

Religion and the investiture of the Monarch: The European context

NSS researcher Barry Thorpe has found no other investiture of a European monarch with such overt religious, far less sectarian, associations as in the UK.

- **Denmark**
 - Last coronation: 1849
 - In 1660 the coronation ritual was replaced with a ceremony of anointing, where the new king would arrive at the coronation site already wearing the crown, where he was then anointed.
 - This rite was in turn abolished with the introduction of the Danish Constitution in 1849. Today the crown of Denmark is only displayed at the monarch's funeral, when it sits atop their coffin.
 - The present Queen, Margrethe II, did not have any formal enthronement service; a public announcement of her accession was made from the balcony of Christiansborg Palace, with the new sovereign being acclaimed by her Prime Minister at the time (1972), Jens Otto Krag, then cheered with a ninefold "hurrah" by the crowds below.
- **Liechtenstein**
 - No coronation
 - Liechtenstein does not use a coronation or enthronement ceremony, although Prince Hans Adam II did attend a mass by the Archbishop of Vaduz, followed by a choral event.
- **Luxembourg**
 - No coronation
 - The Grand Duke of Luxembourg is enthroned at a ceremony held in the nation's parliament at the beginning of his or her reign. The monarch takes an oath of loyalty to the state constitution, then attends a solemn mass at the Notre-Dame Cathedral.
- **Netherlands**

- No coronation. Inauguration
 - With the absence of any religious hierarchy within the Dutch Reformed Church, there is no senior religious prelate to crown the new monarch, unlike in Great Britain under the Archbishop of Canterbury.
 - Since the Dutch sovereign is King (or Queen) 'of the Netherlands' rather than 'of the Dutch', he or she could not alternately be crowned 'in the name of the people', either - as was the case with the Emperor of the French and the King of the Romanians.
 - Hence, the Dutch King has an 'inauguration ceremony' rather than a coronation. This ritual is held at the Nieuwe Kerk, in the capital city of Amsterdam. During the ceremony, the ruler is seated on a throne as he takes his formal oath to uphold the kingdom's fundamental law and protect the country with everything within his power. After the king has taken his oath, all members of the Staten Generaal pay homage to the new monarch by taking an oath of loyalty to him or her.
- **Norway**
 - Last coronation: 1906; now no coronation
 - Coronations in Norway were held from 1164 to 1906, mostly in the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim. Although a crowning ceremony was formerly mandated by the nation's constitution, this requirement was eliminated in 1908.
 - However, Norwegian kings have since chosen voluntarily to take part in a ritual of "benediction" to mark their accession to the throne, during which the crown is present, but not physically bestowed upon the sovereign. The new ceremony retains some of the religious elements of earlier rites, while eliminating other features now considered to be "undemocratic".
- **Spain**
 - No coronation
 - No monarch of Spain has been crowned as such since John I of Castile and Ferdinand I of Aragon. Instead, the new monarch appears at the Cortes, where he or she takes a formal oath to uphold the Constitution. Although the crown is evident at the ceremony, it is never actually placed on the monarch's head. Five days after his visit to the Cortes, current Spanish King Juan Carlos I attended an "Enthronement Mass" at the Church of San Jerónimo el Real in Madrid. Accompanied by his wife Sofia, he was escorted beneath a canopy to a set of thrones set up near the high altar. Following the service, the Royals returned to the palace, where they greeted their subjects from the balcony, reviewed troops and attended a formal banquet.
- **Sweden**
 - Last coronation: 1873 (but still possible)
 - Last monarch to be crowned was Oscar II in 1873; subsequent kings of Sweden elected not to be crowned, though there is no law or constitutional provision preventing a coronation. The current monarch, Carl XVI Gustaf, was enthroned in a simple ceremony at the throne room of the Royal Palace in Stockholm on 19 September 1973. The crown jewels were displayed on cushions to the right and left of the royal throne, but were never given to the king. Carl Gustaf made an accession speech, which comprised the main purpose of the undertaking.