

# *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

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Kingdom (Eng. Britain) - a sovereign state located off the northwest coast of continental Europe. The United Kingdom includes the island of Great Britain, the island of Ireland and many small islands. Northern Ireland - the only part of the United Kingdom, which has a land border with another sovereign state - the Republic of Ireland. All other borders are water: United Kingdom surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the English Channel and the Irish Sea.



United Kingdom consists of 4 major administrative and political parts (historical country):

Flag of England.svg England (39 counties, 6 metropolitenskyh counties and Greater London), the administrative center - London

Flag of Wales 2.svg Wales (22 unitary formation: 9 counties and 3 cities and 10 towns, counties), the administrative center - Cardiff;

Flag of Scotland.svg Scotland (12 regions 9 counties and 3 common areas), the administrative center - Edinburgh;

Flag of Northern Ireland.svg Northern Ireland (26 counties), the administrative center - Belfast.





The Act of Union between England and Scotland was approved in 1707, Ireland Act 1801 joined Britain and Ireland. Until the mid XX century Britain was the world's largest center for the British Empire.

Reform Act of 1832-67 provided the voting rights of the working class power in 1911 the House of Lords was limited, the UK took part in the First World War 1914-18. Law on Internal Control to incorporate the northeastern Ireland (Ulster) in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In 1921 Ireland except Ulster, was Dominion. The first Labour government headed by Ramsay MacDonald in 1924.



Relief central and south-eastern parts of the UK hilly plains; Scotland, Wales and Ulster dominated by low mountains and hills, heavily smoothed by glaciers and river erosion. Peninsula Wales busy Kambriyskyy mountains south of Scotland are Kamberlendski and Pennine mountains. The highest mountain in the UK are in North Highlands. Mount Ben Nevis, located near the top of the Gulf of Loch Lynn, rises to a height of 1343 m above sea level and near the intersection of Highland and mountains Hrampianskyh several peaks exceeding 1200 m. The main rivers: the Thames, Severn, Trent , Meursault





United Kingdom - a constitutional monarchy headed by a king or queen. The form of government - a parliamentary monarchy. Under the constitution refers to a set of different documents governing the issue of a constitutional nature. These include statutes or Acts of Parliament (such as the Magna Carta and the 1215 Bill of Rights in 1689), judicial precedents and unwritten customs agreement.

In the UK constitution is not codified, ie as a separate booklets called "Constitution" does not exist. However, elements of the British constitution entirely decorated in the form of written documents. This document can be considered, such as the Magna Carta, which says: "No free man shall be seized, imprisoned, dispossessed, outlawed, exiled, or any otherwise humiliated ... except by lawful judgment or the law of the country. "

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own executive authorities, headed by the First Minister and devolyutsiynu unicameral legislature. England, the largest region of the UK, has neither the executive nor the legislative authority and is managed directly by the British government and parliament. This situation has created a so-called problem associated with the fact that MPs from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can vote, and sometimes have a crucial role that the issues relating to England who settled delegated legislators independently in their regions.







Britain is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, G8, G20, NATO, OECD, WTO, Council of Europe, OSCE. The UK has a "special relationship" with the United States and close partnership with France, as well as a general program of nuclear weapons of the two countries. Other close allies are members of the EU and NATO and Commonwealth countries, and Japan. The global presence and impact of Britain also enhanced through trade relations, foreign investment, official aid for development and military forces.

United Kingdom - one of the most economically advanced industrial countries.

The leading economy in the financial services, pharmaceutical and military industry. Stable multinationals. Precision and high tech technologies (telecommunications and biotechnology). Oil and gas from the North Sea. Innovation in software development. Flexible working conditions. Successfully captures the tendency to reduce rates. Low unemployment (in 2004 4%).

Main industries: mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, shipbuilding and aircraft construction, electronics, metallurgy, chemical, coal, oil, paper, food, textile and light industry. Developed all kinds of modern transport. The main ports of London, Liverpool, Manchester, Milford Haven, Hull, Southampton, Immingham.



Culture of the United Kingdom is rich and varied. It greatly affects the culture on a global scale. The UK has strong cultural ties with their former colonies, especially those countries where English is official. A significant contribution to British culture over the past half a century brought immigrants from South Asia and the Caribbean. In the process of the United Kingdom was composed of former independent states that are different cultures and to be considered separately.