
DYNAMICS OF MONARCHICAL GOVERNANCE IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

(A monarchikus kormányzás dinamikája a modern Európában)

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I. Introduction

European monarchies are a special kind of governance model that balances tradition with modern politics. Despite their shared history they are very different in their roles, from powerful institutions to figureheads. For example in Liechtenstein the monarchy has direct control of the administration, in Sweden and Belgium it's mainly ceremonial.

Understanding these differences is key to understanding how monarchies evolve and stay relevant in our modern political climate. Scholars like Morris et al. (2020) say monarchies are stabilizing elements, providing continuity, identity and flexibility in the face of political hard times. Their research suggests we need to look at the factors that influence the power of the monarchies, especially how the constitutional regime, historical and cultural memories and the views of the common people have interacted and contributed to change.

This research adds to that while introducing a new method to look at what makes (politically) powerful monarchies and ceremonial ones. It fills a gap in the literature by looking at the combinations of variables that shape monarchical influence.

I.1. Research Question and Objectives

The central research question guiding this study is:

What key factors distinguish European monarchies with significant political influence from those with ceremonial roles, and how do these factors interact to shape monarchical governance dynamics?

The objectives of this study are threefold. First, it will identify and analyse the constitutional, historical and cultural factors that shape the role of monarchies in governance. Second, it will explore the causal configurations that lead to different levels of monarchical influence using Configurational Comparative Qualitative Analysis. Third, it will contribute to the academic debate on institutional resilience and adaptation in modern democracies by looking at the governance of the 11 European monarchies.

I.2. Research Method and Data Sources

In this work, Configurational Comparative Qualitative Analysis is employed to explore complex causal relationships among factors such as constitutional constraints, historical traditions, and public attitudes that influence monarchical power. In contrast to linear approaches, Crisp-Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (csQCA) focuses on the relationship

between historical, cultural and institutional factors and is, consequently, making it ideal for analysing the governance roles of European monarchies.

The analysis examines the 11 European monarchies: Andorra, Belgium, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Data is drawn from multiple sources such as academic research, government statistics, and public attitude survey, which lays a solid foundation to measure the main indicators such as monarchical power, constitutional constraints, and the role of the monarchy in society.

I.3. Structure of the Study

The study is organized as follows:

- Introduction (Chapter I): This chapter establishes the relevance of the study, presents the research question, and introduces the methodological framework.
- Theoretical Foundations (Chapters II–V): These chapters explore the ceremonial and stabilizing roles of monarchies, constitutional frameworks and their impact on governance, political traditions of Northern and Southern European monarchies, and the relationship between monarchy and religion. These concepts will later serve as the basis for the variables in the csQCA analysis.
- Research Methodology, Analysis, and Results (Chapter VI): This chapter details the csQCA methodology, variables, data sources, and analytical process, presenting findings that identify key causal configurations associated with monarchical influence.
- Discussion and Conclusion (Chapter VII): The final chapter interprets the results, explores their implications for understanding governance dynamics in European monarchies, and proposes directions for future research.

II. Monarchies as Stabilizing Factors

Monarchies with a long and extensive history and culture behind them play a notable, though often silent, role in national cohesion and identity. Although monarchies are commonly perceived through their ceremonial functions, they have historically served as the foundation for national integration and cohesion, fostering a sense of continuity and institutional stability over time (Deploige & Deneckere, 2006). In accordance with the theoretical framework of symbolic interactionism, the ceremonial roles in question contribute to the formation of national narratives and the construction of group identity (Foss, 2012). Despite holding minimal formal political authority, monarchs exert considerable influence, both direct and indirect, on public opinion and the policy agenda through the use of soft power, cultural influence, and symbolic presence (Møller, 2020).

This chapter examines the contemporary relevance of monarchies through their ceremonial roles, public popularity and political influence. Monarchs promote national identity and social cohesion through symbolic duties, while maintaining public appeal through cultural significance and nostalgia, despite generational shifts in attitudes. Although limited by constitutional constraints, they wield soft power to indirectly shape public discourse, diplomacy and policy, highlighting their enduring influence on modern societies.

II.1. Ceremonial Duties

Ceremonial functions, which are often regarded as anachronistic traditions, retain significant sociopolitical importance in monarchical systems of governance. It has been proposed that such ceremonies serve to foster national unity, the formation of collective identity, and the maintenance of social cohesion and stability (Møller, 2020; Morris et al., 2020). These tasks, based on symbolic interactionism and collective identity constructs, extend beyond the formal. Monarchs play a role in reinforcing common cultural themes at events such as state dinners and international meetings, thereby promoting national solidarity (Serpe & Stryker, 2011).

Moreover, ceremonial events serve to foster national identity and continuity, thereby exemplifying Benedict Anderson's concept of "imagined communities" (Anderson, 2016). Monarchs not only display authority and legitimacy in general, but they also transcend party lines and serve to stabilise in times of crisis (Weber, 2012; Foss, 2012). Their engagement with a diverse range of social categories serves to foster bridges of inclusion and mutual tolerance and understanding (Morris et al., 2020). These activities, based on sociological,

anthropological and political science approaches, serve to secure legitimacy, promote social integration and guarantee national sentiment and loyalty.

II.2. Popularity

Public opinion polls and approval ratings provide crucial empirical evidence on monarchy popularity. They use social identity and group processes theory to reflect the relative salience of the monarchy in its role and function in society. Nonetheless, these instruments are complicated because of sampling and respondent biases and the volatile state of public opinion (Wilson, 2024).

For example, recent polls in the United Kingdom show a complex picture of age differences in driving behaviours. However, just over half of Britons are in favour of the monarchy, and fewer and fewer see it as "very important," which represents a tendency in the larger social context of growing scepticism towards hierarchical authority and toward the loss of deference to the kind of symbols of power that the monarchy represents (National Centre for Social Research, 2024; Elzinga, 2009).

Generational shifts also emphasise the nature of the interaction between historical heritage, cultural identity, and socio-political values. Among younger groups, those who are least supportive of the monarchy complain about its cost and relevance to contemporary governance (YouGov, 2024). All this underlines the value of taking socio-demographic variables into account when studying the popularity of the monarchy.

Monarchic popularity is shaped by cognitive, emotional, and motivational processes, as viewed from a social-psychological standpoint. Attitudes may be affected by nostalgia, nationalistic feelings, and symbolic associations or by seeing the monarchs in the light of celebrity culture and being critical of their relevance to government (Edley, 2024).

All in all, monarchies' appeal is a nuanced result of their historical heritage, cultural feeling, and current importance. A multidisciplinary perspective is needed to fully grasp the drivers of the public's attitude and the relevance of the monarchy in modern societies.

II.3. Influence on Politics

The role of monarchs in political outcomes is a subject of continuing academic debate, with attention paid both to their strength and the ways in which they can affect domestic and foreign policy. Nowadays considered to be figureheads with limited authority, monarchs operate on a profound soft power that can insidiously influence the flow of public discourse

and policy-making (Møller, 2020). Understanding their influence requires a multidimensional approach, considering both direct and indirect mechanisms through which they exercise authority.

Monarchs exert primary policy influence in foreign affairs through diplomatic efforts. As symbolic agents, they can also serve as focal diplomatic agents, attending state receptions and international conferences. Although constitutional constraints bind formal diplomatic capabilities, their presence can have profound consequences on bilateral relations and their countries' image (Foss, 2012). Monarchs also exploit soft power, a relatively informal power, by virtue of moral power, to affect public opinion and policy. Their backing of policies can give them credibility, influence discussions, and galvanise public support (Cull, 2008).

In particular, monarchs perform additional functions in political systems as constitutional adjudicators and protectors of national cohesiveness. Although their formal powers are limited, their informal reach over political power holders is substantial. By working in discreet conversations and covert steering, rulers can exert a quiet steer on the hands of decision-makers and shape governmental policy so as to provide favourable contexts for broader national plans (Cull, 2008).

Nevertheless, the extent of monarchs' impact is limited, especially in democracies with robust institutional constraints. Factors such as the strength of democratic institutions, political culture, and governance norms influence their ability to shape policy (Ottinger Voigtländer, 2020). Although monarchs' symbolic power makes soft power available, they can act and deliver fundamental changes only to the extent that they can overcome their societies' political constraints (Foss, 2012).

In conclusion, monarchs influence policy outcomes through a blend of formal authority, informal influence, and symbolic significance. Although their intended mandate may be shrouded in their position of pupillage, they remain central in the germ of modern political debate and policymaking. Awareness of their impact is necessary by identifying both direct and indirect mechanisms and by acknowledging their role as "guardians of national heritage" (Ottinger Voigtländer, 2020) in a modern political context.

