

Key moments in the development of Sovereignty and power in what is now the United Kingdom

878

Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex, During his reign a legal code is established for the Kingdom of Wessex.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_the_Great#Legal_reform

865

Parts of the British Isles come under Danish Rule, after Viking raids from Denmark extend Danish rule into the British Isles

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danelaw#Legal_concepts

1066-10-14

Battle of Hastings, King Harold defeated by William the Conqueror

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Hastings

1066-12-25

William becomes king of England. William is crowned King of England. William's English and Normandy territories are under different legal systems.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_the_Conqueror#Administration

1135-01-01 till 1153-01-01

"The Anarchy" : A crisis of succession between kings leads to civil war, this period is called 'The Anarchy'.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Anarchy

1215

Magna Carta is signed, limiting royal power

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna_Carta

1235

Statute of Merton - The first Statute of English law is passed

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Merton

1242-01-27 - 1660-09-24

English Parliaments convene at various intervals. The English Parliaments convenes, usually Westminster, but sometimes in other cities. Writs and issues for the Kings Bench are discussed.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duration_of_English_Parliaments_before_1660

1265-01-01

The first English Parliament? One of the English Barons, Simon De Montfort calls a Parliament without Royal Approval. Representatives from counties and shires attend.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_Montfort%27s_Parliament

1272-11-16 - 1307-07-07

Reign of Edward the 1st. Edward the 1st spends much of his reign establishing a Common law across England and Wales.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_I_of_England

1642-1651

English Civil War. A war is fought between Parliamentarians and Royalists. Before the Civil War, Parliaments would convene at the Monarch's choosing, and remained a temporary gathering.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_civil_war

1647-10-28

The Putney debates. Members of the Parliamentary forces discuss the formation of a new constitution. They discussed the idea of universal suffrage - 'One man, One Vote'.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Putney_Debates

1660-05-29

King Charles the Second crowned. With the coronation of King Charles the Second, the brief period of republicanism ends. The coronation is only allowed to occur with the consent of Parliament, leaving England and Wales with a Parliamentary Monarchy.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_II_of_England

1707

Act of Union unites England, Wales and Scotland. The Parliament of Scotland and of England combine to become the Parliament of Great Britain.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Act_of_Union_1707

1704

Queen Anne refuses to grant Royal Assent. The Scottish Parliament's 'Act of Security' - designed to limit who the English Parliament could offer the throne of England to was refused Royal Assent.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Act_of_Security_1704

1813

Sir Robert Peel sets up the first specialist police force

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Peel

1819-08-16

Peterloo Massacre. 60,000 people protest for Parliamentary reform. Local Magistrates try to disperse the crowd, leading to 15 deaths.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peterloo>

1838-01-01 - 1848-01-01

Chartist movement. Chartism was a movement looking to improve suffrage and parliamentary reform during the 19th Century.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chartism>

1865-01-01 - 1928-01-01

Campaigning to extend suffrage to women - In 1928, all women over the age of 21 can vote.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage#United_Kingdom

1973-01-01

the United Kingdom joins the European Union. After applying to join in May 1967, the UK joins the European Union.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enlargement_of_the_European_Union#First_enlargement

2000-10-02

The UK passes the Human Rights Act into law. Since joining the EU, the European Court of Human Rights was supreme to all courts in the UK. However people seeking justice would need to visit the ECHR in Strasbourg, France.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Act_1998

2002

the United Kingdom ratifies the International Criminal Court into UK law.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/States_parties_to_the_Rome_Statute_of_the_International_Criminal_Court