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Parliamentary Life and Democracy in 21st Century Britain

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Dedication

I offer this modest work to my parents: first, to my beloved father “Mohammed” who always helps me, advices me and has worried about me all the time. Second, to my lovely mother”Mazouza” who always scarifies to make me happy, who fills my heart with love, tenderness, willingness and happiness.

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Acronyms

MP: Member of Parliament

MPs: Members of Parliament

UK: United Kingdom

US: United States

Abstract

Parliament is a place where people can speak or discuss matters and interests of the population, and where all the points of view are held, those who argue, try to persuade or support and those who oppose. It is a place where all the political parties aim at a variety of goals. Nowadays, most people think that parliament is the best form of government which achieves a sort of democratic system, and it is considered as the sovereign legislative authority in the state. Parliament is considered as the essential part of the political life in Britain and in citizens' life, by which democracy can be reached, because the right policies result more from discussion shared by many persons than from decisions taken by a minority. Accordingly, elected individuals ought to recognize local, national and international interests. In Britain, parliament is the supreme legislative authority and has legal independence in virtually all matters, and for some politicians is not, and it is a difficult task to restrain the power of the executive. Parliament has two essential chambers; the House of Commons and The House of Lords. Each chamber has its own works and functions.

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General Introduction

Parliament is a word which is derived from the French language « parler » which means « to speak ». Parliament as an institution is one of many forms of government known by humanity throughout history. Its beginning is originated from the simple head of the family to dictator, divine ruler, or emperor. In this respect, one may ask the following question: what is the main role of the British parliament?

Nowadays, most people think that parliament is the best form of government which achieves a sort of democratic system. In this context, British people do not disagree, and it is considered as the sovereign legislative authority in the state. Precisely speaking, parliament is a place where members can speak or discuss matters and interests of the population, and where all the points of view are held, try to persuade, or support and those who oppose, it is a place where all the political parties aim at a variety of goals.

Parliament is considered as the essential part of the political life in Britain, by which democracy can be reached, because the right policies result in more from discussion shared by many persons than from decisions taken by minority. In this respect, the Member of Parliament (MP) elected by citizens, must go forward to realize the interests on local, national and even international matters. And that must be the real task of a parliament in a democratic government. So, did Britain get the real sense of democracy?

In Britain, parliament is the supreme legislative authority and has legal sovereignty in virtually all matters. However, it does not obtain its authority from written constitution as it is the case for the American Congress for example. Instead, its powers are based on traditions and customs as well as on written laws, but it acts under its legal responsibility. The main activity and role of the parliament is passing laws, voting on financial bills (so that government can carry out its legitimate business), examining and overseeing government

General Introduction

politics and administration. Here we may ask the following question; Is it a strong institution or weak one?

Therefore, British parliament has two chambers, the House of Commons and The House of Lords. Each chamber has its own features and its own work. The House of Commons is considered as the supreme or sovereign power in Great Britain. However, the House of Lords is considered as a strange body. So, to which extent we can say that the House of Commons has more authority than the House of Lords?

Moreover, we may hypothesize the following statements: It has the function of passing laws, overseeing government politics and administrations, maybe it is successful, maybe it is failed and weak, and maybe it has to vacillate sometimes. Maybe the House of Commons has more authority than the House of Lords.

The choice of this topic “Parliamentary Life and Democracy in 21ST Century Britain” came after deep thinking about the importance of this political institution “Parliament” in the state and upon the population. Also, it demonstrates the fact of this institution which symbolizes the power in the state. The importance of this research is to prove if it is a strong or weak body in the country.

The objective behind this research is to clarify the real image of the British Parliament that it is really a strong institution as its leaders alleged or it is weak. I want to investigate that the idea of the British Parliament is considered as the essential part of both the political life and citizens is true or false, or if it has known any regression and what those circumstances were. Also I work on analyzing its members’ role, and its relations with other institutions. Then it is the attempt to find out the Political System during the 21ST Century in Britain.

General Introduction

The work is divided into three main chapters; each one is concerned with a specific view. The first chapter deals with the historical view of parliament. It is divided into three parts. The first part includes a general view about different meaning of democracy. The second is related to the parliamentary life. The third concerns Constitutional Monarchy.

The second chapter is pertaining to literature review of the idea of evolution and regression. It is divided into ten parts. Each part has a relationship to parliament.

The last chapter deals with the two chambers of parliament. The first part deals with the House of Commons. However, the second part deals with the House of Lords. Then, in the last part, I work on analyzing failure and success of these two chambers.

The methodological process of this work is basically historical and descriptive because of the nature of the topic as a study of the political institution in Britain. I organized this work chronologically starting by its beginnings, and then I described its components and its works, and finish it by giving some analysis of Parliament's Chambers.

The approach in this work focuses on both quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative is based on election of the season of 2005-2006. While qualitative is based on the acts of reformation.

The conclusion of this work aims to show the importance of the House of Commons which is more powerful than the House of Lords.

Chapter One

Chapter one: Parliamentary Life, Democracy and the Constitutional Monarchy

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Introduction

In this Chapter, we shall discuss the following terms: Democracy, Parliamentary Life and the Constitutional Monarchy. First, the work starts by defining Democracy from different point of views and from one scholar to another. Second, we shall provide the history of the Parliamentary Life in Britain. Finally, the light will be shed on the Constitutional Monarchy in Britain. A focus will be given the key factors of Constitutional Monarchy.

1. Democracy

1.1. Definitions of Democracy

The term Democracy is originated from Ancient Greece; Greek “Demokratia” and means “Rule of People”. It is divided to two parts “Demos” which means “People” and “Kratos” which means “Power” or “Governance” in the Fifth (05th) Century BC to denote its existence in the states of Greek City-Political Systems.¹

1.1.1. Dictionary definition

Merriam Webster Dictionary defines Democracy as a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.²

¹<http://www.123helpme.com/search.asp?text=athenian+democracy&page=2&sort=rating> December12.2017

² Merriam Webster Dictionary since1828 December12.2017

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1.1.2. Plato's Democracy

The great philosopher Plato says about democracy the following:

*"Democracy is rule by ignorance because politicians have no knowledge of what is good for the state as a whole; and rule by ignorance will be bad for everyone. Democracy is based on freedom of particular kind - the freedom to do what you want .But if you don't know what is good for you, and then this kind of freedom is actually harmful."*³

Plato sees democracy as a political system run by fools. The best thing is to take over the Administration to state affairs specialists regardless of extent of representation of the people's wishes and whims. In Plato's Theories, he sees also that there is a perfect case of that must prevail successful political system. Plato believes that the rule of nature and the rule of powerful to the Poor has an impact in the democratic system which aims to eliminate the gap between rich and poor appearance as this system calls to the rule of the people by himself with the need of analysis of the ruling courage force of wisdom and virtue, as well as the key element is freedom. So, as Plato says that we cannot force someone on the war and it does not implement verdict on criminal. Then, the like should be left people walking on a whim; say what they want and do or work what they want, does not appear on their shyness or the Law. The advantage of democracy in Plato is neither Wisdom nor Science nor honorable past, but judges people to achieve their hopes and satisfy on their whims and interests. On Plato's opinion the rule of democracy is deliciously messy equals between equal and unequal but the democratic individual arises miserly or disbursed and what is important is the People's future.