III. Constitutional Aspects

In Europe, constitutional monarchies are key actors in preserving tradition and stability, and also in adjusting to the challenges of modern democratic societies. Such systems combine the exercise of royal power with carefully designed and embedded institutions which have developed over centuries as a result of historical and constitutional changes (Morris et al., 2020). This chapter takes a comparative look at the intricacies of how these monarchies operate, focusing on the shifting roles of monarchs and what that means for today's political landscape.

European constitutional monarchies vary widely in how they function, influenced by different historical backgrounds and current political contexts (Bogdanor, 1991). As already mentioned, in the United Kingdom, the royal family plays a mostly symbolic role, whereas in Liechtenstein and Monaco, monarchs often take on more active political roles. This contrast reveals the balance between honouring tradition and embracing modernization, as well as the tension between symbolic power and real institutional accountability.

This chapter examines the constitutional roles of European monarchs and the balance of power between them and their institutions. It highlights the significance of monarchical governance in the 21st century and explores the diversity of constitutional monarchies, including variations in royal authority and institutional control.

Challenging the notion that these monarchies are obsolete, the chapter discusses factors contributing to their resilience, as well as contemporary challenges and adaptation strategies. Ultimately, it offers an overview of monarchical governance in Europe, focusing on its historical roots, current relevance, and future potential.

III.1. Comparative Analysis of Constitutional Monarchies in Europe

Constitutional monarchy is a dominant model of government in Europe. It operates within a framework in which constitutional provisions limit the monarch's authority. This section aims to analyse the constitutional role of monarchs in different European countries, examining the complex balance of power between the sovereign and the institutional framework.

III.1.1. Comparative Analysis of Constitutional Monarchies in Europe

Europe's constitutional monarchies represent a complex mix of historical traditions and modern political imperatives. In countries such as Liechtenstein and Monaco, the monarch

exercises considerable discretionary powers, including executive, legislative and judicial functions. This concentration of authority reflects pre-modern notions of monarchy tempered by constitutional constraints (Morris et al., 2020; Bogdanor, 1991).

Conversely, countries such as the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Norway and Sweden exemplify constitutional monarchies in which royal authority is predominantly ceremonial. Here, the institutional framework relegates the monarch to a symbolic or ceremonial role, devoid of substantive political influence. This transition represents a broader shift towards democratic governance, in which the monarch symbolises national unity rather than wields tangible power (Bogdanor, 1991).

While all constitutional monarchies impose limits on royal authority, the extent of these limitations varies significantly. In countries where the monarch retains considerable discretionary powers, the institutional framework typically includes mechanisms for parliamentary oversight and judicial review. This aligns with the concept of constitutional monarchy as envisioned by Enlightenment philosophers like Locke and Montesquieu, who championed a government system characterized by checks and balances (Jenkins, 2011).

In countries where the monarch primarily serves a symbolic role, the institutional framework emphasizes democratic principles and parliamentary sovereignty. This shift towards a ceremonial monarchy indicates a broader societal agreement on the importance of elected representatives in governance, reducing the monarch's role to that of a unifying symbol of national identity (Elzinga, 2009; Foss, 2012).

III.1.2. Theoretical frameworks and historical development

The evolution of constitutional monarchy is based on theoretical frameworks such as Locke's social contract theory and Montesquieu's separation of powers. Historical events like democratic revolutions and constitutional reforms have shaped these institutions in Europe. The relationship between formal constitutional provisions and unwritten conventions illustrates the adaptive nature of monarchical governance, allowing it to respond to socio-political needs (Bogdanor, 1997).

By exploring various constitutional monarchies, we gain insights into the interactions between tradition and modernity, authority and accountability (Tridimas, 2021). This understanding informs discussions on the role of monarchs in today's European governance and highlights the continuing significance of constitutional monarchy in the 21st century.

III.2. The Political Stability and Institutional Resilience of Constitutional Monarchies

Constitutional monarchies are often perceived as relics of the past, yet they represent a significant portion of global political systems. This short analysis examines the factors that have contributed to their continued resilience and relevance in the 21st century, despite predictions of their decline. Constitutional monarchies have demonstrated remarkable stability over time, and a number of factors have been identified as contributing to this resilience. These include constitutional safeguards, institutional continuity, and the monarch's role in promoting national unity (Morris et al., 2020; Ginsburg et al., 2023).

Constitutional monarchies serve as "stakes-reducing devices," helping to mitigate political polarization and manage crises. Their apolitical nature allows them to depoliticize contentious issues and foster consensus (Delaney, 2016). They maintain adaptability by integrating traditional and democratic principles, effectively navigating complex political landscapes.

In times of national upheaval, the symbolic presence of the monarch can provide continuity and reassurance, with constitutional provisions aiding political resolution (Bogdanor et al., 1991). However, they face challenges in an interconnected world, such as demands for transparency and accountability, necessitating adaptive strategies (Hazell, 2022).

Key adaptations include pursuing constitutional reforms to modernize governance structures and engaging in symbolic gestures to connect with citizens and foster social cohesion (Khabrieva, 2016). The future of constitutional monarchies relies on their ability to balance tradition and modernity, reinforcing their relevance as symbols of stability during political transitions.

By upholding accountability, inclusiveness, and the rule of law, constitutional monarchies can remain effective governance models in the 21st century, contributing to discussions on democratic governance and stability.

IV. Political Traditions of Monarchies

This chapter examines political traditions within monarchies, focusing on the differences between northern and southern European monarchies. It analyses how geographical, historical, and cultural factors have shaped different trajectories in monarchy development, resulting in distinct political traditions and power dynamics. The section explores the historical contexts influencing governance structures and social norms, tracing the evolution of monarchies from medieval feudalism to the modern era. Additionally, it considers the contemporary impact of monarchies as symbols of continuity, stability, and national identity, using empirical evidence to assess their contributions to democratic stability and social cohesion today. Ultimately, this chapter aims to provide a clear understanding of the political traditions within monarchies, highlighting their historical legacies and contemporary significance in the global political landscape.

IV.1. Northern and Southern Monarchies

To understand the complex political traditions associated with monarchies, it is crucial to distinguish between northern and southern European monarchies. Northern monarchies, such as those in Scandinavia—Norway, Sweden, and Denmark—are characterized by their geographical location and historical development. These nations share common cultural and political traits shaped by their proximity and historical interactions. In contrast, southern monarchies, including Spain, Italy, and Greece, have distinct characteristics that stem from their geographical positioning in southern Europe and their unique historical trajectories (Ottinger & Voigtländer, 2020; Morris et al., 2020).

The differences between northern and southern monarchies extend location; it is the result of a dynamic interaction between cultural, historical, and political factors. For instance, the historical legacy of Viking conquests and medieval feudalism in Scandinavia has influenced the development of egalitarian and democratic principles within northern monarchies (Morris et al., 2020). In contrast, southern European monarchies have been shaped by the legacies of ancient empires, feudalism, and Catholic hegemony, leading to different political traditions and power structures (Deploige & Deneckere, 2006; Morris et al., 2020).

IV.2. Historical Context

The historical development of monarchies offers valuable insights into their political traditions and social impact. Throughout the Middle Ages, monarchies became the dominant form of government in Europe, exerting considerable power over their subjects. However, the nature of monarchy varied significantly from region to region, shaped by factors such as feudalism, religious institutions, and cultural norms (Deploige & Deneckere, 2006; Saylor, 2024).

In northern Europe, particularly in Scandinavia, monarchies often coexisted with systems of communal governance, such as the Icelandic Althing and the Norwegian Thing (Bernáth, 2024). These assemblies provided avenues for participatory decision-making and political decentralization, fostering civic engagement and a sense of collective responsibility among citizens. The legacy of Viking exploration and trade also contributed to a culture of pragmatism and consensus-building within northern monarchies (Woodacre et al., 2019; Finer, 1997).

In contrast, southern European monarchies tended to be more centralized and authoritarian, characterized by absolute rule and hierarchical structures (Deploige & Deneckere, 2006). The influence of ancient empires such as Rome and Byzantium shaped the political dynamics of southern monarchies, emphasizing concepts of divine right and imperial sovereignty (Woodacre et al., 2019; Saylor, 2024). Monarchs in southern Europe often wielded absolute power, relying on feudal vassals and ecclesiastical authorities to maintain control over their realms (Woodacre et al., 2019).

The aftermath of the First World War marked a significant turning point in the history of monarchies, as several European nations witnessed the abolition of their royal houses. The rise of republicanism and democratic movements challenged the legitimacy of monarchies, leading to a decline in their political influence (Tridimas, 2016). Nevertheless, some monarchies adapted to these changing circumstances by embracing constitutional reform, evolving into symbolic figureheads within a democratic framework (Bogdanor, 1997).

