



Queen and Country, William Shawcross, Ebury Publishing, 2012, 1849903778, 9781849903776, .  
 "In the old days, the monarch led his soldiers on the battlefield and his leadership at all times was close and personal. Today things are very different. I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice. But I can do something else. I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations." —from Queen Elizabeth II's Christmas broadcast, 1957  
 This beautiful and perceptive book details the Queen's achievements through decades of upheaval and reveals the personal qualities that have made those achievements possible. With an authoritative text and remarkable photographs — most of them in colour — Queen and Country tells anew the story of Queen Elizabeth II's 50-year reign. From the romantic and tragic beginning, to the tumultuous and eventful present, the BBC along with reporter, author, and broadcaster William Shawcross show how Elizabeth II's strength of character, acute intelligence, and ingrained reticence have both shaped and been buffeted by a drastically changing world. The story that Shawcross tells focuses on the Queen's constancy through 50 years of extraordinary change. From the middle of the twentieth century to the beginning of the twenty-first, the Queen has watched the rise and fall of labour unions, the building and partial dismantling of the welfare state, and the progress by turns of socialism, conservatism, Labour, neo-conservatism, and New Labour. She has been counselor and sometimes friend to ten prime ministers of Britain and to dozens of Commonwealth leaders abroad. The small and mainly respectful band of reporters present when Elizabeth became queen have been replaced by an enormous cohort of technicians operating in a variety of media with a relentless and remorseless hunger, not so much for news as for scandal. But, while members of her family have been embarrassed or disgraced, her own rectitude has never been questioned. Queen Elizabeth's real achievement is that she has been true to the promise she made to her subjects in her Christmas broadcast in 1957. From the Hardcover edition..

The Queen , Ann Morrow, Aug 1, 1983, , 254 pages. A profile of Britain's monarch provides a behind-the-scenes account of her private life and family as well as of her official responsibilities, including an account of the ....

The Queen the life of Elizabeth II, Elizabeth Longford, 1983, Biography & Autobiography, 415 pages. Traces the life story of Britain's Queen Elizabeth and attempts to create a true picture of her personality and accomplishments.

The Six Wives of Henry VIII , Alison Weir, Dec 1, 2007, Biography & Autobiography, 656 pages. The tempestuous, bloody, and splendid reign of Henry VIII of England (1509-1547) is one of the most fascinating in all history, not least for his marriage to six extraordinary ....

Murdoch , William Shawcross, 1992, , 492 pages. A biography of international media baron Rupert Murdoch traces his rise from Australia, to London, to New York and Hollywood, emphasizing his business instincts, view to the ....

The monarchy an oral biography of Elizabeth II, Deborah Hart Strober, Gerald S. Strober, Jan 2,

2002, Biography & Autobiography, 574 pages. A portrait of Queen Elizabeth, based on interviews in Britain and elsewhere, provides a glimpse into the public and private worlds of the Windsors, and discusses major issues ....

Queen Elizabeth II Her Life in Our Times, Sarah Bradford, 2012, Great Britain, 305 pages. From Sarah Bradford, the best-selling author of George VI, Elizabeth and Diana, the definitive biography of Queen Elizabeth II, to tie in with the Diamond Jubilee. Elizabeth II ....

Where Queen Elizabeth Slept and What the Butler Saw A Treasury of Historical Terms from the Sixteenth Century to the Present, David N. Durant, Jul 15, 1998, History, 360 pages. Explores how people lived, what they ate, how they spoke, how they dressed, what games they played, and how their homes looked.

Elizabeth II portrait of a monarch, Douglas Keay, 1991, , 314 pages. .

Queen Elizabeth II , Judith Campbell, 1980, , 184 pages. Illustrated with more than one hundred photographs, this portrait of Elizabeth II from her birth to the Silver Jubilee offers insights into the balance she has successfully ....

Queen Elizabeth II a woman who is not amused, Nicholas Davies, 1994, Biography & Autobiography, 511 pages. An expert royalty watcher exposes the private lives of Britain's ruling dynasty, detailing Elizabeth's celibacy, Prince Philip's adulterous affairs, and the demise of Charles ....

Sideshow Kissinger, Nixon, and the destruction of Cambodia, William Shawcross, 1979, History, 467 pages. Details the Nixon administration's ignominious conduct in relation to Cambodia.

Queen Elizabeth II A Birthday Souvenir Album, Jane Roberts, Sep 30, 2006, , 120 pages. The official publication commemorating the Queen's 80th birthday in June 2006 is a unique and personal biography-in-pictures that shows her life as a daughter, sister, wife ....

