The Royal Family of Serbia

From the people, for the people



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The Royal House of Serbia and Yugoslavia



The Royal Family in front of the Royal Palace, Belgrade

From left to right: Their Royal Highnesses Prince Peter, Crown Princess Katherine, Crown Prince Alexander, Hereditary Prince Philip, and Prince Alexander

Followed by biographies of: HRH Crown Prince Alexander
HRH Crown Princess Katherine
HRH Prince Peter
HRH Hereditary Prince Philip
HRH Prince Stefan
HRH Princess Marija
HRH Princess Danica
HRH Prince Alexander
HRH Princess Vesna
HRH Prince Marko Aleksandar

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander



In April 1941 after Germany attacked and occupied Yugoslavia, the country's young King Peter II left in advance of the invading German forces for Athens with the Yugoslav government. The King and his compatriots were determined not to surrender to the invaders in the best tradition of the founder of the Dynasty Karadjordje ("Black George") Petrovic who led the heroic first uprising of the Serbs against the Ottoman Empire in 1804. From Athens HM King Peter and his government went to Jerusalem and then Cairo. Finally, King Peter II established the government in exile in London. In 1944, HM King Peter II in London married Princess Alexandra of Greece and Denmark, the daughter of HM King Alexander of the Hellenes and Aspasia Manos.

On 17 July 1945 while living in Claridge's Hotel, Queen Alexandra gave birth to a son – HRH Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia. Crown Prince Alexander, the heir to the throne, was born on Yugoslav territory as the British Government under the orders of Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill declared suite 212 in Claridge's Hotel Yugoslav territory. His Holiness Patriarch Gavrilo of Serbia baptized the new born Crown Prince in Westminster Abbey with Godparents King George VI and HM Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1947, the non-democratic communist Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia (FPRY) proclaimed Crown Prince Alexander and his family enemies of the State (he was only two years old), which resulted in the revocation of citizenship and confiscation of the entire private property of the Royal Family. The Decree of the communist Government that deprived his family citizenship and confiscated the private property was discriminatory, a political decision that was not even in accordance with the legislative system in Yugoslavia at the time, and it certainly is not in compliance with the values of the modern world. The Royal Family was targeted by this Decree and labelled an enemy of the state. After the war, King Peter II was illegally prevented from returning to his country by the communist regime, which had seized power in Belgrade. HM King Peter never abdicated. The King and Queen lived in exile in many countries (United States, France, Italy and England).

HRH Crown Prince Alexander was educated at Trinity School (New York City, United States), Marie-José (Switzerland), Le Rosey (Switzerland), Culver Military Academy (Indiana, United States), Gordonstoun School (Scotland) and Millfield (England). He subsequently went to the British Royal Military Academy and in 1966 was commissioned an officer in the British Army. Crown Prince Alexander served in the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers rising to the rank of captain. His tours of duty included West Germany, Italy, Middle East and Northern Ireland. After leaving the army in 1972, Crown Prince Alexander II, who speaks several languages, pursued a career in international business.

Although King Peter II died in 1970, the Crown Prince, as the heir to the throne decided at the time not to use the title of King – which he felt would have had little meaning in exile. He made it very clear at that time that he was not renouncing his title, or the dynastic right to the throne.

In 1991 Crown Prince Alexander accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Princess Katherine, Prince Peter, Hereditary Prince Philip and Prince Alexander travelled to Belgrade where they were very enthusiastically received by hundreds of thousands of people who see the Crown Prince as the embodiment of all that is best for democracy and Constitutional Parliamentary Monarchy.

Before the 5 October 2000 revolution in Serbia, the Crown Prince visited Serbia in 1992, 1995 and 2000. The Crown Prince travelled to Montenegro and Kosovo in 1999 and Bosnia and Montenegro in 2000.

HRH Crown Prince Alexander has always been a very ardent defender of democracy and human rights. In 1989, he took a very active role in helping his people shake off the legacy of decades of dictatorship and the regime. During the next decade, Crown Prince Alexander conducted numerous meetings and maintained constant contact with the democratic opposition and democrats throughout the former Yugoslavia. In November 1999, Crown Prince Alexander convened a large conference in Budapest for the representatives of the Democratic Opposition in Serbia.

Another symposium followed in Bosnia in January 2000 and in April 2000 the Crown Prince convened a large conference of key opposition leaders in Athens. Following the Athens conference, the Crown Prince and leaders of the opposition went to a symposium at Harvard Kennedy School of Government. These meetings led to the successful election victory of Serbia's democratic opposition in September of that year. Crown Prince Alexander has been a tireless contributor in the process of co-operation and unity amongst the democratic political parties to make his homeland a great democracy for all citizens regardless of political belief, religion or ethnic origin.

During the previous decade Crown Prince travelled extensively, met with numerous world leaders, politicians, parliamentarians, world bodies and had many interviews to the media.
In 1972, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander married Her Imperial and Royal Highness Princess Maria da Gloria of Orleans and Bragança of the Imperial Family of Brazil in Villamanrique de la Condesa, Spain. They had three children. The eldest son and heir HRH Prince Peter was born in 1980 in Chicago, Illinois; and fraternal twin sons HRH Prince Philip and HRH Prince Alexander were born in 1982 in Fairfax, Virginia. The marriage ended in 1983.