For instance, the United Kingdom underwent a gradual transition from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy, culminating in the Magna Carta and the Glorious Revolution (Bogdanor, 1991). Similarly, Spain transitioned from the authoritarian rule of General Franco to a constitutional monarchy in the late 20th century, symbolizing a shift towards democratic governance and political pluralism (Encarnación, 2002). These historical

developments highlight the resilience and adaptability of monarchies in response to social change and political upheaval.

IV.3. Political Traditions

An examination of the political traditions in northern and southern European monarchies reveals distinct influences on their governance and social norms.

IV.3.1. Northern European Monarchies

In Northern Europe, particularly Scandinavia, monarchies have historically represented principles of egalitarianism and social welfare. This tradition, often referred to as the "Nordic model," emphasizes the role of monarchs in promoting social cohesion and welfare policies. Practices of consensual decision-making and a social contract between monarchs and their subjects have fostered a sense of national solidarity and collective identity (Frønes et al., 2020). Monarchs in Northern Europe have played a crucial role in advocating for progressive values and inclusive governance, consistent with the region's commitment to social equality and democratic principles (Morris et al., 2020).

The "Nordic model" goes beyond mere governance structures; it embodies a broader societal ethos characterized by a strong welfare state, universal healthcare, and robust social safety nets. Scandinavian monarchs have often championed initiatives to reduce social inequalities, address environmental challenges, and promote gender equality. Their involvement in philanthropic endeavours and advocacy for human rights underscores their commitment to fostering a fairer and more compassionate society (Morris et al., 2020; Frønes et al., 2020).

IV.3.2. Southern European Monarchies

Southern European monarchies have historically faced challenges related to authoritarian rule and entrenched power structures. The legacies of absolutism and feudalism have significantly influenced the political dynamics in these regions, resulting in centralized governments and limited political freedoms (Deploige & Deneckere, 2006). Countries such as Spain, Italy, and Greece have experienced periods of autocratic rule, where power has been concentrated in the hands of monarchs and ruling elites (Tannenberg et al., 2020).

However, the transition to constitutional monarchies in the 20th century marked a significant shift toward greater political pluralism and democratic governance in some Southern European countries (Tannenberg et al., 2020). The adoption of constitutional reforms and the establishment of democratic institutions signalled a departure from the authoritarian past, paving the way for increased political participation and civil liberties (Bogdanor, 1991; Morris et al., 2020). Despite these advancements, challenges remain in consolidating democratic norms and addressing historical inequalities within Southern European societies.

IV.4. Impact on Current Political Landscape

The enduring influence of traditional political systems is evident in today's political landscape, where monarchies continue to play a significant role in shaping national identity and governance dynamics. Despite occasional controversies regarding their relevance, monarchies in countries such as the United Kingdom, Spain, and the Netherlands remain popular and enjoy substantial public support and loyalty.

Ceremonial functions of monarchs—such as state visits, royal weddings, and public engagements—serve as focal points for national pride and the preservation of cultural heritage (Møller, 2020). Monarchs often symbolize continuity and stability, fostering a sense of unity and belonging among citizens (Deploige & Deneckere, 2006).

Moreover, empirical evidence from the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index underscores a correlation between constitutional monarchies and democratic stability. Seven of the world's top twenty-four democracies are constitutional monarchies, highlighting the stabilizing influence of monarchs within democratic systems (The Economist Intelligence Unit Ltd., 2024). By providing continuity and remaining neutral above partisan politics, monarchs help maintain political balance and social cohesion in their respective countries (Elzinga, 2009).

IV.5. Role of Monarchies in Modern Democracies

Monarchies have a complex role in modern democracies that extends beyond mere ceremonial duties. They can influence governance and promote societal cohesion. Through concepts like "democratic monarchy" and "cultural monarchy," monarchs navigate the challenges of contemporary politics while preserving historical legacies and fostering national unity.

IV.5.1. Democratic Monarchy

The concept of democratic monarchy suggests that monarchs can serve as unifying figures within democracies, embodying principles of national unity and continuity during political transitions and crises. In times of uncertainty or political upheaval, monarchs often emerge as symbols of stability and tradition, providing reassurance to citizens and fostering confidence in democratic institutions (Foss, 2012). Their non-partisan status and ceremonial duties create a unifying force beyond political factions, which helps to enhance the legitimacy of democratic governance. Furthermore, monarchs can act as mediators or arbiters during political crises, facilitating dialogue and consensus-building among competing interests (Elzinga, 2009). Empirical evidence indicates that constitutional monarchies often score highly on measures of democratic stability, highlighting the stabilizing influence of monarchs within democratic systems (Stepan et al., 2014).

IV.5.1. Cultural Monarchy

The concept of cultural monarchy emphasizes the symbolic importance of monarchs in preserving national heritage and fostering a sense of collective identity among citizens. Through public appearances, patronage of cultural institutions, and participation in ceremonial events, monarchs embody the values and traditions of their nations, reinforcing a sense of pride and belonging (Tridimas, 2021; Anderson, 2016). This cultural role extends beyond mere symbolism, as monarchs often engage in philanthropic and charitable activities that promote social cohesion and community welfare (Anderson, 2016; Serpe & Stryker, 2011). By preserving cultural traditions and promoting cultural diversity, monarchs enrich national identity and collective memory, transcending political divides and social divisions (Elzinga, 2009).

IV.6. Theoretical Perspectives

Theoretical perspectives help us understand the role of monarchies in democratic systems. The "cultural monarchy" theory emphasizes that monarchs symbolize cultural traditions and foster national unity, strengthening citizens' pride and belonging.

In contrast, the "democratic monarchy" theory suggests that monarchs provide stability by serving as non-partisan figureheads above political divisions. They uphold the legitimacy of democratic institutions and can act as mediators during political crises, facilitating dialogue among competing interests.

V. Role of the Church in Monarchies

From medieval Europe to the present, the church has significantly influenced governance, policymaking, and collective identity within monarchies (Deploige & Deneckere, 2006). This chapter examines the role of church governance in monarchies and its impact on these areas.

The relationship between church and state has evolved, marked by religious schisms and political changes (Grzymala-Busse, 2024). The church acts as a moral authority that legitimizes monarchs and provides a governance framework, while the state often supports the church, enhancing its influence.

This chapter discusses how religion shapes legal frameworks and advocates for policies aligned with religious values (Croucher et al., 2024), and how religious institutions influence policymaking through public discourse.

It also explores the church's role in preserving cultural heritage and reinforcing national identity through traditions and symbols (Croucher et al., 2024; Deploige & Deneckere, 2006), as well as the ties between church and monarchy that contribute to the latter's legitimacy.

In conclusion, this study of church governance in monarchies reveals the complexities of religious influence on governance, policymaking, and national identity, enhancing our understanding of the historical and cultural forces shaping this dynamic.

V.1. Church-State Relations in Monarchies

The historical connection between church and state in monarchies stems from a complex interplay of power dynamics and socio-cultural norms. For centuries, the church has served as a moral and spiritual authority, legitimizing monarchs and providing a moral framework for governance. In return, the state has supported the church's interests, enhancing its influence in society (Gallagher, 2005).

This relationship has evolved due to factors such as religious schisms and political upheavals. Notably, the Reformation shifted power dynamics by challenging the Catholic Church's authority and allowing for state-sponsored Protestant denominations (Croucher et al., 2024). Despite these changes, church and state continue to collaborate on governance issues, with the church promoting moral standards and social cohesion, complementing the state's role in maintaining order (Ottinger & Voigtländer, 2020; Grzymala-Busse, 2024).

Analysing the church's role within monarchies reveals its influence on governance and national identity. The church, through its hierarchical structure and moral authority, actively

engages in policy-making and social welfare, thus reinforcing its legitimacy (Grzymala-Busse, 2024). Furthermore, by embedding rituals and cultural practices in society, the church fosters a shared identity and strengthens the monarchy's legitimacy, maintaining social stability (Gallagher, 2005; Deploige & Deneckere, 2006).

V.2. Role of Religion in Policy-making

Religion plays a significant role in policy-making within monarchies, influencing legislative agendas, decision-making, and public discourse. This influence occurs both directly and indirectly through religious institutions.

Directly, church leaders and religious organizations participate in drafting laws and policies, using their moral authority to advocate for specific agendas. They engage in lobbying, policy recommendations, and public advocacy to sway policymakers (Cleveland & Luyckx, 1999). For example, on issues like abortion and same-sex marriage, religious groups mobilize support to pressure lawmakers into adopting policies that reflect their values (Grzymaa-Busse, 2015).

