

“I was trapped but I didn't know I was trapped . My father and my brother, they are trapped. They don't get to leave.....There is a level of control by fear that has existed for generations,” (APNews , 2021 , para 04)

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

Being a royal , a member of the British royal family in the 21st Century is like being confining and devoid of freedom due to all the rules , duties , regulations , expectations and the constant focused lenses of the media . Seeking freedom and independence and wanting to get rid of those chains is what pushed the couple to leave without looking back at what is left behind .

2.4.1.1.4. Prince Harry's Relationship with his Family

After the couple stepped down from their royal duties , and because of the change of status , they were no longer working members in the royal family , they no longer had the right in receiving security overseas . Harry mentioned that Tyler Perry offered them in L.A a house with security after their departure .

“Harry advocated that from the early times of him and his wife being parts of the royal family , there was a big amount of lack of support that the couple expected to receive but did not which pushed them more towards the decision of their departure which was the only option left for them “I was desperate, I went to all the places I should ask for help, and I wasn't given it,” (TheCut , 2021, para 11)

The Duke expressed his deep disappointment towards his family whom had plenty of opportunities to support Meghan through her rough times with the media , the death threats and propaganda . Harry expressed his family's fear from the tabloids turning on them and how they were controlled by it.

The prince expressed as well his love and respect towards his dear grandmother . Meghan and Harry did not blindsided her by stepping down as it was rumored and that she

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

was pretty much in the picture and familiar with their desire of leaving years before they did . Except for the queen who they kept contact with, unlike his father Prince Charles. This latter cut his son and his family off the moment they stepped down and have not talked ever since, as for his brother William who he addressed as they have gone separate ways.

2.4.2. The Netflix Documentary Series “ Harry & Meghan”

After breaking the ground with their appearance at the Oprah interview, the couple continued their projects with the media. They have been a part of a number of Netflix productions with the aim of providing a closer look into their lives and initiatives.

In December 2022, Archewell productions, the company that was founded by the Duke and Duchess , produced a series under the name “Harry & Meghan “ sharing with their audience and with the world a glimpse into their private lives from the very beginning of their journey within the monarchy .

Throughout the six episodes of the series , Meghan and Harry appear in multiples interviews alongside with family and friends speaking about the couple, shedding the light on their everyday routines including what challenges they faced and offering their point of view on a number of events like their disagreements with the royal institution, the matters they tackled in the Oprah Interview and the decisions they made since their departure and before ; being financially independent , moving to the US , keeping distance from the royal family , the intensity of the media and the impact it has on their mental health .

“We are grateful to have the ability to share our love story through such an esteemed creative team and with the global reach of Netflix,” say the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. “We hope it helps others to heal, and to feel inspired.” (Netflix, 2024, Para06)

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

The series were directed by the two-time Academy Award-nominated and Emmy award-winning director Liz Garbus who saw the vision in sharing a globally discussed love story .

“It has been a privilege to be able to work with Harry and Meghan, who bravely allowed themselves to be vulnerable by sharing their personal stories and archive, I hope that when Netflix viewers press play, whatever preconceptions people have, they will be open to the discovery of what we’ve shared in this documentary series. It’s an incredible love story set against the context of huge stakes and their journey is a historical event that will be examined for a long time to come.” (HelloMagazine, 2022, para 06)

2.4.3. Prince Harry’s Memoir : Spare

In January 2023, Harry published his book entitled as Spare , in which he delves into his world with all its struggles and revelations tackling his life as a prince inside the palace walls .

He started out with recounting the deep affect of his late mother’s death princess Diana whom he lost at the age of 12 due to a tragic car crash . This incident impacted him so profoundly and reshaped his life totally. Losing his mother in such was, had control over his mental health , his relationships and his perspective of his role as a royal .“ Harry claims Charles did not hug him , and that he later felt like a politician as he greeted members of the public after his mother’s death” (TheGuardian, para 06)

The prince considered himself as the “Spare” to the Heir and named his book after it, he faced intense pressures and ruthless media scrutiny. Harry opened up also about his

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

struggles with anxiety and depression, about how constantly and since the very beginning he was trapped by unrealistic expectations and invasive press coverage.