³ Lacewing, Michael. Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group. December 12, 2017

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1.1.3. Socrates' Democracy

When we talk about democracy, Socrates leads us to talk about the Sophists who pretend in the art of rhetoric and falsehoods. They were interested in politics much attention as a way for their benefits, but it was a relative thing. Then, they defaced science image and politics. The Sophists⁴ went the state into the abyss. Here, Socrates carried upon himself to defend the principles and beliefs of society. He started to reform ethics, virtue, chastity, and courage for the individual. Socrates linked between ethics and science and science with policy. So, from this concept Socrates understood that democracy is not only to proffer duties before rights but everyone should perform his duty towards himself, governor and to his homeland to achieve true justice and disseminate humanism and peace among people.⁵

1.1.4. Rousseau's Democracy

The great philosopher Rousseau says about democracy the following:

*“In the strict sense of the term, a true democracy has never existed, and never will exist. It is against natural order that the great number should govern and that the few should be governed”. ... “What, then, is the government? An intermediary body established between the subjects and the sovereign for their mutual communication, a body charged with the execution of the laws and the maintenance of freedom, both civil and political”.*⁶

⁴ Sophists

⁵ Behrouzi, Majid. *The idea of democracy and its distortions*; from Socrates to Cornel West, journal of public, deliberation. 2008. Article 13. December 13, 2017

⁶ http://www.notable-quotes.com/r/rousseau_jean_jacques.html March 22, 2017

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The dignity of the human being in his freedom, and the establishment of the right on the basis of force is a denial of human freedom and a waste of his dignity. There is, of course, a contradiction between right and power, despite the rigors of historical experience.

However, the sovereignty is the exercise of the general will to govern and draw its general lines and planning its objectives. The result is two consecutive consequences: First, the sovereignty of the entire people cannot be for an individual or a group but for the entire nation. Second, the authority of sovereignty is not concerned with the care of certain persons, but rather the public interest that concerns all citizens.

Moreover from the beginning, Rousseau ruled out societies based on power and oppression, whether it was a peaceful form or a sword. While in the course of history Governments have been based on force, violence and oppression, and while Governments have been based on this basis, all of this does not justify force nor legitimize it. Power cannot be a source of the right, and if the right arises from force, it is absent in the eye of the moment when it arises.

Therefore, the legitimacy of political power derives from its being based on the rule of popular sovereignty. The legitimacy of the Authority is based on its emergence from the people and its good and happiness. To highlight this idea, Rousseau wrote what he wrote and laid the foundation for true democracy.

2. Parliamentary Life

2.1. Definition

Parliament is a political institution named as legislative body. At the beginning, all powers were gathered between the hands of the Monarch. Parliament represents one of the main three branches known as Judicial, Legislative, and the Executive.

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2.2. How does it come to existence?

The first manifestation through which parliament developed might have been known as the *CURIA REGIS*⁷ in the thirteenth century. It might have been a sort king's court made from claiming nobles secondary ranking ministry what's more insightful men. The individuals were principally starting with noble groups such as the barons, knights, and different respectable titles. This first type might have been more managerial than authoritative and more judicial than financial. The second type from which grew the British parliamentary framework is known as the archive about *MAGNA CARTA* (1215) or contract which might have been marked toward the ruler John (1199-1216), who may have been himself obliged in the end. Tom's scrutinizing the primitive nobles, so as will ensure themselves beginning with those lords phenomenal compel. This report is perceived concerning representation the backbone of the British freedoms.

The structure from claiming parliament concerning illustration it may be referred today with the two houses, takes its attaches from the parliament organized on 1265 under SIMON de MONFORT⁸ person which existed throughout those reigns of the three Edwards, because before the reign of Edward I there was only one assembly presided by the king from his throne.

The perfectness of electing representatives, also those lords, which offered conception after the fact of the House of Commons, came starting with the emergence of the new social class. The two houses individually the lords and the commons needed to know a lot of people

⁷ *CURIA REGIS*: a small permanent council in medieval England composed of those members of the great council serving as officers of the royal household. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Curia%20Regis> March 20. 2017

⁸ SIMON de MONFORT: **Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester**, (born c. 1208, Montfort, Ile-de-France, [France](#)—died Aug. 4, 1265, [Evesham, Worcestershire](#), Eng.), leader of the baronial revolt against King [Henry III](#) and ruler of [England](#) for less than a year. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Simon-de-Montfort-earl-of-Leicester> March 21. 2017

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transformations through centuries. The history of the House of Lords originated as part of apparatus of Monarchy, known as that the long haul as the king's incredible board of advisors, might be isolated under three periods (as it will be mentioned later) speaking to the greater part imperative periods of the British parliamentary historical backdrop.

The first one is the pre-Tudor formative period (before 1485) during which the lords evolve from the royal court to become a separate body. The second period can be situated between the seventeenth century to early nineteenth century, when the house of lords was powerful, playing an important role in classical theory of mixed government. The third and the last period is the mid-nineteenth century to the present time, during which the role of the lords became less important than before because of the rise of democratic ideas. Indeed, the whole existence of the house has become questionable. The reformers were seeing it as useless house whereas its supporters say that the lords are capable of giving a useful if limited political function.⁹

2.3. The members of parliament

The British Parliament is constituted of two houses the House of Commons likewise called the upper house and the House of Lords additionally called the lower house. The House of Lords is made out of rulers fleeting, all the genetic British titles: noblemen, viscounts, earls, marquis and dukes.

The associates made by political gatherings, the ruler of request (rulers' law) and the rulers otherworldly (the two ecclesiastical overseers of York and Canterbury and twenty four senior ministers of the congregation)

⁹WWW.Parliament.UK January 01. 2017

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The house comprises on more than 2351 individuals headed by the Lord Chancellor (around 810 inherited associates; 320 life peers; 15 law rulers; 26 profound masters and around 1170 different individuals). Life peers, law masters and rulers otherworldly delegated to their seats forever. Their kids don't acquire. Individuals are not paid compensation, but rather they get travel costs. The House of Commons has 650 individuals: 523 for England; 38 for Wales; 72 for Scotland and 17 for Northern Ireland. The executive and most bureau clergymen are individuals from the Commons. Every part speaks to a voting area called a voting demographic in which he is not required to live. From the mid 1980's individuals from the House of Commons get a compensation of 10.725 £ a year (about £ 26000), and travel costs.¹⁰

2.4. How does it work?

Everywhere throughout the world, the capacity of any parliament varies starting with one nation then onto the next or starting with one sort of political framework then onto the next. This is because of the social foundation, the method for living, and numerous different elements. The parliament of England has its own particular elements and determination. A few subtle elements are given here with a specific end-goal to know how precisely it functions.

As there is no composed constitution, the elements of parliament are not plainly expressed. Supporting the administration, providing it with assets, overseeing it, and debating matters of open concern are the fundamental clear ones. For the most part, English parliament is held for a long time. Its individuals meet yearly for need; however, it must meet in any event ones in every three years.

¹⁰WWW.Parliament.UK January03.2017

Oakland,John.*British Civilization*,an introduction.USA and Canada.(7thed,2011),p97. January04.2017

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Toward the start of any new session, the government spoke to either by the ruler or the lord, conveys a discourse from the position of authority (the discourse opening) in which the administration's program for the years is delineated.

As it is obviously characterized, parliament is, unquestionably, a technique for picking a legislature. This administration practices a kind of control over parliamentary governing body by its larger part in the house. A similar control is kept down by parliament over government which must clarify its activities. The assignment of controlling and investigating the official id did essentially and basically by the restriction parties in the house. Furthermore, the backbenchers on both sides of the Place of Lodge have a manage in controlling government.

