



5 Kings Who Shaped the Monarchy

George III

- Born 1738.
- King of Great Britain and Ireland from 1760 (after 1801 United Kingdom) to his death in 1820.
- Became King after the death of his grandfather, George II.
- Succeeded by his son, George IV (who had been Prince Regent since 1811).



Highlights by Year

1738	George born to Prince Frederick (son of George II) and Augusta of Saxe-Gotha.
1749	George was created Knight of the Garter.
1751	Prince Frederick died, making George heir to the throne. Later that year, he was invested Prince of Wales.
1755	John Stuart, Earl of Bute, was appointed tutor to Prince George.
1756	Prince George declined offer to move into St. James's Palace on the advice of his mother and Bute.
1760	George II died in October, and Prince George became George III. He surrendered control of Crown estates to Treasury in return for annual income (Civil List Act).

1761	Marriage is agreed between George and Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. She came to London in September and the couple married just hours after meeting.
1762	George purchased Buckingham House for more privacy for his family. Later that year, George dismissed the PM and appointed Bute, his former tutor, as Tory PM. It was not a popular move. Bute promptly negotiated end of Seven Years War. In August, son George born to King George and Queen Charlotte. He was created Prince of Wales a few days later.
1763	Bute resigned as PM. Royal Proclamation defined settlement of territories in New World.
1764	Mozart and his family came to court.
1765	George III had a temporary debilitating illness. The Stamp Act was passed, which affected documents printed in American colonies. Colonists resisted using "no taxation without representation" slogan. The Act was repealed the next year.
1769	George had King's Observatory (Kew Observatory) built in Richmond.
1772	Royal Marriage Act passed: illegal for members of royal family to marry without permission of sovereign.
1773	Boston Tea Party; Port Act passed next year.
1775	Battles of Lexington and Concord marked start of American Revolutionary War.
1778	Papists Act passed. Catholics who were willing to denounce Charles Edward Stuart and swear allegiance to King George would be exempt from Popery Act, would be able to inherit land, and would not have to swear a religious oath when joining armed forces. George III had violent bout of mental instability requiring he be restrained. Britain declared war on France, which had joined America.
1779	George recovered and resumed royal duties.
1781	American forces defeat British at Yorktown. PM Lord North resigned. King George considered abdicating.
1783	Britain acknowledged independent 13 colonies as United States.
1785	John Adams appointed first ambassador to Britain. When King met him, he said: "I was the last to consent to the separation, but the separation having been made...I say now that I would be the first to meet the friendship of the United States as an independent power."

	Prince George, heir to the throne, married Maria Anne FitzHerbert, who was a Catholic widow. He did not have father's permission, making the marriage invalid.
1788	George III suffered an illness that frightened the queen; Parliament adjourned because of king's illness. Parliament could not function because king couldn't deliver Opening of Parliament speech. Parliament discussed making Prince George the Regent.
1789	Regency Bill passed (legality not clear because done without king's authority). George recovered and agreed with Parliament's actions. The Bill made Prince George the Regent and Queen Charlotte guardian of the king and their children. Later that year, French Revolution began.
1793	King and Queen of France executed. Great Britain and Hapsburg monarchy formed coalition against France.
1795	Prince of Wales married Caroline of Brunswick.
1801	Act of Union created United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.
1803	Napoleonic Wars began. Faced with possibility of invasion, thousands joined British army.
1804	George III had another temporary illness.
1810	After the death of his (favorite) daughter Amelia, George III fell into illness that did not respond to treatment.
1811	The Regency Act passed most royal duties to Prince George, who became Prince Regent.
1815	British and German troops defeated Napoleon at Waterloo.
1818	Queen Charlotte died at Kew Palace.
1820	George III died at Windsor Castle; he was succeeded by his son who became George IV.