“ I was brought into the world in case something happened to Willy .
I was summoned to provide back up , distraction , diversion and , if
necessary , a spare part. Kidney, perhaps . Blood transfusion . Speck of bone
marrow. “ (Mercator, 2023, para 02)

For Harry , meeting his current wife Meghan Markle was his rescue from his reality ,
it was her who lit up his spark . He continued to share one more time with the media and
with the whole world how him and his Duchess shared and faced severe media harassment
and institutional challenges which led them to leave their royal lives , offering an inside view
on the “Megxit” like he did in the Oprah interview .

His book humanized his image in the eyes of the world , and shed the light on his true
self and his inner thoughts concerning his personal life behind the royal titles where he saw
himself as a symbol of resilience seeking his identity and his purpose which makes him not
as different from any other human.

2.5. Institutional and Public Response to the Media Engagement

The British monarchy marks a longstanding symbol of tradition and stabilization
despite the increasingly intense challenges it faced and continues facing in the modern media
landscape . Both the institution and the royal family have been pressured by the mass media
and the intense scrutiny, which particularly got worse after the departure of the Duke and
Duchess of Sussex from being senior members of the royal family dropping their duties behind
. The aftermath media appearances that the couple did have opened the door to a variety of
public reactions and debates .

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

2.5.1. The Monarchy's Response

As the basis of traditions and national commitment to the British royal identity , the British royal family , alongside with the institution , it already faced several challenges since the Megxit in early month on 2020 , members expressed extreme sadness for the broken family bounds

“ The late Queen Elizabeth was “sad” that he and Meghan Markle wished to step back from their Royal duties, Prince Harry has said....The Duke of Sussex talked about the Queen's reaction to Megxit on US breakfast show Good Morning America, one of a slew of interviews he has done to publicize his newly released book Spare. “ (News , 2023 ,para 01)

The couple's high-profile interview with Oprah Winfrey in March 2021 which gave an inside glimpse into the British royals' life and pointed at some sensitive topics such as racism and issues with mental health as it is mentioned previously in the chapter , and other engagements with media that includes podcasts , documentaries and public appearances was not faced with detailed public statements from the royal family but rather a muted reaction , however , when the royal institution felt direct accusations that was mentioned in the Oprah interview which had the Buckingham Palace trembling so they released a statement expressing grief over the situation and gave their word to contact Meghan and Harry as a family support intimately .

Mainly, the royal family simply maintained their official commitments and carried the public engagements and duties as royals showing an image of carrying responsibilities stabilized in front of the public eye and media sticking to their policy of “ Never complain , Never explain “ just like Prince Charles' ignorance to a question he was asked about the controversy after the Oprah Winfrey interview about the allegations of racism , inequality and the lack of support . The couple's opinion about all the mess and the raising theories about the

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

monarchy were simply justified when Meghan addressed it in their documentary “Books were written about our story by people I don’t know. Doesn’t it make more sense to hear our story from us?” (The Guardian , 2023, para02).

2.5.2. The Public’s Reaction

Being so open and having multiple candid discussions about the personal struggles of the Duke and Duchess and criticizing the royal institution and its actions in several media engagements paved the way to a mixed and intense public responses , which ranged from sympathy to criticism .

Among those who appreciate openness and modernity, many people all around the world were fans of Meghan and Harry’s commitment to speak candidly about their experiences . Them being so transparent about the details and their departure and breaking their silence about the issues they faced, gave them a major public perception; “Before seeing the Netflix series I thought all sides were a bit silly. But the case that the duchess endured a wave of intolerance is hard to deny “ (The Gardian , 2022 , Para 01).

Meghan and Harry’s efforts to humanize the royal family by sharing their personal narratives making the monarchy that seemed to the public so distant and reserved , they made it more relatable to ordinary people , fading out the bridge between the institution and the public .

In the modern day, the world is giving so much importance to mental health issues and struggles , a subject that people sympathies with the best , involving such matters within their social media platforms and tackling them in their public engagements was widely appreciated by their audience as they were seen using their fame for the good by advocating and promoting positive change and eventually reaching the values of the young audience . Same went for the racism that Markle was a victim of , “All of these negative traits ascribed to Meghan , this uppity, narcissistic, demanding figure were just a way of calling her out of place. “ (The

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

Gardian , 2022, 04) . The ones supporting Meghan and Harry after their appearances to the public and media , saw them as two ordinary people that want to live freely and at peace , to love and be loved .