In 1985, Crown Prince Alexander married Katherine Batis of Athens. HM King Constantine of the Hellenes was the best man and HRH Prince Tomislav, the uncle of Crown Prince Alexander was the witness. The wedding took place in the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in London.

HRH Crown Prince Alexander has three grandchildren, HRH Prince Stefan (born on 25 February 2018), HRH Princess Maria (born on 5 November 2023), and HRH Prince Marko Aleksandar (born on 13 October 2026).



On 15 May 2015 His Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander received the highest French order, Legion d'Honneur Commander Rank, by a Decree of the President of Republic of France.

The Crown Prince and his family have been living in The Royal Palace in Belgrade since 17 July 2001.The Royal Compound consists of two palaces the Royal Palace and the White Palace and is still confiscated private property. However, Crown Prince Alexander is allowed to live there under difficult conditions.

HRH Crown Prince Alexander enjoys skiing, sailing, water skiing, scuba diving and tennis. He was British Army Ski Champion in 1972. His other interests include music, theatre, information technology, and current affairs.

Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Katherine



Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Katherine was born in Athens (Greece), 13 November 1943. She is the daughter of Robert and Anna Batis.

Crown Princess Katherine was educated in Athens and Lausanne (Switzerland). Crown Princess Katherine studied business at the University of Denver, Colorado, and the University of Dallas, Texas. Princess Katherine was in business for a few years in the United States. In 2007 Princess Katherine received an honorary degree in Doctor of Letters from the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom.

Her Royal Highness was previously married and has two children, David and Alison. David has a son, Alexander and Alison has four children: Amanda, Stephanie, Nicolas and Michael and they live in United States. Princess Katherine has travelled extensively and has lived in Australia, Africa and the United States.

Crown Princess Katherine met HRH Crown Prince Alexander in Washington DC in 1984 and they were married in London 21 September 1985. Their best man was HM King Constantine of the Hellenes, and the witness was HRH Prince Tomislav, Crown Prince Alexander's uncle.

Crown Princess Katherine's charitable activities have been numerous, especially since the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Her Royal Highness has brought much needed relief especially to children, the elderly and all those in need regardless of religion or ethnic origin. Princess Katherine is the Patron of several humanitarian organizations including Lifeline Humanitarian Organization, for over 25 years, with offices in Chicago, New York, Toronto, London and Athens. At the beginning of August 2001, the Foundation of Her Royal Highnesses Crown Princess Katherine was established in Belgrade with the aim to continue and increase humanitarian activities.

In 1991 Crown Prince Alexander, accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Princess Katherine, Prince Peter, Hereditary Prince Philip, and Prince Alexander travelled to Belgrade, where they were very enthusiastically greeted by hundreds of thousands who see the Karadjordjevic Dynasty as the embodiment of all that is best for democracy and Constitutional Parliamentary Monarchy. Before the 5 October 2000 revolution in Serbia the Crown Princess travelled to Serbia, Bosnia Montenegro, and Kosovo. On 17 July 2001 Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine took up residence in The Royal Palace in Belgrade.

Her Royal Highness speaks Greek, English, French and Serbian. Crown Princess Katherine enjoys music, reading, theatre and cooking. Most of all, she enjoys spending time in humanitarian work and joy of giving.



His Royal Highness Prince Peter



HRH Prince Peter was born 5 February 1980 in Chicago, Illinois. He is the eldest son of HRH Crown Prince Alexander and HIRH Princess Maria da Gloria of Orleans and Bragança. Prince Peter is the grandson of HM King Peter II and HM Queen Alexandra. His Godfather was HRH Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, son of HRH Prince Regent Paul of Yugoslavia.

Prince Peter lived in Chicago until the end of 1981, when he moved with his parents to Virginia. In 1983, he first attended day pre-school in Tyson's Corner, Virginia, following this he went to day school. In 1985 at the age of five he joined his father Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine in London where he attended kindergarten together with his brothers, then one of London's top preparatory day schools.

Prince Peter at the age of thirteen went to The King's School Canterbury in England and graduated in 1998 having obtained three "A" levels in Art, Spanish and French, and ten GCSE's (General Certificate of Secondary Education).

Prince Peter completed in London an art foundation course at Camberwell College of Arts (London Institute). He also completed a series of design and illustration programmes on the European continent mainly in Barcelona and Seville. After spending a year at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) on the East Coast of the United States, he started working in the field of graphic design and art direction in London and New York, working with many international clients and brands. His passions include collaborating with other creatives outside of his direct area of expertise to achieve new and exciting visual concepts and ideas in a variety of media.

His Royal Highness Hereditary Prince Philip



Photo – Ana-MarijaRšumović

His Royal Highness Hereditary Prince Filip of Serbia and Yugoslavia was born on 15 January 1982 in Fairfax, Virginia, United States.

He is the son of HRH Crown Prince Alexander Karađorđević and HI&RH Princess Maria da Gloria of Orléans and Braganza; grandson of HM King Peter II and HM Queen Alexandra; great-grandson of HM King Alexander I "the Unifier" and great-great-grandson of HM King Peter I "the Liberator"; and a direct descendant of HSH Prince Alexander and Supreme Leader (Vrhovni Vožd in Serbian) Karađorđe Petrović, leader of the First Serbian Uprising.

On his mother's side, a direct ancestor of Hereditary Prince Filip was HM King João VI of Portugal, as well as his son HIM Pedro I, the first Emperor of Brazil, and HIM Pedro II, the second (and last) Emperor of Brazil.