Indirectly, religion shapes public opinion and discourse by framing policy issues through a moral lens. Through sermons and media outreach, religious institutions influence societal attitudes, indirectly affecting policymakers' decisions.

Additionally, religious teachings provide moral guidance for policymakers facing ethical dilemmas, helping to shape policies (Grzymala-Busse, 2024). When state policies align with religious values, they gain legitimacy and public support, reinforcing the authority of both the state and the church (Grzymaa-Busse, 2015). This alignment fosters social cohesion and stability within society (Gallagher, 2005).

V.3. Role of Religion in National Identity

The role of religion in shaping national identity within monarchies is significant. The Church plays a vital role in fostering collective identity and cohesion through shared beliefs, values, and traditions, which reinforce cultural heritage and historical narratives (Grosby, 2024).

As the custodian of cultural heritage, the Church preserves traditions and rituals essential to national identity. Religious ceremonies often serve as focal points for uniting diverse communities around common beliefs (Pötz, 2019). These shared experiences, such as

religious holidays and pilgrimages, strengthen the collective memory of the nation and enhance feelings of belonging (Gallagher, 2005; Grosby, 2024).

Historically, the Church's ties to the monarchy reinforce its influence on national identity. Monarchs have traditionally sought the Church's blessing to legitimize their rule and fortify alliances, as seen in coronation ceremonies that symbolize the relationship between Church and state (Anderson, 2016).

Additionally, religious iconography in public spaces serves as a reminder of shared values and beliefs, while cathedrals and monuments reflect the enduring legacy of faith in shaping national ethos (Džalto, 2024). Religious leaders also play crucial roles in national affairs, providing moral guidance and underscoring the intertwined destinies of religion and national identity (Grosby, 2024; Grzymala-Busse, 2024).

VI. Configurational Comparative Qualitative Analysis (csQCA) of Monarchical Impact and Governance Dynamics

As the previous chapters discussing theoretical foundations have demonstrated, monarchies have long been an important part of the political landscape, representing both tradition and continuity across various cultures and histories. Monarchs, ranging from ceremonial figureheads to active participants in governance, wield differing degrees of influence within their respective nations. The complex dynamics between monarchy and governance have attracted significant scholarly attention, highlighting the ongoing relevance of monarchical institutions in modern politics.

Historically, monarchies have been characterized by a unique combination of symbolic authority and practical governance. While some monarchs exercise considerable power, others function within constitutional frameworks that restrict their authority. To understand the impact of monarchy and its governance dynamics, a nuanced analysis of the various factors that shape the role and influence of monarchs within their political systems is essential.

Scholars have explored different aspects of monarchical governance, including the concentration of monarchical power, the strength of constitutional constraints, and the historical foundations of monarchical institutions. However, the interactions among these variables and their collective influence on the broader political landscape remain underexplored. This chapter aims to fill that gap by employing a Configurational Comparative Qualitative Analysis—precisely Crisp-Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis—to investigate the complex causal configurations underlying monarchical influence and governance dynamics in a selection of European monarchies.

The European monarchies examined in this chapter include Andorra, Belgium, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

This method facilitates the identification of the combinations of conditions that lead to varying levels of monarchical impact, illuminating the relationship among variables such as constitutional constraints, historical traditions, and crisis management mechanisms within European monarchies.

The significance of this analysis extends beyond academic research, offering insights relevant to policymakers, practitioners, and citizens alike. Understanding the factors that contribute to differing levels of monarchical influence provides valuable guidance for assessing

the role of monarchy in shaping political stability, institutional resilience, and democratic governance within European states.

VI.1. Methodology

The methodology employed in this study uses Configurational Comparative Qualitative Analysis, a method specifically designed to analyse complex causal configurations by identifying combinations of conditions that lead to specific outcomes. CsQCA allows for a detailed examination of the relationships between multiple variables and their combined effect on the outcome of interest.

VI.1.1. Variables Considered

When comparing monarchies in Europe, several key variables are taken into account. These variables help assess the level of power and influence that a monarchy holds, as well as its ability to adapt and maintain stability in response to changing socio-political dynamics. The following are the main variables explored in this study:

I. Concentration of Monarchical Power

This term refers to the degree of authority and control that monarchs have over political decision-making processes.

Values:

- *High*: Indicates a significant concentration of power in the hands of the monarchy, with monarchs exerting substantial control over political affairs.
- *Low*: Represents a distribution of power within the political system, where checks and balances limit the authority of the monarch.

II. Constitutional Constraints

This refers to the strength of constitutional provisions and limitations placed on the powers of the monarchy.

Values:

- *Strong*: Signifies robust constitutional constraints that limit the authority of the monarchy and uphold principles of democracy and the rule of law.
- *Weak*: Indicates limited constitutional constraints, allowing the monarchy greater discretion and authority.

III. Theoretical Foundations

This examines the historical and philosophical underpinnings of monarchical governance, including influences from Enlightenment principles and historical developments.

Values:

- *Enlightenment Influence*: Reflects the impact of Enlightenment principles, such as constitutionalism, individual rights, and limited government, on monarchical governance.
- *Historical Development*: Represents the evolution of monarchical governance over time, shaped by historical events, traditions, and cultural norms.

IV. Resilience and Stability

This assesses the stability and endurance of monarchical institutions when faced with internal and external challenges.

Values:

- *Enduring*: Signifies strong and resilient monarchical institutions capable of withstanding challenges and maintaining stability over time.
- *Adaptive*: Indicates flexibility and adaptability in response to changing socio-political dynamics, ensuring the continued relevance and stability of monarchy.

V. Crisis Management Mechanisms

This analyzes the strategies employed by monarchies to manage crises and challenges to their authority.

Values:

- *Symbolic Presence*: Indicates a focus on symbolic gestures and ceremonial roles in managing crises and maintaining public confidence.
- *Institutional Safeguards*: Represents the presence of institutional mechanisms and procedures designed to effectively manage crises and uphold the stability of the monarchy.

VI. Future Prospects

This considers the adaptability and forward-looking strategies of monarchies in response to changing socio-political dynamics.

Values:

- *Adaptive Strategies*: Signifies proactive measures and strategic initiatives aimed at addressing future challenges and ensuring the continued relevance of the monarchy.
- *Symbolic Engagement*: Indicates a focus on symbolic gestures and engagement with society, without significant changes to governance structures.

VII. Political Traditions of Monarchies

This examines the historical and cultural traditions that shape the political role and significance of monarchy within a given society.

Values:

- *Northern Influence*: Reflects political traditions influenced by Northern European monarchies, characterized by principles of constitutionalism and parliamentary democracy.
- *Southern Influence*: Represents political traditions influenced by Southern European monarchies, often associated with a stronger emphasis on hierarchical authority and centralized power.

VIII. Church and State Relationship

This investigates the nature and depth of the relationship between religious institutions and the monarchy within the political system.

Values:

- *Strong*: Indicates a close and intertwined relationship between the monarchy and religious institutions, often characterized by shared authority and cooperation.
- *Moderate*: Reflects a balanced relationship, with mutual respect for each other's spheres of influence.
- *Weak*: Represents a distant or strained relationship, with limited collaboration or influence between the monarchy and religious institutions.
- *Absent*: Denotes the lack of any formal relationship or significant interaction between the monarchy and religious institutions.

IX. Monarchical Impact

This variable represents the overall influence and significance of monarchy within a political system, ranging from negligible to high impact.

Values:

- *High Impact:* This outcome indicates a significant and influential role for the monarchy in governance. It reflects conditions that empower the monarchy to exert considerable influence over political, social, and cultural affairs.
- *Moderate Impact:* This outcome suggests a moderate level of influence and relevance for the monarchy in governance. It indicates a balance between monarchical authority and constitutional constraints, with the monarchy playing a meaningful, yet less dominant role.
- *Low Impact:* This outcome denotes limited influence for the monarchy in governance. It suggests that while the monarchy may serve as a ceremonial institution, its actual power and influence over governmental affairs are constrained by institutional mechanisms and societal norms.
- *Negligible Impact:* This outcome signifies minimal or trivial influence for the monarchy in governance. It implies that the monarchy's role is largely symbolic or ceremonial, with little substantive impact on political processes or decision-making.

VI.1.2. Data Collection and Analysis

The following procedure was employed to analyse the impact of monarchy and governance dynamics within selected European monarchies.

1. *Data Compilation:* Data on selected European monarchies, including Andorra, Belgium, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, are collected from various sources, such as academic literature, governmental reports, and expert analyses.
2. *Variable Measurement:* Each variable is operationalized based on relevant indicators and criteria. For example, Monarchical Impact may be measured through public opinion surveys, media analysis, and historical data, while

Constitutional Constraints may be assessed by analyzing constitutional texts and expert evaluations.