Unfortunately for the couple , not everyone was on the same page with them , their departure attacked several negative perceptions for how they contradicted their desire for privacy with their frequent media appearances and they were considered as attention seekers. The couple triggered some hysterical reactions from the tabloids ; “ The Hollywood Reporter” gave a review of the Netflix series ‘ Meghan & Harry ‘ , “The Sun” , “ The Daily Mail “ , “ MailOnline” and even Piers Morgan in his Talk TV even thought he previously lost his job after giving his opinion on Meghan Markle in “ Good Morning Britain” .

Since departure from England to California and the several media engagements the couple had, they were mocked online on multiple occasions . In February 2023, at the Grammy Awards , Trevor Noah¹⁶ made fun of Prince Harry book “Spare” as an amusement gesture while welcoming a guest to the stage . In October 2023, an animated version of Meghan and Harry scene appeared in the cartoon comedy “Family Guy’s” third episode of season 22 after a leading character said “ I will go alone, just like Meghan and Harry” "Sir, your millions from Netflix for...no one knows what." Harry's character replies, "Put it with the rest of them." (People, 2023, para 01)

Away from tabloids and the press, it was not just those , a Conservative member of the Parliament had a word in this mess and addressed his will to raise legislation to strip the Duke and Duchess their royal titles because of discussing family matters online in such an inappropriate way ruining the monarchy’s image and prestige doubting the way it deals with

¹⁶ Trevor Noah : born in 1984, a South African comedian , TV host , political commentator and actor best known for hosting “The Daily Show” (2015-2022) . (Britannica ,2024, para1).

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

contemporary cultural and social matters and that its relevance today may lead to a renaissance .

The widely divided opinions on the Meghan and Harry situation create a balanced debate between modernity and tradition showcasing the nature of the royal family's role and undermined the monarchy's dignity.

2.6. Redefining Royalty

As a grand institution that has been standing on traditional and stabilized regulations for centuries despite the speed of change within the world, the British monarchy was not as immune in front of aftermath of the scandalous departure of its Duke and Duchess . Prince Harry and Meghan Markle stepping back from their royal duties as senior members of the UK royal family, or what it is known as “ The Megxit “ had another saying about the monarchy's stability, as it showed a shift in its role in today's society.

Technically, being born into the royal family means living a royal life, it is neither a choice to make nor an option to pick and never was. Meghan and Harry whose marriage was already considered as a social revolution did not only break the ordinary with their departure but also opened the eyes on the fact that royal members it is something that the modern-day Britain has never seen or expected. What came out of the ordinary is that Meghan and Harry opened the eyes on the fact that royal members are able to leave and seek out their personal and independent professional life outside the traditional confines while being a royal member .

“ ‘Megxit’ is just a calculated risk taken by Harry and Meghan.

However, it has tremendous potential to shift the paradigm of the Royalty. In fact, Harry has shaken the tradition of the British Royals during the last 2-3 years. “ (The Statesman , 2020, para 05)

Harry offered to the monarchy an opportunity to redefine itself , setting a suggestion for future royals of the possibility of balancing the public service they are obliged on with their

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

personal freedom . Meghan's desire to exit was quite expected due to the excessive amount of scrutiny her and her husband were subjected to since their first public announcement as a couple, but it was not expected to affect the monarchy to a certain level , their “ Megxit “ opened the door to discussions about the involving adaptive abilities of the monarchy in the 21st century .

Concerning the monarchy's relationship with the media and press , it has changed through time and eras . The late 1940s were a very quiet times for the British royals when it comes to media and scrutiny , however , the Meghan and Harry situation caused an era of sever scrutiny for the royal family and the institution at all times .

It was already out of the ordinary , Harry's marriage from a biracial American actress that is “ years older than him , something that happened for the first time in the British monarchy's history , there were marriages from divorced partners like his father Prince Charles and his wife Camilla and King Edward III who announced his departure to be with his lover , but Harry's case was different since Meghan got into the family and became a royal despite her background .

In addition to all these factors , the couple making several media appearances after their departure and opening up about royal family matters to the world have brought to light the inner workings of the royal family which challenged the traditional royal communications with the media . It is noticeable how the monarchy tried to maintain a positive image by becoming more active with the members' public relations using social media platform in a more strategic and frequent way with making sure to set bounderies about their personal life in hope of controlling the narrative .

