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Consignes

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I - Résumé analytique comparatif

In the wake of Queen Elizabeth II's death in early September 2022, many have come to question what such a paragon of British monarchy has truly bestowed upon the British people. Indeed, the question of Queen Elizabeth II's legacy is one that has come to haunt many Britons in the ever-growing quest for British identity.

It appears first of all, that the queen's legacy is one of unity, commitment and of a strong British identity. Indeed, the queen's wish to emit a strong message of unity, mostly by managing to hide the reality of the United Kingdom's diversity and divisions, seems to be one of the key components of her legacy (doc.1). She also came to be known for her commitment and her dedication to her role, which she truly fulfilled, inspiring others to aspire to such devotion (doc.2). Furthermore, Queen Elizabeth II's reign will have greatly strengthened British identity, thanks to her ability to portray the United Kingdom, despite its flaws, as a fundamentally good country (doc.1), while also holding on to the myths of the British empire's benevolence (doc.2).

However, the late queen's legacy also takes a darker turn, when one considers her role as a figurehead of British imperialism, and how her legacy has in some aspects, weakened the British monarchy. Indeed, one of the most important elements of Queen Elizabeth II's rule was the downfall of the British empire, which led to a considerable decrease in the United Kingdom's global influence (doc.2). In addition, in trying to preserve a certain sense of mysticism around the British monarchy, the queen ended up being admired for herself, hence unwittingly taking attention away from the role of the monarchy itself (doc.1). Finally, Queen Elizabeth II's legacy is obscured by her role as a symbol of British imperialism, where she greatly contributed in downplaying the honor of the British empire's crimes, as well as glorifying its colonialist past (doc.2).

Therefore, it would appear that Queen Elizabeth II's legacy is as rich as it is contradictory. While her legacy cannot be apprehended without its unifying and symbolical aspects, it must also take into account the tragic part of which she is a part of, hence leaving Britain as a nation

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whose future remains unclear.

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II- Essai argumenté

With the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the British monarchy's longest-ruling sovereign, it seems that the British monarchy is more than ever in turmoil. Indeed, the death of the queen is yet another curse in a long list of plagues that seem to afflict the monarchy. Whether it be Prince Harry's escape from the royal family or the questions surrounding Charles III's role as future king, one can wonder if the British monarchy can even survive such a series of challenges. I believe that despite these challenges, the monarchy still has the means to overcome the threats that are posed.

The British monarchy can count on the weight of history and the richness of its past in order to survive the challenges of today. Indeed, Britain remains one of the oldest countries in the world, and possesses a flurry of historical figures upon which the monarchy can draw new strength. From the glory of Richard the Lionheart to the infamy of Oliver Cromwell, the British monarchy is rich with figureheads that many Britons still look up to today. The British monarchy equally oversaw the construction of great monuments, such as Big Ben, or the creation of the British Museum. Granted, the British monarchy also knew darker days, in particular its participation in European colonialism. Yet the past continues to be a source of admiration for many Britons, hence strengthening the monarchy today. Furthermore, the British monarchy has already overcome quite a few difficulties in the past, and has always been able to bounce back. The Glorious Revolution for example, saw the transformation of Britain's absolute monarchy into a parliamentary monarchy. This example illustrates the British monarchy's ability to adapt, a tool that could very well come in handy to the monarchy today.

Furthermore, the current political structure of the United Kingdom still allows for a strong monarchy. Indeed, Britain's political power has historically stemmed from two types of power: effective and dignified power. While the effective power nearly always has the last say, the British monarchy's strength still greatly flows from the role played by dignified power. For example, the House of Lords' role as the second political force behind the House of Commons illustrates

how the British monarchy still possesses a certain amount of political power.

Finally, the British monarchy's last guarantee in the face of new challenges and threats remains its popular support. Indeed, nearly two out of three Britons do not wish to witness the end of the monarchy, showing that support for the British monarchy has not waned, in spite of the money crisis it is confronted with. Elizabeth II's rule has greatly contributed to this unwavering support, as she embodied both the longevity of the British monarchy and its ability to constantly renew itself in order to better unify its people.

In conclusion, it would appear that the British monarchy is still not ready to succumb to the bone of its existence that are the many challenges and threats that oppose it. Whether it be thanks to its rich history as well as its current popularity, the British monarchy still possesses too many guarantees in order to be worried by the current rising challenges.

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III- Thème

Having scoured the rejoicing roads of London on the queen's coronation day, in 1953, sociologists Michael Young and Edward Shils described the event as "a grand act of national communion". It took its full meaning, they wrote, in the sense that it was "not an individual experience, but a collective one", which rallied thousands of families in a collective fervor akin to the victory celebrations over Nazi Germany. The air was rich with human warmth; even pickpockets had stopped working, and there reigned a spirit of fellowship that would have horrified "those who possess the nationalist bias of the educated people of today, especially those with a radical or liberal political disposition".

Today, while inequalities have unceasingly risen in the United Kingdom, the monarchy seems to have conserved its popularity. Nearly two out of three Britons approve of its existence. There remains only 22% who wish for its disappearance, the most hostile being the Scots. Surprisingly and paradoxically enough, when times are tough, the royal family appears to serve as a derivative or as

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a consolation. During the royal weddings of the last 20 years, there always was a fool who claimed that the nation's morale needed to have its spirits lifted.