To the extent the day by day business of the house is viewed as the primary task of the chamber is under taken from 2:30 PM to 10:30 PM from Mondays to Thursdays and from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM on Fridays. This time is designated to parliamentary inquiries. Toward the finish of every day's business, 30 minutes are given to open deliberation supporter's matters to be replied by junior minister. Unless a level headed discussion closes normally, on the grounds that no MP needs to talk, a choice might be taken to convey the meeting to the end. Furthermore, the program of the next week generally reported by the prospector of the house every Thursday.

From a political perspective, parliament is the most effective source of law. Be as it may, there are laws and bills issued from government, which are once in a while dismisses by parliament. In some cases private individual's bills can be ignored in light of the fact that there is no time left to manage. At long last private bills can be rejected since they concern private and not aggregate matters.

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Every one of those bills must go through five required phases of investigation in the two houses before they are acknowledged as law. A bill starts in the Place of Hall. The first is recently the presentation of the bill for the main perusing. The second step comprises on the second perusing where individuals wrangle on the general standards of the bills. At that point, as a third step, the bill is sent to be analyzed in detail, provision by condition by a council. From that point forward, and as the fourth step, the house considers the bill as revised after the board of trustee's stage. At long last, the bill is wrangled in its third perusing, so as to be endorsed. From that point onward, the bill is sent to the Place of Rulers for similar methods. At the point when the bill is acknowledged by the both houses, it is passed to the ruler for the imperial consent. At that point it turned into a law¹¹

2.5. WESTMINSTER PALACE

The English parliament situates in the royal residence of Westminster. Previously, it was the home of the ruler until the rule of Henry VIII. Westminster lobby is the most seasoned part of the building, arranged on the left of people in general passageway, and called the ST STEPHEN's. Amid the two a centuries ago, the structures have gotten away to much harm. In 1834 a fire was set in. in 1941, the German's bombs wrecked the house's chambers. Other than this a bomb detonated in 1974 in a building adjoining the North West section of the hall. And it is still threatened by Irish attacks.

Westminster castle is created by many parts worked amid isolated periods. The first castle was enlightened by the ruler Edward the Confessor and the outer walls added during the rule of Williams Rufus (1087 – 1100). Sir Charles Barry acknowledged in 1835 the real

¹¹WWW.Parliament.UK January07.2017
Silk,Paul.*How parliament works*,(Longmen,Lodon1997),p19. January08.2017

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engineering of the Place of Center after the considerable fire of 1834 its rebuilding started adequately in 1840 and completed in 1870.

These days, their primary structures are three towers (focal towers, Victoria tower and clock tower or the enormous detonation). With 1100 rooms, 11 open yards, 100 staircases, 35 lifts and almost 5 km of entry ways. The structure saw numerous imperative occasions through hundreds of years. Oliver Cromwell had sworn there as master defender in 1653. After the reclamation of government, James II was delegated there.¹²

3. The Constitutional Monarchy

A constitutional monarchy, constrained government or parliamentary government is a government in which representing forces of the ruler are limited by a constitution. Protected government concedes from supreme government in which a ruler holds outright government.

A constitutional monarchy may insinuate a system in which the ruler goes about as non-social event political pioneer of the state under the constitution, paying little respect to whether made or unwritten .while most rulers may hold formal spare forces and the lawmaking body may definitively happen in the ruler's name. They don't set open course of action or pick political perusers. Thomas Macaulay has described built up government as "a sovereign who reins however doesn't administer " .despite going about as an unmistakable picture of national solidarity, a secured ruler may hold formal forces, for instance, dissolving parliament or giving honest to goodness agree to order. However the movement of such powers is generally a custom rather than an open entryway for the sovereign to endorse individual political slant.

¹²WWW.Parliament.UK January 12, 2017

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In the English Constitution. English scholar Walter Bagehot recognized three fundamental political rights which a constitutional monarchy could unreservedly work out: the right to be consulted, the right to encourage and the right to warn. Some constitutional monarchy however still holds huge power and impact and assumes an important political role.¹³

Conclusion

As per all what is said through this section over, the English parliament is an antiquated establishments, come to presence from numerous years back. It is symbolized the three forces of the state, for example, the administrative, the official and the legal.

¹³http://dbpedia.org/page/Constitutional_monarchy March24.2017

Chapter

Two

Chapter Two: The Idea of Evolution and Regression

Introduction

In a democratic country, parliament is an essential institution where citizens are represented.

British parliament, from the CURIA REGIS till now, has improved in its structures, members and way of work in order to be more representative and to serve the people. Thus parliament performs a greater role in society, with legislation covering all aspects of everyday life. British parliament through many reforms improving the electoral system, expanding the franchise to all adults, men and women, and ethnic minorities and also with the development of the mass media, tends or aims to be more effective.

1. The meaning of parliament

Parliament is a word which derived from the French one “parler”, which means “to speak”. Parliament as an institution is one of many forms of government known by humanity throughout history, beginning from the simple head of the family to dictator, divine ruler or emperor. ¹⁴

2. Parliament and the electoral system

Until the 1832 Act, less than 5 per cent of the British adult population, had the right to vote. This sort of representatively was easily manipulated by persons possessing social influence and wealth, helped by the fact that, there were absolutely no laws against bribery and other corrupt practices during elections. After the representation of the People Act of

¹⁴WWW.Parliament.UK April02.2017

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1867, the franchise was extended by adding a million voters to the electorate. And a new redistribution of seats took place from less populated to more populated areas, in order to be fairly representative.

The Act of 1883 dealing with corruption and illegal practices, which stated that bribery and other corrupt practices at elections were criminal offences, made the machine of the electoral system more effective than it was in the past.

With the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth century a series of acts brought the electoral system to be continuously in improvement. The first one was the franchise Act of 1884, which extended the vote to most male adults. The second act called the Representation of People Act of 1918, gave the right to vote to nearly all men aged 21, and for the first time to women over 30. In 1928, the franchise was extended to all women aged 21 and over. In 1969, the minimum age required to vote was reduced to 18 for men and women.

The other important feature is that British citizens can vote even if they are abroad. By the Representation of the People Act 1985, a large number of British citizens living abroad have the right to vote for a period of five years after they have left Britain. Since 1986, citizens on holidays or those residents abroad can vote by post or proxy. And finally, with the Representation of the People Act of 1989, the period during which people may vote was extended from five to twenty years after they left Britain.¹⁵

3. Parliament, women and ethnic minorities

During the two last centuries, British society has known its major development. This was mainly characterized by the new status gained by women, which allows them to take part in the political life of their country, whereas in the past they were confined only to domestic

¹⁵ <http://www.europarl.org.uk/en/uk-meps/the-voting-system><http://www.parliament.uk>

O'Driscoll, James. *Britain for learners of English*. Oxford: first published 2009. pp 151-160. April 20. 2017

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tasks. As a result, from 1919, when Nancy Astor the first woman who took seat at Westminster, sex discrimination was no more as obstacle for women, and since 1963, women who hold a hereditary peerage, have been able to take seat in the Lords. The ethnic minorities which were no more ignored since the end of the nineteenth century, was the other important change, which occurred in the British parliament.

As a result, parliament gave representatively to all social categories of British citizens.¹⁶

4. Parliament and government

It is clear that, from the seventeenth century onwards, the main development known by the House of Commons was the emergence of the modern conversions of cabinet government and ministerial responsibility.

