



5 Kings Who Shaped the Monarchy

George VI

- Born 1895.
- King of United Kingdom from 1936 to his death in 1952.
- Became King after his brother Edward VIII abdicated the throne.
- Recognized for duty to family and nation.
- Succeeded by his daughter, HM the Queen.



Highlights by Year

1895	Albert Frederick Arthur George born to Mary of Tech and Prince George, second son of Queen Victoria. Known by family as "Bertie."
1900	Naturally left-handed, he was forced to write right-handed and wore leg braces to correct knock knees.
1901	Queen Victoria died and Bertie's grandfather became King Edward VII. Bertie became Duke of York and was third in line to the throne (after uncle and father).
1903	Possibly in response to heavy criticism from father, Bertie developed stammer.
1909	Became naval cadet at Royal Naval College at Osborne.

1910	Edward VII died; father became King George V; Bertie now second in line to the throne and now styled "Prince Albert."
1913-16	Served on HMS Collingwood in West Indies; took part in Battle of Jutland.
1919	Became first royal to qualify as RAF pilot.
1920	Created Duke of York and began to take on royal duties.
1921-23	Prince Albert proposed to Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyons three times; on the third she accepted.
1923	Albert and Elizabeth married at Westminster Abbey.
1925	Albert made his first public speech at Wembley; he stammered and was embarrassed.
1926	Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary born; known as Lilibet by the family. Prince Albert visited Lionel Logue, a speech impediment expert, at Harley Street.
1930	Another daughter, Margaret Rose, joined the family.
1936	January: George V died, and Edward became King Edward VIII. December: Edward VIII abdicated the throne. Albert took the throne as King George VI. The new king created his brother Duke of Windsor. Republic of Ireland created. King George VI made Queen Elizabeth a member of the Order of the Garter.
1937	Lionel Logue coached the king for his coronation speech. 12 May: Coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth at Westminster Abbey. After the ceremony, the king successfully delivered a speech to the nation (Logue was there). December: King George made a live Christmas broadcast to the nation.
1938	The king and queen made a state visit to France.
1939	May: The king and queen made a visit to the US, where they were received by President and Mrs. Roosevelt. It was a successful visit and laid the groundwork for cooperation during WWII. September: The UK declared war on Germany after invasion of Poland. December: The king went to France to inspect the British troops.

1940	<p>The Blitz, a series of raids on London and other strategic cities, began. Despite the danger, the royal family remained in London. The queen explained that the children would not leave unless she did, she would not leave without the king, and the king would not leave in any circumstances whatsoever.</p> <p>The king and queen carried out visits to heavily bombed areas in London.</p> <p>13 September: Buckingham Palace was struck by a German bomb. Queen Elizabeth was reported to have said she could look the East End in the face.</p>
1943-44	George VI visited troops in North Africa, Normandy, southern Italy, and the Low Countries.
1945	Lionel Logue prepared the king for a broadcast celebrating VE day. The royal family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.
1947	<p>The royal family made a tour of South Africa.</p> <p>King George gave up the title of Emperor of India, which gained independence, split into India and Pakistan, and remained members of the Commonwealth.</p> <p>20 November: Princess Elizabeth married Philip Duke of Edinburgh.</p>
1948	<p>Burma gained independence and left the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Prince Charles was born to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.</p>
1950	Princess Anne was born to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.
1951	<p>The king, a heavy smoker, was diagnosed with lung cancer. He had an operation to remove his left lung.</p> <p>King George was not well enough to deliver the State Opening of Parliament address, so it was read for him by the Lord Chancellor.</p> <p>The king pre-recorded the Christmas speech in short sections.</p>
1952	<p>31 January: Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh left on a Commonwealth tour. The king went to the airport to see them off.</p> <p>6 February: King George VI died of lung cancer at Sandringham House in Norfolk. Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II. She was notified while in Kenya and returned to London immediately.</p> <p>15 February: The funeral of King George VI was held at Westminster Abbey, then his body was taken to Windsor where he was buried in St. George's Chapel.</p>