Hereditary Prince Filip's maternal grandmother, María de la Esperanza, was born into the Royal House of Bourbon–Two Sicilies, a cadet branch of the Spanish Royal House that ruled the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in Southern Italy, itself of Capetian (French royal) origin.

Through his maternal male-line forebears, Prince Filip is a direct descendant of HM Louis-Philippe I, King of the French from 1830 to 1848, who belonged to the House of Bourbon, the French ruling dynasty.

Prince Filip is the twin brother of HRH Prince Alexander and, after his father, first in line to the Serbian Throne. Their elder brother is HRH Prince Peter. His godparents are HM the late King Constantine II of Greece, HM Queen Sophia of Spain, and HRH Princess Anne, Duchess of Calabria.

Following his parents' divorce, he lived with his brothers and mother in Seville, then moved to London to live with their father. He graduated from The King's School, Canterbury (2000), earned a degree in Hispanic Studies at University College London (UCL), and pursued hotel management at École hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland.

He began his career at Landsbanki in the City of London, later worked at IKOS (a global hedge fund) in Cyprus, and then as a financial analyst at Lazard Asset Management in London.

After 15 years' experience in finance, he now focuses professionally on Bitcoin, which he views as a necessary upgrade to the legacy global financial system. In October 2022 he became Chief Strategy Officer of JAN3, a Bitcoin technology company expanding access to Bitcoin and financial freedom worldwide, providing tools for individuals, enterprises, and nation-states.

Prince Filip enjoys snowboarding, surfing, and football. He ran the Athens Marathon (2010), the Belgrade Half-Marathon (2011), and the London Marathon (2014). He speaks English, Serbian, Spanish, and French.

HRH Hereditary Prince Filip and HRH Princess Danica were married in the Cathedral Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Belgrade on 7 October 2017, in a ceremony officiated by His Holiness the late Serbian Patriarch Irinej. The maid of honour was HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden; the best man was HRH Prince Peter Karađorđević. It was the first royal wedding in Belgrade after the wedding of TM King Alexander I and Queen Maria, on 8 June 1922.

On 25 February 2018 Their Royal Highnesses welcomed their son, HRH Prince Stefan — the first descendant of Karađorđe born in Belgrade in 90 years. The family moved from London to Serbia on Vidovdan (28 June) 2020, living in Vračar, Belgrade. On 5 November 2023, their daughter, HRH Princess Marija, was born — the first female child in the hereditary line of the Karađorđević dynasty since Princess Jelena, daughter of HM King Peter I and Princess Zorka. In September 2024, the family moved to the Thatched House within the Royal Compound in Belgrade.

Together, Their Royal Highnesses founded the "Foundation of Hereditary Prince Filip and Princess Danica of Serbia", dedicated to preserving Serbian cultural and historical heritage and continuing the dynastic tradition — pairing moral and creative inspiration with innovation and contemporary ideas.

His Royal Highness Prince Stefan



Photo – Ana-Marija Ršumović

His Royal Highness Prince Stefan, the son of Their Royal Highnesses Hereditary Prince Philip and Princess Danica, was born in Belgrade, Serbia on 25 February 2018. He is the grandson of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia and Her Imperial and Royal Highness Princess Maria da Gloria of Orleans Bragança, and the great-grandson of Their Majesties King Peter II and Queen Alexandra of Yugoslavia. He is the second in line of succession of the Royal family of Serbia, after his father. Prince Stefan attends primary school in Belgrade, where he lives with his parents and sister, HRH Princess Marija.

With the blessing of His Holiness the late Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, the bells of Belgrade's St. Sava Temple tolled heralding the birth of the newborn member of the Serbian Royal Family. That was the first time that the 49 bells of the biggest orthodox temple in the Balkans announced such a birth. The bells of St. George church in Oplenac and Zica monastery tolled heralding the birth, too. This birth of a male child was the first one in the Royal Family in Serbia after 90 years when HRH Prince Tomislav was born in Belgrade, who was the brother of HM King Peter II.

Patriarch Irinej of Serbia christened young Prince Stefan at the Royal Chapel of St. Andrew the First-Called in the Royal Compound in Dedinje, Belgrade, Serbia on 15 December 2018. Prince Stefan's godparents are HRH Prince Alexander (twin brother of HRH Hereditary Prince Philip), Mrs. Petra Lazarevic and Mr. Dusan Antunovic, long standing family friends of Prince Philip and Princess Danica. Joining the Patriarch in officiating the christening was His Grace the late Bishop Lavrentije of Sabac who also christened Princes Philip and Alexander in 1983 in Villamanrique de la Condesa. Prince Stefan wore the Christening gown that His Majesty King Peter II wore on the day of his baptism officiated by His Holiness Patriarch Dimitrije of Serbia in 1923 in Belgrade, and his godfather was King George V.

Her Royal Highness Princess Marija



Her Royal Highness Princess Marija, the daughter of HRH Hereditary Prince Philip and HRH Princess Danica, was born in Belgrade, Serbia on 5 November 2023.

With the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Porfirije of Serbia, the bells of Belgrade's St. Sava Temple tolled heralding the birth of the newborn member of the Royal Family of Serbia. That was the second time that the 49 bells of the biggest orthodox temple in the Balkans announced such a birth after it announced the birth of Princess Marija's brother, HRH Prince Stefan. The bells of St. George church in Oplenac, as well as Gračanica Monastery and Zič̆a Monastery, tolled celebrating the birth, too.