The year 2002 marks the fiftieth anniversary of Elizabeth II's accession to the British throne. To celebrate this occasion, William Shawcross, an award-winning writer and journalist, has written an intimate and revealing portrait of the Queen and an absorbing narrative of how the faces of the monarchy, Britain, and the world have changed over the past fifty years. Britain today bears little resemblance to the country the Queen inherited in 1952. There is more criticism than deference; the institution of the monarchy is no longer accepted unquestioningly. Yet, as Shawcross describes here, Elizabeth's long and valiant, sometimes difficult, always challenging reign shows us a monarch who has risen admirably to the occasion and has held the country and the commonwealth together.

Drawn from the BBC's landmark four-part television series, "Queen and Country" combines personal recollections, classic archive film, and contemporary footage, as it examines how the Queen has adapted and succeeded. Exploring several aspects of her public role -- including her relationships with successive prime ministers -- Shawcross shows how she has remained a fixed point in the storm, a reassuring bedrock of stability, calm, and good sense, who has earned the respect and affection of the world.

With more than one hundred photographs, this volume focuses on four parts of the Queen's life. The first explores the central relationship between the Queen and her subjects. Her private life is the subject of the second part as Shawcross describes how she enjoys horse racing, her dogs, shooting, and family life. He also discusses the turbulence of her children's marriages and lives. Part III focuses on the Queen's political role as head of state and explores how close she is to the center of decision making. The final part follows Elizabeth II as she travels the globe and strengthens the ties of the commonwealth.

Written with the cooperation of the Queen's family, friends, and her trusted aides, this unique portrait

accompanies the celebration of her golden jubilee that will be one of the most televised and written-about events of 2002. "Queen and Country" is the most authoritative account of Elizabeth's reign that will appear during this year-long celebration.

Watching Queen Elizabeth place flowers at a makeshift memorial to Diana in 1997, journalist (and renowned Nixon-basher) William Shawcross sympathized with the often misunderstood monarch: "I thought how lonely she must feel, and how perplexed she must be by the vast changes through which Britain has passed in the decades since her accession."

The U.K. is now not quite so united, not quite so British, not nearly so powerful as it was in the time of her father, George VI. Elizabeth has struck many observers as a lonely, aloof soul, struggling valiantly to hold a difficult family together while assuring her nation that the constitutional monarchy remains relevant in the modern world.

Over half a century of rule, Shawcross suggests, the queen has risen to every occasion and capably led both the British Commonwealth and the royal family, even if both have given her plenty of troubles in the bargain. This well-written and nicely illustrated portrait does a fine job of showing the many ways she has earned the affections, respect, and consent of her people. --Gregory McNamee

Celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee, this lavishly illustrated biography attempts to portray the monarch in both her personal and public capacities. Noted journalist Shawcross (Sideshow, etc.), who had the cooperation of the Palace, has set himself a difficult task. Those covering the royals have to navigate between two extremes: the Scylla of salacious gossip and the Charybdis of dull, "officially sanctioned" Palace propaganda. Shawcross could certainly never be accused of salaciousness. The Elizabeth II he describes is unflappable and devoted to her duties as queen. Is Elizabeth, as many of the tabloids claim, a coldly detached and unfeeling individual? Shawcross thinks not. "[C]lose friends... say that though she might not reach out and hug you, she will be thoughtful and concerned about your welfare, and she is a good listener." Shawcross gives us the history of Elizabeth's long reign. As the times have changed, Shawcross contends, so has Elizabeth: "The Queen has not sat back and let the tide of events surge over her. She has responded to the demand for greater openness." Shawcross details the British tabloid wars that have raged since the 1980s and tells how the royal family has increasingly been the subject of invasive and titillating press scrutiny. The book opens and closes with the fallout from Princess Diana's death. This rather reverential biography should please fans of the British monarchy, although it won't exactly satisfy the public's rabid appetite for gossip.

Those who believe that the institution of monarchy is archaic and serves no purpose in the modern nation-state might find Mr. Shawcross's book somewhat surprising. Employing a succinct writing style, Mr. Shawcross provides his reader with a fascinating glimpse into the woman who, by accident of birth and unforeseen dynastic events, has occupied the throne of Great Britain for half a century and who, in a quiet, unassuming way, has exacted considerable influence over the politics of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, and world. This book shows the error in characterizing the Queen as a mere figurehead. Indeed, her role as confidant to prime ministers, the political knowledge and wisdom she has acquired through her lengthy tenure as sovereign, her ability to lead by example, and her steadfast willingness to dedicate her life to the service of her nation and the Commonwealth, combine to produce a portrait of a woman who is anything but a token head of state.