The whole point of the British monarchy and royal family and all those protocols, is to showcase the country as a whole and protect this concept . It was expected from the monarchy to keep up with the modern-day values like mental health awareness and racial diversity,

Chapter Two : Catalytic Role of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

which did not reach people's expectations in the post-Megxit period. However, a positive outcome did appear out of all the mess, after Meghan's statements, the public became more cautious about the royals' privacy and that they are regular human beings before being a part of the British monarchy and the royal family.

As the British monarchy tries to make its way through the aftermath of "Megxit" and the various media engagements of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, the future that is waiting ahead of the institution and the beloved royal family of Great Britain remains uncertain.

2.7. Conclusion

Meghan and Harry's marriage and subsequent departure from the royal family highlighted the difficulties that stand in the face of modern royals in balancing their traditional nature with personal autonomy. Their path from their departure to their increasingly provocative media engagements made them catalysts for change in the British monarchy. As the institution carries on adapting to the changing world with time, the legacy of Megxit will continuously serve as a reminder of the complexities of royal life in the 21st century.

General Conclusion

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Overall, the hypotheses which were suggested with the beginning of this research were validated. The subsequent departure and the decision of Meghan and Harry to step back from their positions within the royal family, did not only light up intense public attention and debates but also shed light on the hardships of navigating a balance between personal autonomy and tradition in the middle of such institution. The couple's story underscored the evolving nature of the British. This incident did not only point on the struggles faced by modern royals but it emphasized as well the massive role that the media and journalism plays in shaping public opinion while influencing the dynamics of the monarchy.

Moving forward to a direction of recovery from the aftermath of all this drama, delving deeper into the long-term implications of the Duke and Duchess' departure from the British monarchy, goes certainly under the shadow of the cruel the media coverage . while the royal family has chosen to adapt in the aftermath of this significant event, however, the public's perception of the monarchy has shifted from the way it was before January 2020, and even though there were plenty of controversies and criticisms surrounding the Megxit, it has redefined the monarchy in the eyes of the public without any doubt which insures the changes and challenges facing the institution.

The last couple of years exposed the evolving nature of royalty in the 21st century the one that applies not only on the British one and their obligation to navigate modern concerns and adapt to societal changes while struggling to maintain the same image within the public's eyes.

This dissertation aimed to shed the light and raise curtains on the tensions between tradition and individual autonomy within royal families, and the hardships that come alongside with holding a royal title . Meghan and Harry's departure served as a poignant reminder of this delicate balance after the prince that holds the title of the Duke of Sussex , a prince of such strong and huge monarchy that survived through centuries and continued

General Conclusion

symbolizing the unity of the United Kingdom, left his home, family and traditional life with the desire for more independency . His and his wife's story have had , and will leave a lasting impact on the British monarchy opening the way to grasp the complexities of royal life in recent society , the problem is not in today's modernity but rather in the incapability of ancient institutions to adapt with the changing times . Meghan and Harry's fairytale will remain a significant chapter in the British history books as catalysts for ongoing reflection within the institution and opening the way for more research into the British monarchy in a contemporary society.

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Summary

ملخص

لقد كان تطور الملكية البريطانية موضوعاً من مواضيع الدهشة المستمرة، مع تاريخها الثري وديناميبتها المعقدة. إن وصول ميغان ماركل، الممثلة الأمريكية ذات العرقين، إلى حظيرة الأسرة المالكة المتجانسة تقليدياً، كان إيذاناً بعهد جديد من التنوع والشمولية، مما أدى إلى تحول تدريجي في الملكية البريطانية وهي تنجو من الصراع بين الأسرة المالكة والجمهور، إلى جانب تغير المشهد الاجتماعي السياسي وتزايد الطلب على الشفافية والمساءلة بما يحقق توقعات الجمهور.

Summary:

The evolution of the British monarchy has been a topic of ongoing fascination, with its rich history and complex dynamics. The arrival of Meghan Markle, a biracial American actress, into the fold of the traditionally homogeneous royal family, has ushered in a new era of diversity and inclusivity making a gradual transformation in the British monarchy as it survives the conflict between the royal family and the public, alongside with the changing sociopolitical landscape and the increasing demand for transparency and accountability reaching the expectations of the public.