This new future, which is extremely important in the development of this institution and which is considered as a big step towards the realization of the real duty of any parliament, will certainly improve effectively its function. The other major development is that, the government is formally and fully responsible only to the House of Commons, as it is the popularly elected branch. Then, the role of the house of the lords, as the non-elected branch, is diminished.

Another essential point of the parliament efficiently is the control exercised over the government by parliament itself. For example, the authority to tax and expend public funds has to be obtained by government from parliament. Thus, the money control is the real power detained by parliament.

Sometimes problems may rise between government and parliament and the majority in parliament. In this case, parliament has the ability to dismiss the government. As Dorothy

¹⁶ www.parliament.uk April01.2017

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Pickles has written “*The essential requirement in a parliament democracy is that parliament shall retain the power to dismiss government*”¹⁷. This surely prevents government from any abuses.

The main task of parliament is to form and control the government. The later will try, with its program, to satisfy wishes and needs of the citizens. In another way, government must be the tool by which, parliament will fulfill its objectives.¹⁸

But today, it is clearly noticed that the power has shifted from parliament to government. Most British politicians think that the real power is held by the cabinet or even by the prime minister. For example, MP Harold Wilson, in 1960, was severely criticized for having developed a sort of presidential style of government. British people dislike to be strongly guided they are attached to their personal liberties. But, this opposes the reality. They are proud to have a strong government even if some arrogance or dictatorship is felt. This is best illustration by Sir Robert Peel “I could not admit any alternation in any of those bills. This was thought very presumptions; but the fact is, people like a certain degree of obstinacy and presumption in a minister. They abuse him for dictatorship and arrogance.”¹⁹

5. Parliament and the monarch

The crown is one of the oldest secular institutions in Britain. Through centuries, the crown has exercised a great influence over parliament, which was its major opponent. Thus, joining the view of Bagehot²⁰, who wrote “*we must not bring the queen into the combat of*

¹⁷Turpin,Colin.*British government and the constitution*,Text,Cases and Materials,(2nd edition:Law in Context,England 1988),p:424 April 03.2017

¹⁸<http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/parliament-government/>
<https://www.parliament.uk/education/about-your-parliament/parliament-and-government/>April 03.2017

¹⁹Parliament Today,London 1990 April 03.2017

²⁰**Walter Bagehot** (3 February 1826 – 24 March 1877) was a British journalist, businessman, and essayist, who wrote extensively about government, economics, and literature.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Bagehot April05.2017

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*politics, or she will cease to be revered by all combatants, she will become one combatant among many*²¹, the monarchy remained significant but less and less strong than before the revolution of 1688. As a consequence, the executive power, initially held in partnership with the crown, shifted in the early eighteenth century to parliament and cabinet which asserted the right to meet without the monarch.²²

The Bill of Right clearly stated that the monarch:

A- Could neither make nor suspend laws without the consent of parliament.

B- It could not raise money except by parliament grant.

C- It could not keep a standing army without parliament authority.

D- And no one could restrict freedom of speech within parliament.

By the Act of Settlement of 1701, the monarch could no more dismiss judges who could be removed only by a resolution of parliament.

Today, the queen is obliged to sign her own death warrant if the two houses of parliament unanimously send it up to her. This means that the monarch is no longer so determinant and powerful in the political life of the British kingdom as it was in the past.²³

6. Parliament and constitution

All democratic possess a constitution, which gives clear functions to each political institution. In the United States of America, for example, the constitution has defined the role

²¹ Silk, Paul. *How parliament works*, (Longmen, Lodon 1997), p19 April 04. 2017

²² <http://www.parliament.uk/education/about-your-parliament/mps-lords-monarch/the-monarch-and-parliament/> April 06. 2017

²³ <http://www.britpolitics.co.uk/relationship-with-parliament> April 07. 2017

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of the congress and it has plainly stated the duties and powers of the legislatures, executive and judicial. Thus, the policy of checks and balances prevent from any abuses.

However, in Great Britain, such things have never existed. As a constitution, the kingdom has some documents and traditions, which never stated the prerogatives of British institutions. Thus, parliament does not have clearly defined functions, although, it seems to be sovereign. The lack of constitutional rules weakened parliament and strengthened the executive. The later is free to conduct foreign policy, to ratify treaties and to take the decision of declaring the war without referring to parliament. And the citizens cannot sort out the argument “unconstitutional” when they do not agree with any legislation or decision.²⁴

7. Parliament and Mass Media

One of the features which characterize the civilization of the twentieth century is the development of the telecommunications and mass media (Radio, Television and Newspapers). In order to fulfill transparency, mass media were introduced to parliament’s palace.

At the beginning, MPs were wary of those seeking to broadcast their debates. Any report was forbidden, till the eighteenth century, when the first speeches and debates were sent to be diffused. The presence of the special reporters and journalists was more welcomed from 1909. Since 1978, the proceedings of both houses have been broadcast. First, Radio broadcasting was introduced. From 1988, Television was allowed to enter the parliament. Nowadays, both Commons and Lords have what is called “HANSARDS”²⁵, a sort of official publication,

²⁴ Turpin, Colin. *British government and the constitution*, Text, Cases and Materials, (2nd edition: Law in Context, England 1988), p:424
<http://www.parliament.uk> April 22.2017

²⁵ **Hansard** is the traditional name of the transcripts of Parliamentary Debates in Britain and many Commonwealth countries. It is named after [Thomas Curson Hansard](#) (1776–1833), a London printer and publisher, who was the first official printer to the parliament at Westminster. April 09.2017

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where everything said in each house printed exactly with nothing changed or added. As a conclusion, British parliament is no longer a secret place.²⁶

8. Parliament at work

The present parliamentary of Britain is considered one of the most developed and democratic. Many state legislatures all over the world regularly send officials to London, in order to learn how the British parliament works. At first, it is very important to mention that parliament, today, works or shares power with many other institution. These institutions are directly involved in the interests of people such as the trade unions, European Economic Unity, numerous pressure groups and so on.

British MPs are considered to be hard workers. At least 94 per cent of MPs say that they are devoting about 40 hours a week, to their parliament duties. Some MPs employ even their spouses in order to perform the job. The other positive aspect is that MPs devote most of their time to constituency matters, because as they incessantly declare it, their first duty is to fulfill their constituents' needs. Another notable and crucial point is the shift of the prime speaker's loyalty from monarchy to the commons. This means that democracy overcame.²⁷

9. Parliament the job of the backbencher

In British parliament, all MPs are considered to be representatives of the constituencies and all of them have roles. These roles can differ from one MP to another: front benchers; backbenchers, and speakers. These positions evolve as the members belong to government, to opposition and even amid the position or the government themselves.