I found this book very interesting. I suggest all Britons campaigning for a republic read this book. It proves how influential and important the monarchy really is. It also proves what a brilliant woman Elizabeth II is and how she has come to embody the ideal constitutional monarch. What I found most interesting is her actual involvement in British (and many Commonwealth) affairs. Most Americans think of her as a mere figurehead who opens up hospitals here and there. This is far from the truth. As she is probably the most experienced diplomat in Britain, her sage counsel to Prime Ministers has proven invaluable. I urge those who pass off Elizabeth as dispensable to read this book and see how indispensable she really is.

"There was something magical about this Queen's accession to the throne. She is the only woman known to have gone up a tree a Princess and come down a Queen." William Shawcross is referring to the circumstances of Her Majesty's accession which happened automatically once her father, King George VI died. She and her husband were in Kenya at the time with a small company of courtiers and servants on a trip on behalf of her government since her father was stricken with cancer. At a place called Treetops, which was a hut built within an enormous and old fig tree, the small royal entourage watched all sorts of wildlife gather at a salt lick, and it might have been when they were there that her father passed away. I loved this story told by Lieutenant Michael Parker, the Prince's Private Secretary: "Parker remembered ever after that as they sat there a large white eagle circled and swooped low above their heads. He was concerned that it might even dive on them. Later he realized that the appearance of the eagle had almost coincided with the moment when the King died."

Shawcross wrote this book to coincide with Her Majesty's golden jubilee. As a protestant American, I've always scoffed at all of the pageantry which the British subject themselves to. You must understand my religion is a no frills religion, my government, a no frills government. A monarchy of any kind seems outdated. What purpose could it possibly serve? And so too today, there are some in Great Britain who feel the same way. At one of my workplaces, a British couple would talk about such things like the Trooping of the Color as if it were some grand event not to be missed. What is the Trooping of the Color, I thought? Who cares, was another? I'm slowly beginning to understand why.

I wish I had read this book before Ben Pimlott's. It is infinitely easier to read, not as detailed. Shawcross's chapter on "Constitutional Monarch" is infinitely easier to comprehend than others I've tried to read. He has clearly written this book for the lay reader. I'm finally beginning to understand vaguely the workings of the British system of government. And most importantly why people love this particular monarch so much the world over and why the Brits are so fond of the monarchy. It somehow doesn't seem so strange to me anymore. Shawcross succeeds in revealing Queen Elizabeth II's character traits which account for her popularity the world over, even if she has some fierce critics in her own country. In her relationships with the many prime ministers who have come her way, she has never forced her opinions on anyone, always advising, and listening to their concerns about issues and crises. She is somehow above the fray, making it easy to accommodate a new prime minister, whether they be Conservative or Labour leaders. Many prominent statesmen make some of the same comments about her that she has had a stabilizing influence in so many crises around the world. Reading this book you'll understand too how Great Britain has evolved, changed so much since the beginning of her reign. Shawcross states in his closing chapter that "In all the turmoil and change, only the Queen has remained the same—a still small voice of calm at the vortex of the storm."

Her role of peacemaker stems from her character, her religious beliefs, her sense of duty, undoubtedly instilled within her from her symbolic anointing with oil during her coronation ceremony in 1953. I loved Pimlott's detailed description of the ceremony. Shawcross also quotes Pimlott quite often. I share with you a quote I loved by Lord Tweedsmuir/John Buchan in his *Pilgrim's Way* about King George V, Queen Elizabeth II's grandfather: "He had one key of access to all hearts, his sincere love of his fellows....His simplicity, honesty, and warm human sympathy made themselves felt not only in the Empire but throughout the globe, so that millions who owed him no allegiance seemed to know and love him. He was a pillar of all that was stable and honourable and of good report in a distracted world."

I am going to disagree with my fellow reviewers. This was a fluff piece about Elizabeth II by a well respected author. Shawcross is the author of *Sideshow*, a definitive book about the the American campaign in Cambodia. This was a hard hitting book that asked some tough questions about the Nixon's administration spread of the war into Cambodia. I would have thought Shawcross would have done the same with the British royal family. This was not the case.