3. *Truth Table Development:* A truth table is created to represent all possible combinations of conditions and outcomes across the selected European monarchies.
4. *Boolean Minimization:* Using Boolean algebra, the truth table is minimized to identify essential combinations of conditions associated with each level of Monarchical Impact.
5. *Interpretation of Results:* The results of the csQCA analysis are interpreted to clarify the complex causal configurations underlying monarchical impact and governance dynamics within the European context.

The methodology employed in this study combines rigorous data collection, systematic variable measurement, and advanced analytical techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of monarchy and its governance dynamics within European monarchies.

VI.2. Analysis of the European Monarchies

This section compiles data on selected European monarchies. Information is gathered from academic literature, government reports, and expert analyses to provide a comprehensive basis for our study.

VI.2.1. Andorra

The monarchy in Andorra represents a unique case in the European landscape, characterized by its parliamentary co-principality. In this arrangement, two princes share the role of Head of State, although their functions are largely ceremonial. The governmental framework of Andorra operates within a parliamentary system, where elected representatives manage the day-to-day affairs of governance (Freedom House, 2024). Consequently, the monarchy's direct influence on governance is minimal, leading to its characterization as having a 'negligible' impact on the country's political dynamics (Morris et al., 2020).

A closer look at the dynamics of monarchical governance in Andorra reveals several noteworthy aspects. First, the concentration of monarchical power is relatively low, with the co-princes playing mainly symbolic roles and possessing limited authority in political matters. Additionally, strong constitutional constraints are embedded in the legal framework of the

Principality to safeguard its sovereignty and protect the rights and freedoms of its citizens (Bispat d'Urgell, 2024; Freedom House, 2024).

The theoretical foundations of Andorra's political system can be traced back to its historical development, which has been characterized by a gradual evolution culminating in the establishment of a parliamentary democracy in the early 1990s. Despite its unique co-principality arrangement, Andorra's political system has demonstrated resilience and stability over time, with institutional safeguards in place to effectively manage crises within a parliamentary framework (Freedom House, 2024).

Looking ahead, Andorra expects to adopt adaptive strategies to manage evolving socio-political dynamics. This may involve gradual changes to the constitution to better reflect contemporary realities and ensure the continued stability and functionality of the political system (Govern d'Andorra, 2024; Freedom House, 2024).

An examination of the political tradition of the Andorran monarchy reveals influences from Northern Europe, particularly through historical ties with countries such as France and Spain. Furthermore, the relationship between church and state in Andorra appears to be robust, with the Catholic Church enjoying a special status—exemplified by the fact that one of the co-princes is also a bishop. However, the Church refrains from direct involvement in Andorran politics, respecting the principle of the separation of church and state (Morris et al., 2020).

VI.2.2. Belgium

The monarchy in Belgium operates within a constitutional framework, fulfilling a ceremonial role under a parliamentary system of governance. Public attitudes toward the monarchy in Belgium vary, with a majority supporting its continuation but expressing concerns about its costs and role. Media coverage emphasizes the ceremonial functions of the monarchy, which contributes to its symbolic significance (The Brussels Times, 2024). Historical data trace the evolution of the monarchy's role since its establishment in 1831, highlighting a balance between ceremonial duties and political mediation. Overall, the impact of the monarchy in Belgium is considered moderate, balancing historical significance with contemporary perceptions (belgium.be, 2024; Morris et al., 2020; The Belgian Monarchy, 2024).

The concentration of monarchical power in Belgium is low, as the monarch mainly performs ceremonial functions. Strong constitutional constraints ensure that their powers are limited, while historical developments shape the monarchy's role as a guardian of national unity (Freedom House, 2024). The monarchy demonstrates resilience and stability, adapting to socio-

political changes while maintaining its symbolic presence. Crisis management relies on institutional safeguards to ensure stability during difficult times. Future prospects involve adopting strategies to maintain relevance amid evolving societal norms (The Belgian Chamber of Representatives, 2024).

Belgium's political tradition reflects Northern influences, characterized by constitutionalism and parliamentary democracy (Morris et al., 2020). Egalitarianism thrives in the country, as evidenced by its high scores on equality indices and its successful democratic transition (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2020; Van Hiel et al., 2007). While historically rooted, Belgium's monarchy aligns with modern democratic principles, embodying a balance between tradition and progress (Freedom House, 2024; European Commission, 2024; Klingert, 2024).

The relationship between church and state in Belgium is moderate and governed by historical precedents and constitutional provisions. While officially recognized religions receive state support, the constitution upholds the principles of secularism and ensures a balanced relationship between religious institutions and state authority (Veit, 2007; Insight Turkey, 2024; van den Driesche, 2024).

VI.2.3. Denmark

The monarchy in Denmark operates within a constitutional framework that has a historical legacy dating back to the early Middle Ages (Morris et al., 2020; Finer, 1997). Public support for the monarchy remains strong, with surveys indicating widespread approval for its continuation and recognition of its benefits to the nation (Your Danish Life, 2024). Media coverage of ceremonial events involving the monarchy is extensive, reinforcing its symbolic importance (The Royal House of Denmark, 2024). Historical records trace the monarchy's lineage back to ancient rulers, demonstrating its evolution into a constitutional institution primarily serving symbolic functions (Berend, 2007). Overall, the monarchy has a significant impact in Denmark, reflecting its enduring relevance and public support.

The concentration of monarchical power in Denmark is low, consistent with the constitutional framework that places limits on the monarch's authority through legislative constraints (The Danish Parliament, 2024; Inata, 2020). Strong constitutional provisions clearly define the monarch's role and ensure adherence to democratic principles. The monarchy has shown resilience and stability, with successive rulers adapting to societal changes while upholding ceremonial traditions (Wright, 2024). Crisis management mechanisms emphasize

the monarchy's symbolic presence as a unifying force during turbulent times. Future prospects involve adaptive strategies, as the monarchy embraces modernization initiatives to maintain its relevance (Kluth, Jensen, & Lynggaard, 2023; Freedom House, 2024).

The relationship between church and state in Denmark is characterized by historical integration and evolving religious attitudes. Although the Lutheran Church has historically been intertwined with the state and retains its official status, it faces challenges from increasing religious diversity and trends toward secularization. Legislation mandates state support for the Church of Denmark, reflecting a strong historical connection. Public sentiment toward the Church fluctuates, mirroring broader shifts in religious identity and societal values (The Danish Parliament, 2014; Vinding, 2019).

VI.2.4. Liechtenstein

The monarchy of Liechtenstein operates within a unique constitutional framework that blends aspects of parliamentary democracy with an active monarchy (Freedom House, 2024). Public attitudes toward the monarchy in Liechtenstein are generally positive, with high levels of acceptance of political decisions and satisfaction with the political system. The monarchy is viewed as an integral part of the government, contributing to its stability and success. Consequently, Liechtenstein's Monarchical Impact can be classified as high, reflecting the significant role the monarchy plays in governance and public esteem (Zócalo Public Square, 2024; Paynter, 2024).

The concentration of monarchical power in Liechtenstein varies according to the personality of the reigning prince (Wolf, 2015). While the monarchy retains considerable influence, constitutional constraints ensure a balance of power between the prince and the people. Historical developments, including major constitutional reforms, have shaped the monarchy's role as a stabilizing force in Liechtenstein's political landscape (Freedom House, 2024; The Government Legal Services of the Principality of Liechtenstein, 2024). The resilience and stability of the monarchy are underscored by its enduring popular support and its adaptive strategies for the future (Zócalo Public Square, 2024).

Liechtenstein's political tradition reflects a mixture of historical influences, with the House of Liechtenstein tracing its origins to Lower Austria in the 18th century. The country's transition to democratic governance marks a successful evolution from a constitutional monarchy to a mixed constitutional framework. Egalitarianism thrives, as evident in high levels

of income equality and social mobility, while the monarchy's role aligns with modern democratic principles (Marxer, 2024).

The relationship between church and state in Liechtenstein is characterized by the official status of the Catholic Church as the state religion. Ongoing debates about reforming this relationship reveal divergent perceptions among religious leaders, government officials, and citizens. Proposed reforms aim to redefine the state's self-image as religiously neutral, signaling a potential shift toward a more secular model of governance (Boss, 2024; Freedom House, 2024).

VI.2.5. Luxembourg

The Luxembourg monarchy operates within a constitutional framework that combines ceremonial duties with a parliamentary system of governance. Public support for the monarchy in Luxembourg has historically been strong, with a majority in favor of its continuation (Freedom House, 2024). Media coverage tends to highlight the activities of the Grand Ducal family; however, the specific symbolic significance of the monarchy and public reception towards it remain unclear. The rich historical role of the monarchy, which dates back to its establishment as a Grand Duchy in 1815, underscores its importance in Luxembourg's governance. Overall, the monarchical influence in Luxembourg is provisionally rated as moderate, balancing historical tradition with contemporary perceptions (Freedom House, 2024; Website of the Luxembourg Monarchy, 2024).