This birth of a female child was the first one in the Ruling Branch of the Royal Family of Serbia, after 139 years, when Princess Hellene, the daughter of HM King Peter I was born.

Her Royal Highness Princess Danica



Photo – Ana-Marija Ršumović

Her Royal Highness Princess Danica of Serbia was born on 17 August 1986 in Belgrade. She is the daughter of the renowned Serbian painter Milan Cile Marinković and Zorica Beba Marinković, an economist. Princess Danica grew up between Belgrade and Paris since 1992, and settled again in Paris in 1997, where she completed her primary and secondary schooling and later her university studies.

She graduated from the Academy of Applied Arts in Paris (Graphic Design and Visual Communication) and also earned an additional degree in comparative literature and Slavic studies at Paris-Sorbonne University (Paris IV). She completed a Master's in graphic design and communication at the University of the Arts London, Chelsea College of Arts and Design. Since 2010, she has been a member of ULUPUDS (the Association of Fine and Applied Artists and Designers of Serbia).

A graphic designer and visual communicator, she is particularly active in publishing—designing exhibition catalogues, art and theatre posters — and she also works as a collage artist under the artistic name Dana MAAR. As an artist, her distinctive collage style has been shown in solo and group exhibitions and at art fairs in Belgrade and Paris.

In Belgrade, she has exhibited at the Parobrod Cultural Centre, New Moment Gallery, the Atrium Gallery of the Belgrade City Library, Supermarket Concept Store, and Ozone Gallery. In Paris, her works have been shown at Galerie Origines and Galerie Artessepia within the Carré Rive Gauche / Saint-Germain-des-Prés events, and repeatedly at the Biennale of Contemporary Art in Paris.

Among her professional recognitions, Princess Danica received the BINA (Belgrade International Week of Architecture) award in 2010 for "Portraits of Architects – a retrospective exhibition of members of the architectural section of ULUPUDS 1953–2010", and the Salon of May plaque of ULUPUDS in 2011.

Princess Danica speaks Serbian, French, English and Spanish.

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On 5 November 2023, their daughter, HRH Princess Marija, was born — the first female child in the hereditary line of the Karađorđević dynasty since Princess Jelena, daughter of HM King Peter I and Princess Zorka. In September 2024, the family moved to the Thatched House within the Royal Compound in Belgrade.

Together, Their Royal Highnesses founded the "Foundation of Hereditary Prince Filip and Princess Danica of Serbia", dedicated to preserving Serbian cultural and historical heritage and continuing the dynastic tradition — pairing moral and creative inspiration with innovation and contemporary ideas.

His Royal Highness Prince Alexander



His Royal Highness Prince Alexander was born in Fairfax Virginia on 15 January 1982. He is the fraternal twin of Hereditary Prince Philip, and he is third in line to the Throne after his brother, Hereditary Prince Philip and nephew, Prince Stefan. He is the son of HRH Crown Prince Alexander and HIRH Princess Maria da Gloria of Orleans Bragança. Prince Alexander is the grandson of the HM King Peter II and HM Queen Alexandra His Godparents are HM the Queen of Spain, HM King Constantine of the Hellenes, and HRH the Duchess of Calabria.

HRH Prince Alexander is currently the President of the Managing Board of the Crown Prince Alexander's Foundation for Education and Culture.

His Royal Highness Prince Alexander married Her Royal Highness Princess Dr Vesna in Villamanrique de la Condesa near Seville in Spain, on 20 September 2025. The church service was officiated by His Grace Vicar Bishop Peter of Toplica, who was the envoy of His Holiness Patriarch Porfirije of Serbia, and Father Dusan Erdelj, Archpriest Stavrophorus from the parish of Saint Peter and Paul in Andalusia. The best men ("kumovi" in Serbian) at the church wedding were, by the blessing of His Grace Bishop Justin of Western Europe, the newlyweds' brothers, HRH Hereditary Prince Philip and Mr. Aleksandar Jelić.

Their Royal Highnesses' civil wedding ceremony took place in the Royal Palace in Belgrade on 6 September 2025, a date very symbolic and specially selected, as on this date in 1923, Prince Alexander's grandfather, HM King Peter II, was born.

In Belgrade on 13 October 2026, Their Royal Highnesses Princess Vesna and Prince Aleksandar welcomed their son, HRH Prince Marko Aleksandar.

Prince Alexander lived in Virginia until 1984. Together with his twin brother Prince Philip he attended kindergarten in Seville, Spain. In 1985 at the age of three Prince Alexander and his twin brother Prince Philip joined their father Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine in London where they went to kindergarten. At the age of six they went to one of London's top preparatory day schools. Then at the age of thirteen Prince Alexander and Prince Philip attended one of the top boarding schools The King's School Canterbury in England.

In June 2000, Prince Alexander graduated from King's School Canterbury in England having obtained three "A" levels in Spanish, French, Government and Politics, and ten GCSE's (General Certificate of Secondary Education). He went to the University of San Francisco (USF) and graduated with a Communication Studies Degree with Emphasis on Public Relations and Journalism. Prince Alexander was at a graduate school at an American university completing a Master of Fine Arts Degree (MFA) in Advertising (Art Direction). Currently he is working in the internet electronic publishing area in the United States.