²⁶ <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewHTML.asp?FileID=8105&lang=EN> April 09.2017
<http://www.worldsocialism.org/spgb/socialist-standard/2000s/2001/no-1165-august-2001/mass-media-and-mass-politics> April 09.2017

²⁷ Silk, Paul. *How Parliament Works*, (Longmen, London 1997), p:19. April 02.2017
WWW.Parliament.UK April 02.2017

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Backbenchers, today, mainly in opposition, feel their power decreasing, and their influence regressing, as Mister Alexander Pollock said, in 1979: “ *you have to be schizophrenic: in the constituency you are treated like a very important person, wherever you go people want to meet you, want to hear what you think. At Westminster, you just become an unknown again, and no body’s particularly interested in your contribution* ”.²⁸

The other problem faced by Backbenchers in parliament, comes from their blind loyalty to their parties in opposition and the government, as John Mackintosh had said” *in both parties; the MP feels powerless in the face of the cabinet and the civil service when the party is in the government and in the face of the party bureaucracy when in opposition*”²⁹. And this fact has weakened the idea that MP is an independent representative of his constituency.³⁰

10. Parliament and reforms

It is clear that the legislative supremacy of parliament began with the Great Revolution of 1688. This Revolution established the primacy of statute over prerogative. As there is no written constitution to give clear functions to parliament, the need to reform it in order to improve the British Political System, is felt. Thus, by the nineteenth century, reformers transformed the political system from one oligarchy to one of democracy. And parliament began to reach a certain maturity with the great reforms in legislation.

²⁸ Radice, Lisanne, Valance, Elizabeth, Willis, Virginia. *Members of Parliament, The Job of The Backbencher*, (second Edition, Macmillan, London 1987), p: 155 April 08. 2017

²⁹ Radice, Lisanne, Valance, Elizabeth, Willis, Virginia. *Members of Parliament, The Job of The Backbencher*, (second Edition, Macmillan, London 1987), p: 140 April 08. 2017

³⁰ Radice, Lisanne, Valance, Elizabeth, Willis, Virginia. *Members of Parliament, The Job of The Backbencher*, (second Edition, Macmillan, London 1987), p: 140, 155 April 08. 2017

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During the nineteenth century, the parliament system became more and more democratic: Josef Priestly, Richard Price, Jeremy Bentham, Tom Pain with his book "rights of man", James Mill, his son John Stuart, the great Victorian administrator Edwin Chadwick and many others, were the personalities who made the reform of parliament possible. The ideas brought by those great men were to reform the representative system in such a way that the House of Commons would reflect all the interests of different British social classes.

Many of them brought that, which would be possible, if they adopted the universal suffrage quickly, while, the others thought that gradual extension of the franchise would be more appropriate and more practicable. But the idea accepted by all of them was that parliament should work in such a way as to represent the nation rather than simply the upper classes. They insisted on the fact that, instead of selecting members according to their personal connections and wealth, they must be chosen on merit.

The Great Reform Act of 1832 gave the citizens a considerable degree of liberty. It abolished parliamentary seats representing the lesser inhabited areas and distributed them to more populated ones as the expanding industrial towns. It canceled the system of local franchise which varied from one constituency to another and replaced it by a uniform national franchise. This was the turning point in the parliamentary system of Great Britain. With this Act, people were free to criticize the government, as long as they kept within the laws. In this way, Voltaire had said "*if you are accused of having either acted, spoken, or written wrongly, you can be tried only according to law*".³¹

Another important point brought by the 1832 Act was the supremacy given to the House of Commons over the House of Lords. This was reinforced by the Act of 1911, by which the Lords lost the power to Veto legislation. And from that time, the choice of government wholly relied on the Commons. The convention that the government should be

³¹ Biffer, John. *Inside the House of Commons*, (Grafton Books, London 1989), p 153. April 20, 2017

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collectively responsible to parliament and particularly to the House of Commons was clearly stated as a principle of the British Parliamentary System. Till the 1960's, some discretions were left to monarch but the areas and limits within which it could be exercised were narrowed.

Finally, and as a result of all these reforms, parliament gained more and more importance and interest that allow a direct and exclusive control over legislation and indirect check over the executive administration actions.³²

Conclusion

Through different points selected in this chapter, trying to see whether British Parliament had known any evolution or not, someone can conclude that British Parliament did not remain petrified in its original organization of the Middle Ages. It continuously adapted to new situation and new social and political circumstances.

³²WWW.Parliament.UK

Chapter Three

Chapter Three: The Two Houses of Parliament

Introduction

Parliament is a political institution which includes two chambers; the House of Commons and the House of Lords. In this chapter, we shall discuss these two chambers that based on the election of season 2005-2006. It is divided to two parts. The first one deals with the meaning and the description of the House of Commons, and analyzes its work. The second one deals with the meaning and the work of the House of Lords, and shows who does the work.

1. The House of Commons

The House of Commons is the lower chamber of Parliament in Britain. It is the publicly elected chamber of parliament. It can be traced back to the 14th century. Then, its Members discuss the big political issues of the day and proposals for new laws.³³

1.1. Description of the House of Commons

There are as of now 646 Individuals from the House of Commons. They are generally known as MPs — Individuals from Parliament. Every MP speaks to one of the 646 zones or voting public into which the United Kingdom is separated.³⁴

First, with a couple of special cases, each one of those more than 18 may vote in Parliamentary election, gave that they are nationals of either the United Kingdom or the Irish Republic. The special cases are members from the House of Lords, those reserved under mental wellbeing legislation, those serving jail sentences of something beyond than twelve months and those sentenced corrupt practices at decisions amid the previous five years. No

³³ www.parliament.uk

³⁴ Parliamentary Education Service, parliament explained; House of Commons. Copyright March 2007. P:2 April 25, 2017

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one can vote unless they are enrolled as an elector. A frame is sent to each family unit each pre-winter so that everybody who is mature enough has an opportunity to enroll. Everyone has one vote, yet they don't need to utilize it. There are two sorts of Parliamentary elections. A general election is when there is voting in every one of the 646 constituencies on one day. A general election can be called by the government whenever. Typically there must be a general election within five years of the past one. A by-election happens when a member dies, resigns or leaves. Election just happens in the one voting demographic without a member, or, on the other hand maybe a few in the event that they have all fallen empty at the same time, however not in every one of the 646 constituencies. In every constituency the participant with the most votes wins and can then take his or her seat in Parliament.

A member may hint to the electorate as his or her seat. MPs speak to and help every one of the general population who live in the constituency, notwithstanding whether or how they voted, or in the event that they bolster the political party. Almost the members of Parliament have a place with a political gathering. They accordingly have certain loyalties to their party and also to their body electorate. An MP needs to accomplish a harmony between the interests of all the members who have a claim on him or her.³⁵

³⁵ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service, parliament explained; House of Commons. Copyright March 2007. P:2 April 25, 2017

1.2. Presentation and the form of political parties in the House of Commons

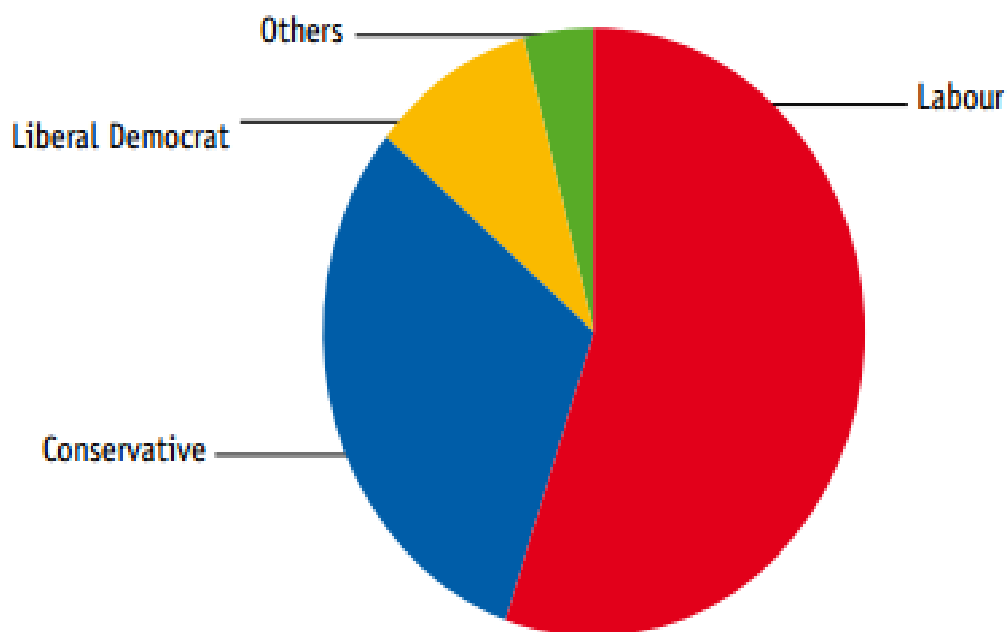


Figure from: Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Commons.Copyright March2007.P:2