The Luxembourg monarchy has a low concentration of power, with the Grand Duke mainly exercising ceremonial functions. Strong constitutional constraints, exemplified by a constitutional amendment in 2008, highlight the limited authority of the monarchy. The resilience and stability of the monarchy are reflected in Luxembourg's political and regulatory stability, positioning it as one of the most politically stable countries in the world. Crisis management mechanisms are based on institutional safeguards that ensure effective coordination during national crises (Associated Press in Luxembourg, 2024). Future prospects entail adaptive strategies that embrace modernization while respecting constitutional principles (The Constitution of Luxembourg, 2024; Freedom House, 2024).

Luxembourg's political tradition reflects Northern influences, shaped by its historical development as a Grand Duchy and its transition to a parliamentary democracy. Egalitarianism prevails, with Luxembourg scoring highly on equality indices and embodying democratic principles (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2017). The role of the monarchy aligns with

modern democratic values, symbolizing national unity while respecting constitutional constraints (Morris, Morris, & Hazell, 2020).

The relationship between church and state in Luxembourg has evolved since its foundation, influenced by historical agreements such as the Concordat of 1801. Recent developments, including a 2015 agreement paving the way for the separation of Church and State, suggest a shift towards secularism (Zalewski, 2024). Public perceptions of this relationship require further research to accurately gauge current attitudes.

VI.2.6. Monaco

Monaco's monarchy operates within a constitutional framework, with the Prince of Monaco serving as the head of state. Public attitudes towards the monarchy in Monaco demonstrate strong loyalty and support for the Princely Family, reflecting a high level of public approval and engagement. Media coverage of ceremonial events surrounding the monarchy emphasizes its symbolic significance and public reception (Freedom House, 2024). Additionally, Monaco's historical context, marked by the long-standing rule of the Grimaldi family, contributes to the enduring influence of the monarchy (Hello Monaco, 2024; Hodgson, 2024). Overall, Monaco's Monarchical Impact is rated as high, demonstrating strong public support and historical significance.

The monarchy in Monaco holds a high concentration of power in the hands of the Prince, who exercises authority in accordance with constitutional provisions. Strong constitutional constraints ensure credibility and stability in governance, with the Prince representing the Principality in foreign relations. The historical resilience and stability of the monarchy, rooted in centuries of Grimaldi rule, underscores its enduring presence in Monaco's political landscape. Crisis management mechanisms are based on institutional safeguards that contribute to the Principality's stability during difficult times. Future prospects include adaptive strategies, such as electoral processes and commemorative events, to maintain relevance and continuity.

Monaco's political tradition reflects influences from both northern and southern European monarchies. While the Principality embraces constitutional monarchy and democratic governance, its historical roots trace back to the long-standing rule of the Grimaldi family. Egalitarianism flourishes in Monaco, as seen in high levels of income equality and social mobility. However, the Principality's unique historical context blends elements from both northern and southern European traditions, contributing to its distinctive political tradition.

Monaco maintains a strong relationship between church and state, with Catholicism recognized as the official state religion. Cardinal Pietro Parolin's comments highlight the positive nature of this relationship, emphasizing mutual cooperation and influence. While the Church does not possess direct political authority, its influence on governance is acknowledged. The official status of Catholicism underlines the depth of this relationship, reflecting a strong alignment between religious and political institutions in Monaco.

VI.2.7. The Netherlands

The monarchy in the Netherlands functions within a constitutional framework where the monarch holds a historical and ceremonial role alongside a parliamentary system of government (Monarchy, 2024; Freedom House, 2024). Public attitudes towards the Dutch monarchy have changed over time, with recent declines attributed to various controversies and criticisms (DutchNews, 2024; Euronews, 2024). While overall support for the monarchy remains high, trust in the King has decreased, indicating a shift in public perception. Media coverage tends to focus on ceremonial events, highlighting the symbolic importance of the monarchy in Dutch society. Consequently, the impact of the monarchy in the Netherlands can be described as moderate, balancing historical significance with contemporary challenges and public sentiment (Boffey, 2024).

The concentration of monarchical power in the Netherlands is constitutionally limited, and the monarch's role is primarily ceremonial. Strong constitutional constraints ensure that ministers are responsible for government actions, reflecting a low concentration of monarchical power (Freedom House, 2024; Constitution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 2024). The historical foundations of the monarchy date back to its establishment in 1815, with subsequent developments emphasizing continuity and stability (Rietbergen, 2004). The monarchy demonstrates resilience, adapting to societal changes while maintaining its traditional role. Crisis management mechanisms rely on institutional safeguards to ensure effective responses to challenges. Future prospects include adaptive strategies to address changing societal sentiments and to maintain relevance (Morris et al., 2020; National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism, 2018).

The political tradition of the Dutch monarchy reflects influences from Northern European political systems, characterized by constitutionalism and democratic principles. Although egalitarianism is evident, recent debates have challenged perceptions of inclusiveness and tolerance. The monarchy coexists within a democratic framework,

embodying continuity and stability while adapting to evolving societal norms (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2020; Meloen, 1999; Freedom House, 2024).

The relationship between church and state in the Netherlands is characterized by historical evolution and secularization. The country has transitioned from a once-tolerant polity dominated by the Calvinist Church to a more secularized society. Strong pressures for secularization have challenged the traditional "pillarized" system, leading to a focus on maintaining state neutrality concerning religion and belief. This relationship can be described as moderate, reflecting a balance between historical influences and modern secular principles (Knippenberg, 2007).

VI.2.8. Norway

The monarchy in Norway functions within a constitutional framework that grants the monarch a ceremonial role alongside a parliamentary system of governance. Public support for the monarchy in Norway remains strong, with surveys indicating significant backing from diverse demographic groups across the country. Although there has been a slight decline in support in recent years, the monarchy continues to hold symbolic and cultural significance, as demonstrated by positive media coverage of ceremonial events. Historical data highlights the monarchy's deep-rooted lineage, showcasing its evolution and adaptation to modern governance structures (News in English, 2024; Freedom House, 2024). Overall, the impact of the monarchy in Norway is characterized as moderate, reflecting a balance between tradition and contemporary relevance.

The concentration of monarchical power in Norway is low, with executive authority primarily vested in elected bodies (The Royal House of Norway, 2024). Strong constitutional constraints ensure that while the monarch retains significant symbolic authority, practical governance is carried out by the Council of State (Freedom House, 2024). The historical foundations of the monarchy trace back to Norway's ancient royal lineage, with adaptations made to align with modern democratic principles. Resilience and stability are enduring characteristics of the monarchy, contributing to its role as a unifying force in Norwegian society (The Constitution of the Kingdom of Norway, 2024). Crisis management mechanisms are based on institutional safeguards that ensure stability and continuity during challenging times (Demiri & Fangen, 2019). Future prospects include adaptive strategies to maintain public support and relevance amid evolving societal norms (Rykkja & Løgreid, 2014).

Norway's political tradition reflects its historical lineage, marked by a successful transition to democracy and a commitment to egalitarian principles. With a high egalitarianism index and robust democratic institutions, the Norwegian monarchy aligns with modern democratic values while retaining its historical significance (The Global Economy, 2024; Freedom House, 2024). The country's political development is influenced by Northern traditions characterized by constitutionalism and a strong emphasis on democratic governance.

There is no formal relationship between church and state in Norway, following a complete legal separation between the Church of Norway and the state, effective since 2017. This separation marks a shift toward secular governance and underscores Norway's commitment to religious freedom and human rights. Textual analysis of legislative documents confirms the absence of formal ties between the monarchy and religious institutions, further emphasizing the secular nature of Norway's political landscape (Hofverberg, 2024).

VI.2.9. Spain

The monarchy in Spain operates within a constitutional framework established after the country's transition to democracy in the late 1970s. Public attitudes towards the monarchy reflect a complex interplay of historical legacies and contemporary perceptions. While the monarchy played a central role in the transition to democracy under King Juan Carlos I, public support has fluctuated in recent years. Media coverage of ceremonial events contributes to the symbolic significance of the monarchy, although it can be subject to ideological bias. Historical data underline the resilience and enduring role of the monarchy in Spanish politics (Hernández et al., 2021; Rubia et al., 2021). Overall, the monarchy's impact in Spain is considered moderate, balancing its historical significance with evolving public sentiment.