Prince Alexander enjoys Art, Photography, Music, French Cinema, Current Affairs, Surfing, Snowboarding, Scuba Diving, Museums, Cuisine, Literature, Tennis, Basketball and Football. He speaks Serbian, English, Spanish and French.

Prior to the 5 October 2000 revolution, Prince Alexander travelled to Serbia in 1991 and Bosnia in 2000, On 17 July 2001, Prince Alexander and The Royal Family took up residence in The Royal Palace in Belgrade. He has travelled throughout Europe, the United States, and has visited the Middle East, South East Asia, Central and South America.

Her Royal Highness Princess Dr Vesna



Her Royal Highness Princess Dr Vesna married His Royal Highness Prince Alexander in Villamanrique de la Condesa near Seville in Spain, on 20 September 2025. The church service was officiated by His Grace Vicar Bishop Peter of Toplica, who was the envoy of His Holiness Patriarch Porfirije of Serbia, and Father Dusan Erdelj, Archpriest Stavrophorus from the parish of Saint Peter and Paul in Andalusia.

Their Royal Highnesses' civil wedding ceremony took place in the Royal Palace in Belgrade on 6 September 2025, a date very symbolic and specially selected, as on this date in 1923, the groom's grandfather, HM King Peter II, was born.

In Belgrade on 13 October 2026, Their Royal Highnesses Princess Vesna and Prince Aleksandar welcomed their son, HRH Prince Marko Aleksandar.

The Princess was born in Munich on 12 December 1985. Her mother, Dr. Slavica Jelić, comes from Niš, Serbia, and her father, Mr Marko Jelić, is originally from Bački Brestovac; both live in Germany. Her Royal Highness has a younger brother, Aleksandar, to whom she has been very close her entire life; they are each other's greatest support. Aleksandar Jelić, together with Prince Alexander's brother, HRH Hereditary Prince Philip, was one of the best men at the Princely Couple's church wedding.

HRH Princess Dr Vesna completed her Elementary School education in Munich, followed by the language department of high school, where she developed her passion for languages. She completed Städtische Luisengymnasium in Munich, followed by studies of Spanish and French at the LMU Faculty in Munich. Her Royal Highness found her passion in Dental Medicine, so after moving to the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Niš, Serbia, she graduated in 2011.

Her Royal Highness is dedicated to the constant improvement of her expertise and knowledge. In the period from 2011 to 2013, the Princess completed her internship and training in periodontal surgery at VMA (Military Medical Academy) in Belgrade, and in 2012, additional training in Regenerative Dentistry with PRF in Nice, France. In 2013, she returned to Munich and started working as a dentist, continuing her professional improvement. From 2014 to 2016, she completed a Curriculum Periodontology in Germany, followed by specialisation in minimally invasive, aesthetic, and comprehensive high-end dentistry.

In 2019, the opening of her first practice in Munich, "Praxis Dr Vesna Jelić" in Maximiliansstrasse, occurred, followed by the opening of the second practice in Munich, "Dentique" on Maximiliansplatz in 2024. Princess Vesna is a global speaker for Invisalign and a Key Opinion Leader & Speaker for Edelweiss dentistry.

HRH Princess Vesna speaks six languages, 4 of them are fluent in: Serbian, German, Spanish, and English, and she also studied French and Italian.

She has played the piano since she was 5 years old, intensively for 15 years, and participated in Bavarian competitions. Princess was also very interested in folklore dancing from the age of 5, active in several Cultural Artistic Societies of Serbian diaspora in Germany and in Serbia - “Jugos” was the first one where she started practicing in Germany, and “Oro” was the last one in Niš. Also, she was active in standard Latin dance from the age of 7.

Her Royal Highness was always involved in sports, from karate, volleyball, basketball, to golf. She loves the sea, dives, and recently started learning surfing, which is one of her husband’s passions as well.

His Royal Highness Prince Marko Aleksandar



His Royal Highness Prince Marko Aleksandar, the son of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Alexander and Princess Dr. Vesna, was born in Belgrade, Serbia on 13 October 2026.

He is the grandson of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia and Her Imperial and Royal Highness Princess Maria da Gloria of Orleans Bragança, and the great-grandson of Their Majesties King Peter II and Queen Alexandra of Yugoslavia. He is the fourth in line of succession of the Royal family of Serbia.

Order of the Line of Succession

Order of the Line of Succession

After HRH Crown Prince Alexander
(Son of HM King Peter II):

HRH Hereditary Prince Philip (twin), son of HRH Crown Prince Alexander, 15 January 1982