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Labour	353
Conservative	196
Liberal Democrat	63
Scottish National Party	6
Sinn Fein (have not taken their seats)	5
Independent	2
Plaid Cymru (Welsh Nationalist)	3
Social Democratic and Labour Party	3
Ulster Democratic Unionist Party	9
Ulster Unionist Party	1
Respect	1
The Speaker and 3 Deputies (do not normally vote)	4
Total	646

There are 126 women MPs.

Figure from: Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Commons.Copyright March2007.P:2

As should be obvious from the table, the Labour Party has the biggest number of MPs in the House of Commons, having won generally seats in the general election of 2005. The party winning generally seats in a general election will frame the government and the pioneer of the party becomes the Prime Minister. As the Conservatives won the general election of 1979, 1983, 1987 and 1992, it had a Conservative Government for eighteen year, with the party leader, firstly Margaret Thatcher, and from November 1990 John Major, as Prime Minister. There were Labour Governments from 1964 to 1970, 1974 to 1979 and since their election triumph in 1997. Tony Blair has picked a group of Ministers to help him, drawn from

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members from his own particular party in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords Together they make up the Government.³⁶

1.3. The Opposition

The second biggest party in the House of Commons right now is the Conservative Party. The Conservative MPs are members of Parliament in any case, not members of the government. At present, just picked Labour MPs and peers shape the government. The Conservative MPs have a place with the Official Opposition whose employment it is to challenge the Government, to make it disclose its strategies and to watch that it does its work appropriately. While in opposition, a party will build up its own strategies and work out new strategies, since it is the point of each opposition to pick up power itself at the following election. It therefore has to ensure that it is appropriately arranged to govern the nation itself, if need be.

The leader of the Conservative Party, David Cameron, is Leader of the Opposition. He is the leader of what is frequently known as the 'Shadow Cabinet'. Members of the Shadow Bureau each "shadow" the work of a Government Minister, condemning him or her on the off chance that they can't help contradicting strategies and at the same time building up the learning and aptitudes that will be required, if and when they are come back to power themselves.

The Liberal Democrats furthermore, the other smaller parties are otherwise called opposition parties. The Opposition is extremely important for the working of our

³⁶ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Commons.Copyright March2007.P:2
April25.2017

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Parliamentary framework. This is unmistakably appeared by the way that the Opposition is perceived as 'Her Majesty's Opposition.

Inside the House of Commons the division of a large portion of the Members into Government and Opposition is fortified by the seating game plans in the Chamber. The Government and its supporters sit on the right of the Speaker and the Opposition with their supporters and smaller parties on the left. A little party that for the most part relates to the Government can sit on the Administration side of the House. This is uncommon, because they sit on the Opposition side of the Chamber the smaller party doesn't really vote with the Official Opposition against the Government. The smaller parties can vote with either side, depending upon the issue which is being considered, or they may choose to decline (not to vote at all).³⁷

1.4. The Work of the House of Commons

One of the most important tasks of the House of Commons is making laws. The House of Commons spends most of its energy making laws. There are three sorts of Bill which are considered in the Commons. Government Bills and Private Members' Bills are both Open Bills, i.e. they are intended to influence people in general. Government Bills are supported by the Government, while Private Members' Bills are advanced by individual back-seat MPs. Likewise, some time is spent on Private Bills which influence just a single territory or group of people.³⁸

³⁷ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Commons.Copyright March2007.P:3April26.2017

³⁸ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Commons.Copyright March2007.P:5April27.2017

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One should also point in controlling of finance. Before the Government can raise or “spend money”, it must have authorization from Parliament. As the House of Lords has no power over financial matters, it is the House of Commons which needs to give this authorization. The Commons contains 646 MPs who are specifically chosen by the general population to take care of their interests. It is just right, therefore, that they, instead of Members of the House of Lords who are not chosen, ought to concur before public need to pay taxes.

First of all, the Commons controls the raising of cash. Every year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer displays his Budget Statement to the Commons. In this, he clarifies how the Government expects to raise the money it needs to run the nation amid the next year. Some of this cash will be acquired by selling Government Bonds on the Stock Exchange, yet the fundamental method for raising money is by taxation. The Financial backing may, thusly, contain propositions to cut or increment charges. Until March 1993, the budget was introduced in the spring. It was then joined with the Chancellor's 'Autumn Statement' in November as a general review of public finances has now returned to spring with an autumn 'pre-Budget' statement.

Obviously, it is an obligation of the House of Commons, on behalf of the people, to ensure that charges are not raised without justifiable reason. The Budget proposals in this way must be analyzed and talked about precisely. The Budget proposals are set out in the Finance Bill which will experience every one of its stages like any other Bill. This ordinarily takes around four months. Toward the finish of this time, the Finance Bill turns into the Finance Act: another law allowing the Government to raise the money it needs.

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Additionally, the House of Commons needs to give its endorsement before any money can be spent by the Government. Every year the Government displays its Evaluations to the House of Commons. These set out the amounts required by every Government Department. The House needs to consent to these Estimates before the Department can be given any money. Three days are set aside under the House of Commons rules for exchange of the Estimates.

Additionally, the House of Commons has a method for determining the status of Government Department a short time later, to see whether they did their housekeeping legitimately. This work is finished by the Select Committee known as the Public Accounts Committee. This Committee can inspect cases of overspending by a Department and can likewise check whether the Government spent its money wisely. Keeping in mind the end goal to do this work appropriately the Committee can perceive any records or reports which it considers necessary. It can likewise hold meetings where witnesses are questioned. The Committee is aided in its work by more than 500 inspectors in the National Audit Office. Once a progression of examinations is finished, the Committee shows an Answer to the House of Commons, which may talk about anything it considers especially genuine. These Reports are accessible to people in general and the press through The Stationery Office and on the Internet. Any truly awful misstep is, therefore prone to be broadly detailed in the press.³⁹

Examining the work of the government is the essential task of the lower chamber. The examination of the work of the Government by Parliament is

³⁹ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service, parliament explained; House of Commons. Copyright March 2007. P:6 April 28, 2017

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generally alluded to as scrutiny. The Government is made to clarify its policies and there are opportunities for criticizing the Government.