The concentration of monarchical power in Spain is historically significant, as the monarchy played a key role in the country's transition to democracy. However, constitutional constraints established by the 1978 Constitution limit the monarch's authority and ensure a balance of power within the democratic framework (Freedom House, 2024; The Spanish Constitution, 2024). The theoretical foundations of the monarchy in Spain reflect a mixture of historical development and Enlightenment principles, emphasizing its role as a symbol of national unity. Resilience and stability characterize the monarchy's ability to adapt to socio-political changes while maintaining its ceremonial functions. Crisis management mechanisms rely on both symbolic presence and institutional safeguards to ensure stability in turbulent times (The Spanish Constitution, 2024; Morris et al., 2020). Future prospects involve a combination

of adaptive strategies and symbolic engagement to maintain the monarchy's relevance amidst evolving societal norms.

Spain's political tradition reflects a unique blend of historical influences and modern democratic principles. While rooted in centuries-old monarchical traditions dating back to the union of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile, Spain has successfully transitioned to a constitutional monarchy that embraces egalitarian values and democratic norms. The country's democratic transition, known as "la Transición," exemplifies Spain's commitment to democracy and political pluralism (Carr, 2002; Morris et al. , 2020).

The relationship between church and state in Spain has evolved over the centuries, shifting from the dominance of the Catholic Church during the Francoist era to a more secular approach in contemporary governance. Although historically significant, the influence of the Church in Spanish politics has diminished, with the state adopting a stance of neutrality on religious matters. References to religious concepts in governance highlight Spain's rich religious heritage while underscoring the secular nature of contemporary governance (Combalía et al., 2024).

VI.2.10. Sweden

The Swedish monarchy operates within a constitutional framework that embodies historical continuity and tradition while adhering to modern democratic principles. Public support for the monarchy in Sweden remains consistently strong, with surveys indicating widespread positive attitudes toward the institution (Waterton, 2024). Media coverage focuses on ceremonial events, emphasizing the symbolic significance of the monarchy and its reception by the public. Rooted in over a thousand years of history, the role of the monarchy has evolved to reflect contemporary values while preserving tradition. Overall, Sweden's monarchical influence is rated as High, highlighting its enduring popularity and historical significance.

Sweden's constitutional monarchy is characterized by a low concentration of monarchical power, with the King's duties regulated by law and parliamentary democracy (The Swedish Constitution, 2024). Strong constitutional constraints ensure that the monarchy serves as the head of state while maintaining democratic governance (Nergelius, *Monarchy in Sweden*, 2020). Historical resilience and stability underscore the monarchy's enduring presence amid societal change. Crisis management mechanisms based on institutional safeguards ensure stability and continuity during challenging times (Freedom House, 2024; Nergelius,

Parliamentarism and the Swedish Constitution, 2020). Adaptive strategies maintain the monarchy's relevance and responsiveness to evolving societal norms.

Sweden's political tradition reflects Northern influences rooted in constitutionalism and democratic governance. Egalitarianism thrives, as evidenced by Sweden's high scores on equality indices and its progressive democratic transition (The Global Economy, 2024). While historically rooted, the monarchy embodies progressive values and serves as a symbol of unity and tradition amidst societal evolution (Morris et al., 2020).

The relationship between church and state in Sweden is complex and evolving. Despite the formal separation since 2000, the Church of Sweden maintains close ties with the state in various areas, supported by legal frameworks and state funding. Perceptions of this relationship vary and are influenced by historical context, political climate, and personal beliefs. The governance of religious diversity reflects state involvement and regulation, which shapes the role of religion in the public sphere (Sidenvall, 2012). Overall, the relationship between church and state in Sweden is rated as moderate, indicating a balance between secular governance and historical entanglement.

VI.2.11. The United Kingdom

The monarchy in the United Kingdom functions within a constitutional framework where the monarch's powers are primarily ceremonial and symbolic. Public support for the monarchy has varied over time, with recent surveys indicating a decline in its perceived importance. Although ceremonial events receive considerable media attention, historical data reveals a long-term trend of decreasing support for the monarchy (Hill, 2024; Olechnowicz, 2007). Overall, the impact of the monarchy in the UK can be described as 'moderate', reflecting a balance between its historical significance and contemporary perceptions.

The concentration of monarchical power in the United Kingdom is low, as the monarch serves mainly as a symbolic figure. Constitutional constraints, outlined in documents like the English Bill of Rights, limit the monarch's authority and ensure governance by elected representatives (Freedom House, 2024). The monarchy exhibits resilience and stability, adapting to societal changes while maintaining its symbolic presence. In times of crisis, management often involves symbolic gestures rather than direct intervention. Future prospects include adaptive strategies to address generational shifts in attitudes toward the monarchy (Morris et al., 2020).

Rooted in historical developments from Anglo-Saxon England, the UK's political tradition reflects northern influences and emphasizes constitutionalism and parliamentary democracy. While the monarchy continues to play a role in British public life, evolving social norms challenge its traditional functions, necessitating a delicate balance between tradition and progress (Olechnowicz, 2007; Morris, Morris, & Hazell, 2020; Freedom House, 2024).

The relationship between the Church of England and the state in the UK is strong, with historical ties dating back to the Reformation. Founded by King Henry VIII, the Church retains a formal connection with the state and influences governance through institutions like schools and the appointment of bishops. Although the Church's role has evolved, its historical significance highlights a deep-rooted connection with the state (Torrance, 2023).

VI.3. Results

To conduct a Crisp-Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis and examine the relationships between conditions and outcomes concerning monarchical impact and governance dynamics, a truth table was constructed. This table systematically outlines all possible combinations of conditions and outcomes across selected monarchies.

Table 1 provides a detailed overview of these configurations, with each row representing a unique combination of conditions and the final column indicating the corresponding level of monarchical impact.

An analysis of the truth table highlights that specific combinations of conditions consistently correlate with distinct levels of monarchical impact. For instance:

- Monarchies with low monarchical power, strong constitutional constraints, historical foundations, enduring stability, institutional crisis management mechanisms, adaptive future prospects, a northern political tradition, and a strong church-state relationship often exhibit high impact.
- Alternatively, monarchies with high monarchical power, strong constitutional constraints, and similar attributes—such as historical legitimacy, resilience, and adaptive mechanisms—but aligned with southern political traditions and symbolic engagement, also achieve high impact.

These findings indicate that different configurations can lead to similar outcomes, reflecting the complexity and adaptability of monarchical governance.

Boolean minimization was applied to the truth table to identify the minimal combinations of conditions that produce specific levels of monarchical impact. This method simplifies the logical expressions to reveal the essential factors driving each outcome.

Minimal Configurations for Monarchical Impact

❖ High Impact:

- Key Conditions:
 - Enduring resilience and stability
 - Historical theoretical foundations
 - Institutional crisis management mechanisms
 - Adaptive future prospects
 - Strong church-state relationship (optional in some cases, e.g., Sweden)
 - Northern political tradition (or analogous symbolic engagement in southern traditions, e.g., Spain)

❖ Moderate Impact:

- Key Conditions:
 - Resilience and stability
 - Moderate church-state relationship
 - Northern political tradition

❖ Negligible Impact:

- Key Conditions:
 - Absence of significant drivers (e.g., weak traditions, lack of adaptability or institutional stability).

The results emphasize that historical legitimacy, institutional stability, and adaptability are essential for high monarchical impact. However, the strength of the church-state relationship is a secondary factor, optional in cases where other conditions (e.g., adaptability or symbolic engagement) compensate. For example, Sweden's high impact arises despite an absent church-state influence due to its combination of historical foundations, adaptability, and enduring stability.

In contrast, moderate impact reflects partial fulfilment of these conditions, often constrained by mitigating factors such as weaker symbolic or religious ties. Monarchies with negligible impact, such as Andorra, lack the foundational elements necessary to exert meaningful influence on governance processes. a comprehensive overview of the

configurations of conditions and outcomes observed in these monarchies. Each row represents a unique combination of conditions, while the final column indicates the corresponding monarchical impact.