HRH Prince Stefan, 25 February 2018

HRH Prince Alexander (twin), son of HRH Crown Prince Alexander, 15 January 1982

HRH Prince Marko Aleksandar, 13 October 2026

5. HRH Prince Nicolas, son of HRH Prince Tomislav, 15 January 1958

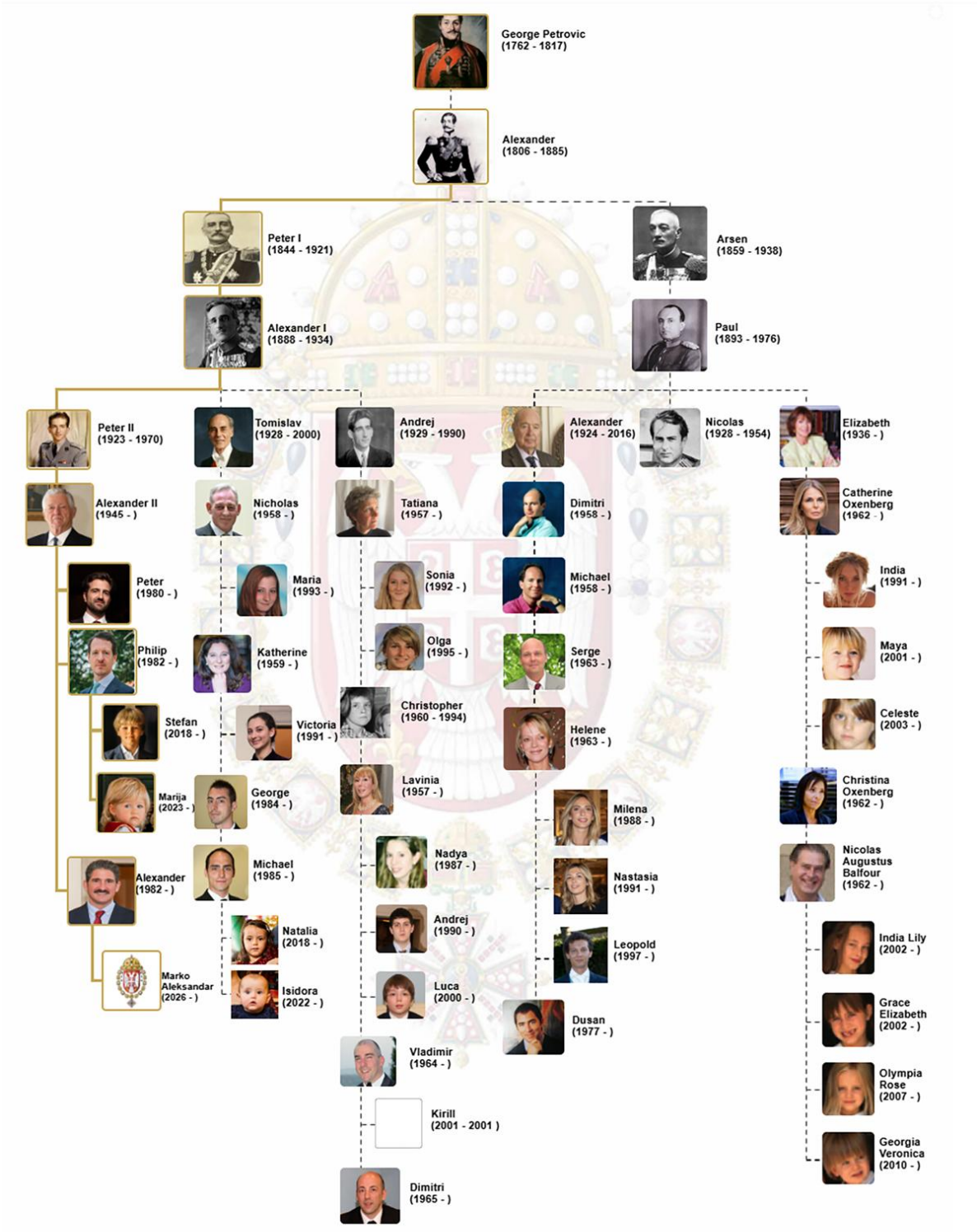
6. HRH Prince George, son of HRH Prince Tomislav, 25 May 1984

7. HRH Prince Michael, son of HRH Prince Tomislav, 15 December 1985

8. HRH Prince Vladimir, son of HRH Prince Andrej, 11 March 1964

9. HRH Prince Dimitri, son of HRH Prince Andrej, 21 April 1965

The Royal Family Tree





Official succession portrait of the Royal family of Serbia
Photo – Ana-MarijaRšumović

History of the Karadjordjevic Dynasty

The history of the Karađorđević Royal Dynasty spans more than two centuries. What stands out for the Royal Family of Serbia is that it originated directly from the people to which it belongs and whom it led throughout its existence.

19th century

At the beginning of the 19th century, conditions in Serbia were extremely difficult. The country had been under Ottoman occupation for several centuries, with the Serbian people constantly striving to regain their freedom. A group of Turkish renegades from the Sultan in Constantinople and his rule, called "dahije", seized power in Serbia in 1801, killing the Belgrade Vizier. The oppression of the people became unbearable, and in 1804, at the Great Assembly of the Serbian People in the village of Orašac, a decision was made to raise an uprising against terror. Djordje Petrović, known as “Karadjordje” (from the Turkish word “kara”, meaning “black”), was elected Supreme Leader of the First Serbian Uprising.

He was already an experienced soldier and managed to unite the people of Serbia in the fight against a common enemy. The Dahijas were defeated, but the fighting continued, setting the complete liberation of all of Serbia from Ottoman rule as the ultimate goal. The spark of freedom lit by Karadjordje turned into a fire.

The First Serbian Uprising lasted from 1804 to 1813, when the Turkish army managed to break the resistance and reoccupy the territory of Serbia. Although this period was marked by constant fighting, it saw the emergence of the first free Serbian state in modern times. The Serbia we know today is based on these foundations.

Karadjordje’s achievements and contributions should not be viewed solely from a military perspective. As early as 1805, the "Serbian Governing Council" was established at the national assembly in the village of Borak. The Council was essentially a kind of government, the central authority of Serbia during the First Uprising; it had executive and legislative power, and Karadjordje agreed to its establishment, and he himself was the head of this body on several occasions. The Great School in Belgrade was also founded at that time, which was the beginning of higher education in the country.