Shawcross details the long reign of Elizabeth II. She has been a success not only in her relations with the British political process, but also Commonwealth relations. To say otherwise would be to go

against her solid reputation. However, her sister Margaret, and her children Anne, Charles, and Andrew have had disastrous marriages, and have generally not been successful in representing the British royal family. Shawcross defends these members, but is not critical enough of them in his history of the British monarchy.

To mark this momentous occasion - the Golden Jubilee - William Shawcross has written a revealing and intimate portrait of the Queen, and an absorbing study of the changing face of monarchy and of Britain during the past half-century. This has been a period of unprecedented and often turbulent change. Britain today bears little resemblance to the country the Queen inherited in 1952. *Queen and Country* looks at how the Queen has adapted to the swirl of events taking place around her. By examining several aspects of her public role - including her relationship with successive prime ministers - William Shawcross shows how the Queen has been a fixed point in the storm. Her stability, calm and good sense have earned her the respect and affection of the nation. In an age when the private lives of the royal family have become the subject of intense media attention and public scrutiny the Queen has remained an elusive, even enigmatic figure. With rare access to senior royals, close friends and colleagues, William Shawcross uncovers the Queen's private passions, and provides a compelling picture of a very human monarch.

'Shawcross's thesis - that the Queen's unchanging nature has been invaluable in a half century when British society has suffered bewildering changes - is not new, but is well argued and impressively buttressed with sound historical commentary. What is quite new is the generous portrait of an attractive and funny woman.'

'The BBC's four part series on the Queen is a wonderful piece of TV. In fact, we would argue it is one of the best and most revealing documentaries the Beeb has ever commissioned. William Shawcross, who made the series, humanises the Queen in a way we have not seen before. The Queen comes over as a witty, likeable, feisty, intelligent lady who has borne the burden of monarchy with great style. Better still, the Royals emerge as a resilient family with a sense of humour - and a real affection for each other. Shawcross has not done this through spin. He has done it by allowing the viewer to see the real family. This series will change the way ordinary Brits view the Monarchy for ever. It is a TRIUMPH.'

'*Queen and Country* (is) a serious historical documentary fronted by a respected journalist - William Shawcross. No BBC series with this kind of access could be expected to put the boot in, but to what extent should the documentary get down on one knee? Realising how risky opinion is, the solution of Shawcross and his producer, John Bridcut, is to concentrate on what all good history should attempt: the sharp, small, unexpected details from the past.'

The British monarchy is the oldest in Europe, dating back, as it does, to God. Elizabeth was, of course, not born to be Queen but it was, as Churchill later acknowledged, happy circumstance that Edward VIII abdicated and that his brother and niece acceded to the throne. Theirs has truly been a lifetime's devotion and dedication to the service of their nation.

The Queen is not only one of the most beautiful women of hers or any other generation but she is also one of the funniest, most down-to-earth and above all, cleverest. She may have to keep her counsel at times, but every prime minister has acknowledged that without her key strategic thinking at their weekly meetings, the country - indeed the world - would have collapsed into economic and spiritual depression. Single-handedly, she has eradicated apartheid through her personal relationships with the heads of the Commonwealth.

Her children may have not always had the happiest of times, though their troubles have always been wildly exaggerated. The Queen has always been the perfect mother and wife. It was once even suggested that Prince Phillip had had an affair. This is typical of much of the scurrilous and utterly unfounded reporting of the media in the latter part of her reign, and is one of the reasons why I have always had as little to do with the gutter press as possible.

As we move into the 21st century, the monarchy has never been more important. The whole country

owes her a huge debt of servitude for the duty - so nobly fulfilled - that she consecrated to us 50 years ago. When the late king died, my mother wore a black armband for a month; when, God forbid, Elizabeth dies I will wear mine for a year.

The videos explore the different aspects of her complex public roles as sovereign, head of the Commonwealth and head of state, and examine how close she is to the centre of decision-making in Britain. In an age when the private lives of the royal family have become the subject of intense media scrutiny, the Queen has remained an elusive, enigmatic figure. With rare access to the people closest to her, William Shawcross uncovers the Queen's private passions, providing a compelling picture of a very human monarch. Queen and Country reveals who has most influenced her, how she handles problems within her own family and how she relaxes.

Britain today bears little resemblance to the country the Queen inherited in 1952 and the last 50 years have been a difficult period of unprecedented and often turbulent developments, throughout which the Queen has been 'the one fixed point in a changing age'. Her unyielding commitment and loyalty to her subjects has earned her the respect and affection of the nation.

<http://eduln.org/14463.pdf>

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