Country	Concentration of Monarchical Power	Constitutional Constraints	Theoretical Foundations	Resilience and Stability	Crisis Management Mechanism	Safeguards Future Prospects	Political Tradition of the Monarchy	Church and State Relationship	Monarchical Impact
Andorra	Low	Strong	Historical Development	Enduring	Institutional	Adaptive Strategies	Northern Influence	Strong	<i>Negligible Impact</i>
Belgium	Low	Strong	Historical Development	Enduring	Institutional	Adaptive Strategies	Northern Influence	Moderate	<i>Moderate Impact</i>
Denmark	Low	Strong	Historical Development	Enduring	Institutional	Adaptive Strategies	Northern Influence	Strong	<i>High Impact</i>
Liechtenstein	High	Strong	Historical Development	Enduring	Institutional	Adaptive Strategies	Northern Influence	Strong	<i>High Impact</i>
Luxembourg	Low	Strong	Historical Development	Enduring	Institutional	Adaptive Strategies	Northern Influence	Moderate	<i>Moderate Impact</i>
Monaco	High	Strong	Historical Development	Enduring	Institutional	Adaptive Strategies	Northern Influence	Strong	<i>High Impact</i>
Netherlands	Low	Strong	Historical Development	Enduring	Institutional	Adaptive Strategies	Northern Influence	Moderate	<i>Moderate Impact</i>
Norway	Low	Strong	Historical Development	Enduring	Institutional	Adaptive Strategies	Northern Influence	Absent	<i>Moderate Impact</i>
Spain	High	Strong	Mix of Enlightenment Influence and Historical Development	Enduring	Mix of Symbolic Presence and Institutional	Mix of Adaptive Strategies and Symbolic Engagement	Southern Influence	Moderate	<i>Moderate Impact</i>
Sweden	Low	Strong	Historical Development	Enduring	Institutional	Adaptive Strategies	Northern Influence	Moderate	<i>High Impact</i>
United Kingdom	Low	Strong	Historical Development	Enduring	Symbolic Presence	Adaptive Strategies	Northern Influence	Strong	<i>Moderate Impact</i>

Table 1: Compiled truth table. Characteristics of European monarchical governance.

VII. Discussion and Conclusion

This study sought to identify the key factors that differentiate European monarchies with significant political influence from those that primarily fulfil ceremonial roles. By employing Crisp-Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis this research delved into the interactions of historical, institutional, cultural, and social variables. The analysis spanned the 11 European monarchies, including diverse cases such as Liechtenstein, Sweden, and Andorra. Through this approach, the study uncovered how certain combinations of factors contribute to varying degrees of monarchical impact, providing nuanced insights into governance dynamics.

VII.1. Interpretation of Results

Monarchies with a strong tradition of resilience and adaptability, such as Denmark and Liechtenstein, have shown the ability to sustain stable governance over time. These institutions effectively navigate crises by leveraging their symbolic authority and established frameworks, ensuring national unity even during periods of political uncertainty. For instance, Denmark's monarchy has skilfully maintained its symbolic relevance while aligning with modern democratic principles, fostering widespread public support. Similarly, Liechtenstein balances its significant constitutional authority with mechanisms of parliamentary accountability, allowing it to act as both a stabilizing force and a political participant. The capacity to evolve with changing societal and political contexts is crucial to their enduring stability.

A defining feature of influential monarchies is their foundation in Northern European political traditions, which emphasize constitutionalism, parliamentary democracy, and egalitarian values. These monarchies, including those in Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands, have adapted their roles to align with progressive ideals while preserving their historical legitimacy. The Nordic emphasis on social equality and inclusive governance enhances the monarchy's public appeal, positioning these institutions as symbols of unity and continuity. Furthermore, the democratic ethos inherent in Northern traditions helps reduce political polarization, allowing monarchies to act as neutral and stabilizing agents in their societies.

The interplay between religious institutions and monarchies strengthens national identity and contributes to the legitimacy of the monarchy in many cases. Monaco and Denmark, for example, exhibit robust church-state relationships that reinforce the monarchy's symbolic authority. In these countries, religious institutions often serve as co-guardians of tradition, participating in key national ceremonies and influencing public sentiment. This

partnership enhances the monarchy's role as a custodian of cultural and spiritual values, increasing its societal relevance. However, this dynamic is not without challenges, as the rising trend of secularization in some societies may require a reevaluation of these relationships.

Adaptability emerges as a critical factor in maintaining a monarchy's influence. Monarchies like Sweden have proactively modernized their operations to resonate with contemporary values, thus ensuring continued public support. For instance, Sweden's royal family has embraced environmental advocacy and gender equality, aligning their symbolic role with pressing global and societal issues. This modernization not only enhances their relevance but also mitigates public criticism by demonstrating alignment with democratic ideals and contemporary social norms. Therefore, adaptive governance involves not only ceremonial modernization but also fostering trust and engagement with evolving constituencies.

Ultimately, monarchies with a high political impact thrive by combining tradition with flexibility. Their enduring stability, grounded in historical legitimacy and supported by adaptive strategies, allows them to navigate shifting societal landscapes. By aligning with democratic principles and leveraging cultural, religious, and symbolic authority, these monarchies continue to maintain significant influence in modern governance systems. In contrast, monarchies that lack adaptive capacities or robust frameworks tend to be limited to ceremonial roles, highlighting the importance of these interrelated factors in shaping monarchical impact.

VII.2. Implications

This study shows the significant role of monarchies in contemporary governance. Even ceremonial monarchies, which lack direct political power, symbolize national unity and cultural identity, fostering social cohesion during political or social uncertainty. For example, monarchies in the United Kingdom and Belgium serve as unifying figures through their rituals and historical ties, helping to stabilize national sentiment during crises.

The findings show that monarchies aligned with democratic governance models enhance their societal value by blending historical traditions with modern needs. Countries like Sweden and Denmark demonstrate how these institutions remain relevant by embracing democratic ideals while maintaining their cultural significance. By staying politically neutral, they enable elected officials to govern effectively and act as non-partisan figures fostering unity during critical times.

Moreover, the connection between monarchies and religious institutions adds another layer of legitimacy. In nations like Denmark and Monaco, monarchs are linked to the church,

strengthening their moral authority. However, as societies become more secular, this relationship may need redefinition, challenging monarchies to adapt to a culture less reliant on religion for cohesion.

Overall, these findings suggest that monarchies are not outdated relics but rather resilient institutions that balance tradition with modernity, ensuring their relevance in contemporary democratic and secular contexts.

VII.3. Answering the Research Question

This study aimed to explore the factors that distinguish influential monarchies from those that have purely ceremonial roles. The findings indicate that influential monarchies achieve their status through a combination of enduring stability, strategic adaptability, and cultural resonance.

Monarchies characterized by enduring stability possess strong institutional frameworks that can withstand crises and adapt to changing societal expectations. This stability allows them to serve as trusted symbols of continuity during times of political or social upheaval.

Strategic adaptability is another key characteristic of influential monarchies. These institutions thrive by engaging proactively with contemporary societal values, such as promoting sustainability, inclusivity, and equality. For instance, the Swedish monarchy's efforts to champion progressive causes resonate with public sentiment and align the institution's symbolic role with pressing modern concerns. This adaptability helps to strengthen public trust and maintain the monarchy's relevance in a rapidly changing social and political landscape.

Cultural resonance, deeply rooted in historical traditions, is perhaps the most defining feature of influential monarchies. Through ceremonies, public rituals, and the preservation of cultural narratives, monarchies foster a sense of identity and pride that connects citizens to their shared past. This cultural symbolism not only reinforces the monarchy's legitimacy but also positions it as an institution that transcends political divisions, serving as a unifying force among diverse constituencies.

Strong constitutional frameworks further distinguish influential monarchies by defining the monarch's role within a democratic system. These frameworks ensure a balance between ceremonial duties and the preservation of democratic principles, preventing the abuse of power while safeguarding the monarchy's symbolic significance. Institutional safeguards, such as crisis management mechanisms, also enhance the monarchy's capacity to stabilize governance during uncertain times, reinforcing its value in democratic societies.

Ultimately, influential monarchies succeed by integrating historical legitimacy, adaptability, and institutional resilience. When these elements are woven into a modern governance system, they enable monarchies to exert significant symbolic and, in some cases, political influence, making them vital components of contemporary democracies.

VII.4. Further Research Directions

Future research can enhance this study by including monarchies from the Middle East and Asia, which offer distinct historical and cultural contexts. For instance, monarchies in Jordan and Thailand blend ceremonial, religious, and political roles, providing insights into governance beyond European traditions.

Another key area for research is examining generational shifts in public opinion toward monarchies. Younger demographics, particularly in secular and egalitarian societies, often question the relevance and costs of monarchies. Understanding these shifts can shed light on how monarchies maintain their significance and whether modernization efforts, like environmental initiatives or social media engagement, resonate with younger audiences.

Additionally, the relationship between religion and monarchy deserves more exploration, especially in societies experiencing rapid secularization. Monarchies linked to religious institutions must balance traditional legitimacy with the increasing demand for separation of church and state. This tension, seen in countries like Sweden and the Netherlands, may redefine the future roles of monarchies.

In conclusion, this study highlights the adaptability and ongoing relevance of European monarchies. They continue to evolve in response to changing political and social contexts while maintaining their symbolic authority. Their future depends on balancing tradition with the need to reflect the values and aspirations of the societies they represent.

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