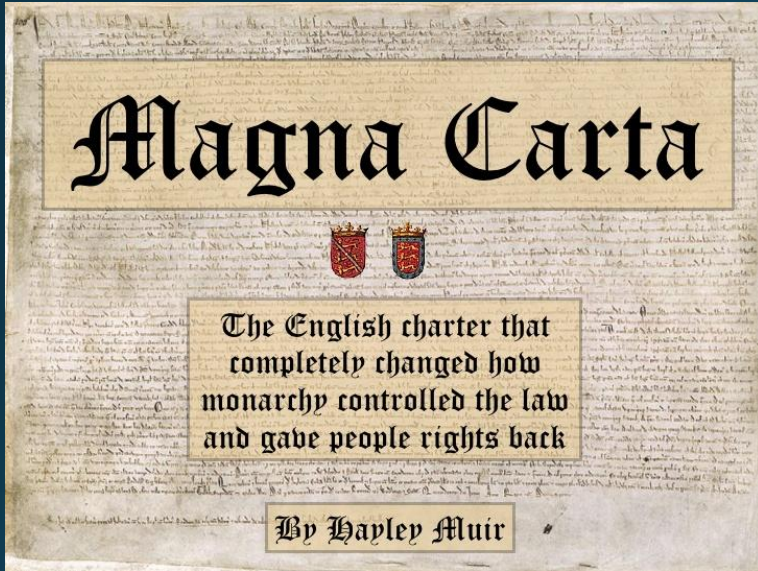


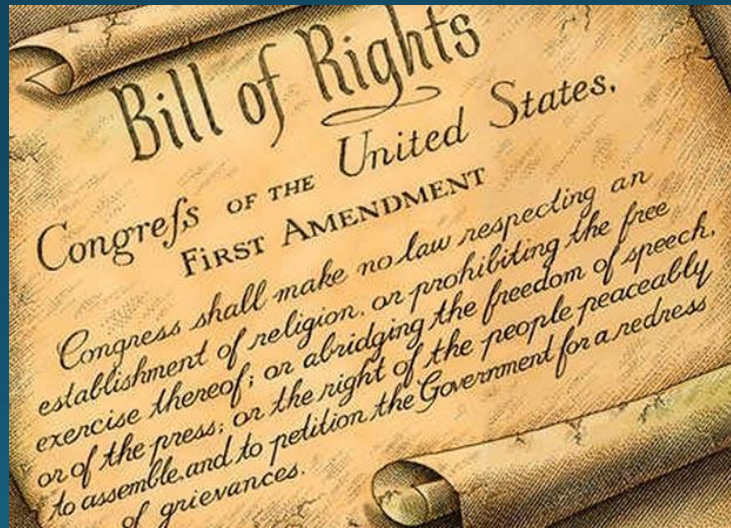


# Constitution of the United Kingdom

# History



Magna Carta, 1215



Bill of rights, 1787-1788



Acts of Union, 1707

# Features of the British Constitution

The British Constitution is single for the whole United Kingdom

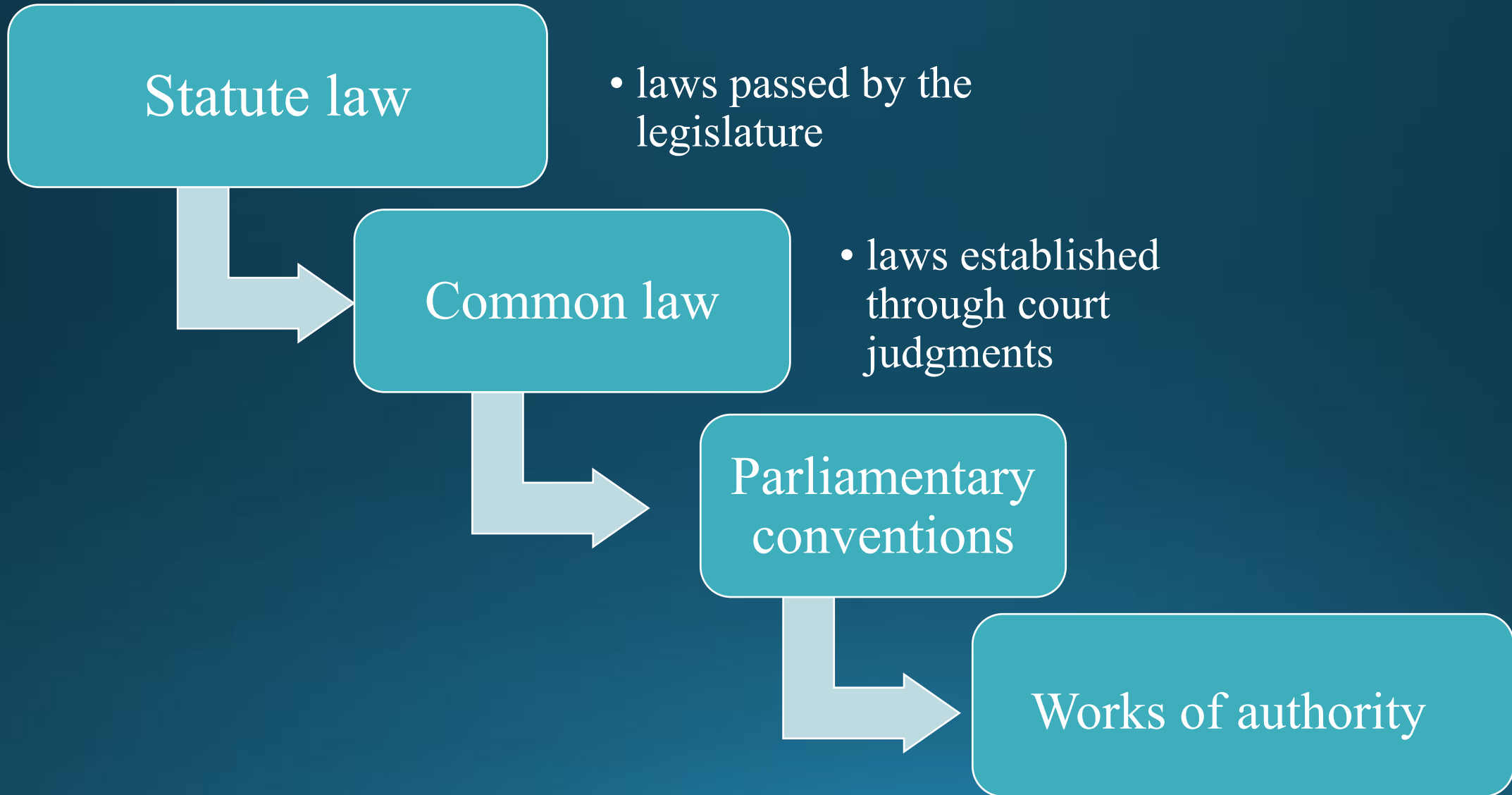
The British Constitution is flexible

The British Constitution is fragmentary and of a loose character

The supreme legislative power is Parliament

Uncodified

# Sources



# Institutions

- Monarchy
- Parliament
- Royal prerogative



# Monarchy

- The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy, and succession to the British throne is hereditary. The monarch, or Sovereign, is the Head of State of the United Kingdom and amongst several roles is notably the Commander-in-chief of the British Armed Forces.

# Parliament

- Parliament is bicameral, with two houses — the House of Commons and the House of Lords; the monarch formally forms a third element of Parliament (see Queen-in-Parliament). The House of Commons, which unlike the House of Lords is democratically elected

# Royal prerogative

- Main articles: Royal Prerogative (United Kingdom) and Queen's Consent
- Under the British constitution, sweeping executive powers, known as the royal prerogative, are nominally vested in the monarch.

# Elizabeth II



**Elizabeth II** (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; born 21 April 1926)



# Domestic powers

- The power to dismiss and appoint a Prime Minister
- The power to dismiss and appoint other ministers
- The power to summon and prorogue Parliament
- The power to grant or refuse Royal Assent to bills (making them valid and law)
- The power to appoint members to the Queen's Counsel
- The power to issue and withdraw passports
- The power to create corporations by Royal Charter
- The most important prerogative still personally exercised by the monarch is the choice of whom to appoint Prime Minister.

# Foreign powers

- The power to ratify and make treaties
- The power to declare war and peace
- The power to deploy the Armed Forces overseas
- The power to recognise states
- The power to accredit and receive diplomats

# Cabinet and government

- Main article: Cabinet of the United Kingdom
- It is the monarch's constitutional duty to appoint a Prime Minister who can command support of a majority in the House of Commons. When one party has an absolute majority in the House of Commons, the monarch appoints the leader of that party as prime minister.



# Judiciary

- There are three judicial systems in the United Kingdom: that of England and Wales, that of Scotland, and that of Northern Ireland.