After the failure of the First Serbian Uprising, Karadjordje was forced to leave the country, which began the sad fate of the members of the Karađorđević family; all of them, at some point in their lives, were forced to live far from their homeland and people.

After the Second Serbian Uprising, the Principality of Serbia was established as a vassal state under Ottoman rule, with the founder of the second Serbian dynasty, Miloš Obrenović, as Prince of Serbia. Karadjordje returned to Serbia in 1817, when he was assassinated by the orders of Prince Miloš Obrenović. The tragedy was all the greater knowing that Karadjordje and Miloš were “Kumovi”, which is a word that jointly represents both relations when somebody is someone’s godparent at baptism and/or best man/maid of honour at the wedding, which Serbs consider as a sacred relation.

The Assembly of the Serbian People decided in 1842 to abolish the Obrenović dynasty and bring Karađorđe's son, HSH Prince Alexander Karađorđević, to the throne, who had returned to Serbia in 1839 and became an adjutant to Prince Mihailo Obrenović. He ruled until 1858, when the Szentendre Assembly decided to return the Obrenović family to the Serbian throne. The period of Prince Alexander's reign was marked by efforts to improve and modernise the young Serbian state. Prince Alexander initiated a large number of reforms and founded new institutions; during his reign, the Civil Code was adopted, a regular army was established, a canon foundry was built, existing schools were improved, and new ones were founded, the Law on Schools and the Education System was adopted, and the National Museum and the National Library were founded. He was the first ruler of modern Serbia to fully respect the Constitution.

20th century

In 1903, after officers of the Serbian army assassinated the last king and queen of the Obrenović dynasty, the National Assembly decided that Karadjordje's grandson should ascend the throne. HM King Peter I the Liberator thus became the first King of Serbia from the Karađorđević dynasty.

King Peter I was the first truly democratic ruler of modern Serbia. Equality of all, justice and the rule of law were the ideals and principles that guided him. The Kingdom of Serbia established an exceptionally high level of democracy and liberal governance, with respect for the Constitution and the laws as an imperative.

He modernised the Serbian army and was the Supreme Commander in the two Balkan Wars, in 1912 and 1913, which liberated the Serbian people who had been enslaved by the Ottoman Empire in the southern regions for centuries. However, peace did not last long. Discontent over the Austrian annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina simmered in neighbouring countries, and the people's desire for independence from Austria-Hungary led to the assassination of the Crown Prince, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, in Sarajevo in 1914, which ignited the spark of World War I.

During the Great War, King Peter I was always with his troops, even during the "Albanian Golgotha", the difficult retreat of the Serbian army and people from Serbia to Greece. Although already old and sick, the old king went to the trenches on the front line. When he was still alive, in 1914, he transferred the Royal duties to his son, at the time Crown Prince Alexander, who later became HM King Alexander I the Unifier in 1921.

Alexander is best known for his military skills and military successes. As the Supreme Commander of the Army of the Kingdom of Serbia during World War I, he brought the first victories to the Allied troops. Like his father, he was with his army on the front line and with it went through the "Albanian Golgotha".

After World War I

With the breakthrough of the Thessaloniki Front, the army of the Kingdom of Serbia, led by Regent Alexander, brought victory in the war to the Allies and the long-awaited peace to Europe and the world, who praised the Serbian soldiers and their Supreme Commander for their heroism.

On 1 December 1918, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was proclaimed, thus achieving the war goal of the Kingdom of Serbia, defined by the Niš Declaration of 1914 and confirmed by the Corfu Declaration of 1917. The long-standing vision of creating a united state of the South Slavs, which began in the 19th century, was then fulfilled. The first King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes until his death in 1921 was King Peter I, and he was succeeded by his son Alexander, who, since 1929, when the state changed its name, has held the title of King of Yugoslavia.

King Alexander married the Romanian Princess Maria (since then HM Queen Maria) in 1922, and they got three sons: Crown Prince Peter and Princes Tomislav and Andrew.

The new Kingdom faced many problems. The country had been badly devastated during World War I, and neighbouring states wanted parts of its territory, while tensions between Croats and Serbs were growing. In 1929, it became clear that the King had no choice but to impose direct Royal rule. He did this against his will, promising to restore democracy in the renamed Kingdom of Yugoslavia once national unity was achieved and corruption in the state apparatus was eradicated.

Alexander I was among the first statesmen in Europe to see the danger posed by the rise of extreme ideologies – Nazism and Fascism. He fell as their victim, being assassinated in Marseille on 9 October 1934, when the French Foreign Minister Louis Barthou was also assassinated with him.

“Alexander will live forever in the memory of his people as a heroic figure of imposing greatness. Like Washington and Lincoln of Yugoslavia - as Washington, a capable and fearless general who freed his country from oppression; as a Lincoln, a wise leader and patriot who ended up in martyrdom” – these are the words of Nikola Tesla.

The son of King Alexander I, Crown Prince Peter, was only 11 years old when his father was assassinated, and he became HM King Peter II. Until he came of age, a Regency was formed consisting of three regents, including his uncle, HRH Prince Paul Karađorđević, who performed Royal duties on behalf of the minor monarch.