Inside the House of Commons the procedure of investigation is conveyed out in a few ways:

A. By Select Committees (Committees of Inquiry)

B. By asking questions

C. During Adjournment Debates

D. On Opposition days⁴⁰

One may add controlling indirect law making (delegated legislation). In late decades; centre government has gone up against more work for our behalf than Governments at any point did before. As a great deal of this work requires new laws to be passed before it can be completed, Parliament, and particularly the House of Commons, has turned out very short of time. Some of the time, consequently, Parliament enables ministers to make laws influencing their own range of responsibility. Parliament keeps general control by passing a kind of "parent" act which sets down points of confinement which must not be violated by the minister. As Parliament has given them this power — assigned power — the procedure by which ministers make laws is known as appointed legislation. A large portion of these laws are laid before Parliament before producing results, and many are faced off regarding. They are additionally inspected by yet another House of Commons investigation committee — the Select Committee group on Statutory Instruments (Statutory Instruments are the main type

⁴⁰ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service, parliament explained; House of Commons. Copyright March 2007. P:7 April 28. 2017

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delegated legislation) — which joins with a Lords Committee group for generally instruments.⁴¹

Precisely starting from 1973, another work which is Examining the European Proposals. When we joined the European Economic Community (Common Market) in 1973 we consented to comply with the laws of the Community. A Select Committee in the House of Commons looks at all proposed European laws before they are really passed. The probable impacts of the laws upon Britain are considered. The Report of this Committee may impact a portion of the people worried with making these laws and it is now and again possible for proposals to be changed on the off chance that it can be demonstrated that they will bring problems.⁴²

It is agreed that protecting the individuals is also one of the main tasks of the House of Commons. In the past, the grievances of the public were regularly conveyed to the consideration of the House of Commons by methods for petitions. Many petitions are still introduced to Parliament. Some are introduced by a Member making a discourse. Others are perused by a Clerk. Frequently they are exhibited by being set in the Petition Bag which holds on the back of the Speaker's Chair. A Member can place petitions in the bag whenever amid a sitting.

Nowadays, the local Member of Parliament is contacted by many people if they have a grievance against central government. A few complaints gotten by Members are not, be however, against central government at all. MPs need to divert the individuals who, for

⁴¹ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service, parliament explained; House of Commons. Copyright March 2007. P:7 April 28. 2017

⁴² www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service, parliament explained; House of Commons. Copyright March 2007. P:7 April 29. 2017

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instance, should grumble to the local council about the state of their roads or housing problems. A great number of people keep in touch with their MP at the House of Commons however others want to meet the Member face to face. Many MPs hold local 'advice bureaux' (once in a while known as 'surgeries') when they meet constituents who have issues which require solving. It is additionally feasible for constituents to meet their MP at the House of Commons. Anybody can go to the Central Lobby and fill in a green card which will then be taken round the building by an official known as a Doorkeeper. Usually constituents meet their MP in the Central Lobby if they need to hall him or her i.e. to win support for a specific cause which concerns them, as opposed to with their own problems.

After being given a green card a Doorkeeper will complete an amazingly intensive hunt and typically a MP will be found if he or she is in the building. Unless the MP is extremely occupied, maybe serving on a Committee or taking care of another person, the MP will tag along and converse with the constituent. After accepting a complaint against central government an MP will regularly keep in touch with the Minister. If the MP is not content with the Minister's response to the letter he or she may really go to see the Minister. If the member is not satisfied then he or she can bring up the matter at Question Time and, maybe later in a Adjournment Debate. Frequently an Adjournment Debate is a Member's final resort. There are, however, a few cases which can be taken one phase assist by being alluded to the Ombudsman (Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration). This is the point at which a man presumes that a choice taken by central government against them was not made in the best possible way (maladministration). He or she can just make a complaint to the Ombudsman through an MP. if the decision, although unpopular, was made in the best possible path, then there is nothing that the Ombudsman can do about it.

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If it turns out to be an instance of maladministration, then the Ombudsman will explore the case, issue a report and may recommend a reasonable cure.⁴³

2. The House of Lords

The House of Lords is the upper chamber, unelected chamber of Parliament. It appeared as a distinct element of parliament in the 14th Century.⁴⁴

2.1. The work of the House of Lords

The most essential work of the House of Lords is making laws. The House of Lords is an essential part of the law-making process. All laws must be concurred by both the House of Lords and the House of Commons, before accepting the queen's approval (royal assent).

Moreover, the House of Lords surveys bills, supported by the Government, which originated from the Commons. A sizeable extent of bills start in the House of Lords every year, sometimes because the Bill is specialized rather than political, likewise to spread the legislative workload all the more equitably between the two Houses.

Therefore, the House of Lords can propose and roll changes, known as amendment. However its powers are constrained; if it doesn't favor of a bit of enactment, it can just postpone its passage into law for up to a year. After that, there are principles to guarantee that the wishes of the House of Commons and the Government of the day prevail.⁴⁵

⁴³ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service, parliament explained; House of Commons. Copyright March 2007. P:7
April 29. 2017

⁴⁴ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service, parliament explained; House of Lords. Copyright March 2007. P:1
April 30. 2017

⁴⁵ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service, parliament explained; House of Lords. Copyright March 2007. P:3 May 01. 2017

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It is agreed that the House of Lords scrutinizes the government. It is the obligation of Parliament overall to watch out for the work of the Government by making government ministers respond for the work they do, the decisions they make. The House of Lords does this in a few ways:

A. Question time

B. General debates

C. Short debates

D. Written questions Statements⁴⁶

Also, the House of Lords provide independent expertise. The Lords selects Committee, like the House of Commons. Some of these arrangements with internal management, organization however generally convey out essential investigative work on matters of public interests. Whenever an investigative Committee finishes its job away at a specific issue, a report of its results is issued for the House to converse, and for people in general to perceive what it had found. These reports are profoundly regarded for their balance, independence and authority.⁴⁷

One should be add to the tasks of the House of Lords is carrying out the judicial work. The House of Lords is the most noteworthy court in the land - the supreme court of appeal. It goes about as the last court on purposes of law for the entire of the United Kingdom in civil cases and for England, Wales and Northern Ireland in criminal cases. Its decisions are authoritative for all other UK courts. The vast majority of Members have no part to play in the

⁴⁶ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Lords.Copyright March2007.P:4 May01.2017

⁴⁷ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Lords.Copyright March2007.P:5May02.2017

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House's judicial work, which is completed just by very qualified judges called Law Lords.

Just instances of open significance where a noteworthy a point of law is included are heard by the Law Lords.⁴⁸

2.2. Who does the work?

Unlike to MPs, Lords are unpaid, with the exception of specific allowances to cover presence which is intentional. Exemptions include those who are paid wage as ministers, and the law lords. Right now there are around 750 members and four distinct sorts of part.⁴⁹

2.2.1. Life peers

These make up most of the membership (about 580). The ability to select belongs formally to the Crown, yet members are basically made by the Queen on the guidance of the Prime Minister. Life peers' titles stop on death.⁵⁰

2.2.2. Law Lords

Up to 12 Lords of Claim in Common are specially delegated to hear appeals from the lower courts. They are salaried and can keep on hearing appeals until they are 70 years old.⁵¹

2.2.3. Bishops

The Anglican Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Priests of Durham, London and Winchester and the 21 senior Diocesan Bishop from different bishoprics of the

⁴⁸ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Lords.Copyright March2007.P:6May04.2017

⁴⁹ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Lords.Copyright March2007.P:9May4.2017

⁵⁰ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Lords.Copyright March2007.P:9May5.2017

⁵¹ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Lords.Copyright March2007.P:9May6.2017

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Congregation of England hold seats in the House. This is because the Church of England is the "set up" Church of the State. When they resign the Bishops quit being members from the House.⁵²

2.2.4. Elected Hereditary peers

The House of Lords Act 1999 finished the privilege of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords. Until then there had been around 700 inherited members. While the Bill was being considered, an alteration was passed which empowered 92 of the current hereditary peers to stay as members.

This was conceded to the understanding that it was a transitory measure to be revoked on the execution of change's next organized. The 92 companions are made up as:

A. 15 'office-holders' i.e. Deputy Speakers or chairmen, these were chosen by the whole House;

B. 75 Party and Crossbench members choose by their own party group and speaking to about 10% of the aggregate hereditary peers.⁵³

C. Two hereditary peers who hold Royal Appointments – The Lord Numerous Chamberlain, who is the Queen's delegate in Parliament, and the Earl Marshal, who is in charge of functions, for example, the State Opening of Parliament.⁵⁴

⁵² www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Lords.Copyright March2007.P:7
May07.2017

⁵³ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Lords.Copyright March2007.P:7
May08.2017

⁵⁴ www.parliament.uk

Parliamentary Education Service,parliament explained;House of Lords.Copyright March2007.P:
May08.2017

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3. Analysis and findings

One may say that, indeed, it is of a decent interest as a criticism that the House of Commons stands for the only sole democratic element of the Parliament. In this manner, it must be stated that the Acts of Parliament cannot be legislated straightforwardly until they are accepted by both Houses together with endorsed by the Monarch before they become a law. By the same token, if this might allude to anything then it is that only the Lords or the Monarch can stand in opposition to any enactment of new statutes.⁵⁵

Many years ago, the Upper House lost the control to hamper the financial bills or other different acts as regards the government business. As the time when the British Monarch has no emphatic managerial powers in the modern British Constitution, the modern British House of the Commons was claimed to be in charge. Interestingly, the latter endeavored to hinder the flourishing of other authorities that might be a menace to its political stability and the government of the UK.⁵⁶

One other authority of the British government is delineated as the House of Lords; the bottom line of its rightness refers directly to the question of reform.⁵⁷

Another territory of English government that is interested in feedback is the House of Lords. The issue of its authenticity goes to the heart of the topic of change. Having an unelected upper House in Parliament, for instance, is plainly undemocratic. The House of Lords has the ability to square and correct laws gone by parliament and is a basic system in the apparatus of

⁵⁵ www.Parliament.uk May21.2017

⁵⁶ House of Lords, library note Possible Implications of House of Lords Reform
<https://www.publications.parliament.uk> May21.2017

⁵⁷ Ibid

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British legislative issues, yet it too is undemocratic. The individuals of the House of Lords are not voted upon by the British people.⁵⁸

There are great motivations to prescribe that the English abolish the House of Lords and a many of its different idiosyncrasies, and that could even make British rule government more democratic. However, for the English government, change of the House of Lords, as opposed to its annulment, is an issue which has been on the political plan for many years. The Government trusts that, with the three principle parties now compliance to change, there is at present a surprising chance to locate an enduring answer for this question.⁵⁹

At the level of Parliament itself, experts guarantee that the most evident and huge democratizing change in this regard is move to the direct popular election of the membership of the Upper House. A House of Lords entirely, or even somewhat, elected would change all the basis of the parliamentary system. It would generously develop the democratic part of the British political system. Likewise, it would give the second chamber awesome authenticity and increment its ability to stop misuse of energy by common- based governments. At the same time this will also imply that the House of Lords will be additionally eager to challenge the government on particular matters. Besides, it is not really hard to expect that hundreds of hereditary or life peers will vote themselves out of a vocation, unless the Commons decides first.⁶⁰

Different investigators say that it is suitable to illuminate and arrange the elements of the Lords before changing its membership. Before MPs choose how the House of Lords ought

⁵⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/the-unreformed-house-of-lords-is-already-the-largest-parliamentary-chamber-of-any-democracy/>

House of Lords, library note Possible Implications of House of Lords Reform May21.2017

⁵⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/https://www.publications.parliament.uk>

House of Lords, library note Possible Implications of House of Lords Reform May21.2017

⁶⁰ House of Lords, library note Possible Implications of House of Lords Reform <http://www.engineering-timelines.com/scripts/engineeringitem.asp?id=1163> May22.2017

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to be made up, they have to choose what work they need the House of Lords to do and the limits to its forces. Until that has been chosen, they cannot sensibly say how its individuals ought to be picked.⁶¹

Conclusion

As a result, and as it mentioned before that there are two chambers of parliament, each chamber has its own work and appointed members. However, each member should perform his or her work very well.

⁶¹House of Lords, library note Possible Implications of House of Lords Reform
<http://www.bbc.com/news/election-2015-32430193> May22.2017

General Conclusion

Parliament is considered as an essential part of the political life in both the country per se and in the population. It is the place where democracy is reached. Despite the entire great role which the parliament is doing, it faced some obstacles from the crossing. For some, it is considered as a great institution, it symbolizes the legislative, the executive and the judicial powers while for others, it is not alike; it is just a weak institution, a failed part in the society. Parliament for the crossing cannot realize the great democracy which all the population is wished off.

The British Parliament has two chambers; the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The house of Commons is the real governing body of Great Britain. It consists of representative elected by major adult suffrage. Indeed, it is an important feature in modern life to get a control over government, relying mainly upon an elected house. The House of Commons, issued from election, is legally considered as the supreme or sovereign power in Great Britain. With the experience, the commons shaped all parliamentary principles. This makes it the central focus of political life in Britain. However, the House of Lords is considered today as a secondary entity. It is very difficult nowadays to accept that any member seats in parliament without being elected, as it is in normal democratic systems. The functions of the Lords are not clearly defined by law; their position is not even stated in the house. Today, the Lords are considered to represent no one but themselves. Furthermore, the House of Commons is more democratic chamber because it is an elected chamber. While, the House of Lords is less democratic because it is unelected chamber of parliament in Britain.

Most important, the British parliament did not remain petrified in its original organization of the Middle Ages. It continuously adapted to new situations and new social and political circumstances. All these factors led to a powerful institution. It became outstanding and worth people's trust. Conversely, the bureaucracy that centered just in the hand of few employers and administrators diminished its role and its value. Some of those administrators

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became so dictatorial and treated authoritarian regimes which make people protest and challenge it. Furthermore, this reduction of power makes people sometimes unsatisfied with it, since there became more doubt about all its decisions and its procedures.

As for the organization of the work, in the first chapter I tackled the historical background of the following terms: “Democracy, Parliamentary Life, and the Constitutional Monarchy”. In the second chapter I dealt with the literature review of “The Idea of evolution and Regression”. While in the third chapter I analyzed “The Two Chambers of Parliament”.

To sum up, we have to be non-aligned to any side, because the parliament did some deeds which are very useful and beneficial for the population and the country as a whole. Meanwhile, it made some mistakes and faults which had shaken its value and role. Hence, the position of parliament is vacillated. On the one hand, it saw a period of evolution and a great development with a success. On the other hand, it witnessed an era of failure and regression, because of its bad aptitudes and capacities to achieve all the population’s need. Through all three chapters we cannot arrive to a final decision about whether parliament was a successful institution or it failed. For the opposition, of course, it is unsuccessful organization, by contrast, it is a well- organized establishment because it did well and worked hard for all; the population and country.

As a note, there were some obstacles which delayed the process of my research paper as the lack of sources in the library, and lack of time.

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