World War II and the Abolition of the Monarchy by the Communists

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 presented the Kingdom of Yugoslavia with a difficult decision: whether to join the Tripartite Pact (Germany – Italy – Japan) or to confront an incomparably more powerful enemy. By 1941, all of Yugoslavia's neighbours had fallen under Nazi control. In an effort to avoid bloodshed, Prince Paul and the Yugoslav Government decided to sign a non-aggression pact with Germany and Italy.

The decision was met with fierce protests in the country, leading to a military coup on 27 March 1941. The Government and the Regency were overthrown, and King Peter II was declared of age and immediately assumed Royal powers from the Regency.

A week later, Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Italy attacked Yugoslavia, and the army, faced with a much stronger enemy, was unable to defend the country from falling under occupation. With the invasion of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia by the Nazis and their allies, King Peter II, as well as the Yugoslav Government, was forced to leave his homeland and, via Athens, Jerusalem, and Cairo, join other heads of state from occupied Europe in London.

King Peter II made a huge effort to help the people of Yugoslavia in the fight against Nazism, and he also constantly tried to return to the country and be with his people. He sought support for his countrymen, meeting with many important world leaders of the time, including President Roosevelt, Sir Winston Churchill, his godfather King George VI of the United Kingdom, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, President of Czechoslovakia, Edvard Benes, King Haakon of Norway and Mr Raczkiewicz, President of Poland. He was the youngest head of state ever to address the United States Congress, in 1942.

Occupied Yugoslavia was divided between the Axis Powers, to satisfy the demands of Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, and Hungary, as well as the puppet Independent State of Croatia. Despite the collapse of the Yugoslav Army, two rival resistance movements emerged in the country. The first was the Yugoslav Army in the Homeland, a legal and legitimate military formation led by General Dragoljub (Draža) Mihailović, Minister of Defence of the Government in Exile, whose goal was to liberate the country and preserve the pre-war constitutional order. The second was the revolutionary partisan movement, led by the communist Josip Broz Tito. In addition to the conflict with the occupying forces, a bloody civil war broke out in Yugoslavia between the two movements.

The Allies initially supported Mihailović, exhibitions were organized about him and his fighters, and 20th Century Fox even made a film in 1943 called "Chetniks, тхе Fighting Guerillas". However, under the strong influence of Soviet spies who infiltrated the British Special Operations Unit (SOE) and their propaganda, before all James Klugmann who spent two and a half years working on the headquarters staff of the Yugoslav Section of SOE, they reoriented towards Broz. Also, individuals such as Randolph Churchill, son of British Prime Minister Winston, and Fitzroy MacLaine, who served as officers in the communist headquarters, had a great influence on changing the Allied attitude towards the Yugoslav Army in the Homeland, as well as the United Kingdom's representative to the Allies in the Mediterranean, Harold Macmillan, who insisted that both Great Britain and the Yugoslav government and King support Broz and the communists “with all their powers”. The pressure went so far that King Peter II, who despite this development of the situation insisted on moving to Yugoslavia to join Mihailović, received a warning from the British side that his policy of supporting Mihailović would provoke a civil war and lead the Red Army to physically destroy all the troops of the Yugoslav Army in the Homeland.

Despite this development of the situation, General Mihailović and his soldiers continued the unequal fight, organizing one of the largest rescue operations of Allied pilots shot down behind enemy lines – Operation Halyard.

For these merits, General Mihailović was posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit, First Class, by US President Harry Truman on 29 March 1948. On the other side, in 1944, with the help of the Red Army, the partisans entered Belgrade and formed a communist government.

On 29 November 1945 the monarchy was illegally abolished in undemocratic elections and Yugoslavia became a totalitarian one-party state under the rule of the Communist Party. After that, the Communist dictatorship issued a decree – on 8 March 1947, King Peter II and all members of the Royal Family (including HRH Crown Prince Alexander, King Peter's son, who was not even two years old) were deprived of their citizenship and all private property was confiscated. However, King Peter II never abdicated. Even in exile, he continued to support his people, appealing to all high-ranking officials to help restore democracy to his country.

Return to the Homeland

King Peter II's son, HRH Crown Prince Alexander, although forced to grow up far from the land of his ancestors, always felt great love for his people and had a strong desire to finally return to his homeland. This first became possible in 1991, when HRH Crown Prince Alexander and HRH Crown Princess Katherine, with his sons, TRH Princes Peter, Philip and Alexander, first came to their country at the invitation of the democratic opposition. Due to the undemocratic regime, they could not stay at that time, but the first step was taken.

Crown Prince Alexander was an active participant in the establishment of democracy in Serbia and was one of the most significant participants in the removal of the post-communist regime, uniting the democratic opposition, which resulted in the democratic victory on 5 October 2000.

On 9 March 2001, the Law on Abolishing the 1947 Decrees was passed, and citizenship of the Royal Family was reinstated, which allowed them to return to Serbia. Crown Prince Alexander's wish to be in his homeland and with his people came true on his 56th birthday – 17 July 2001 – when he, his wife Crown Princess Katherine and his three sons, Prince Peter, Hereditary Prince Philip and Prince Alexander, returned to the Royal Palace in Belgrade.

After more than half a century, the heir to the Serbian throne and his family regained their civil rights, the right to enter their country and the right to use the family home, the Royal and White Palaces. The Royal Family finally returned home after almost 60 years of exile.

As the Karađorđević motto says - "From the people - for the people", the main duty of the Royal Family of Serbia is to always be at the service of the people and to work for the progress of their homeland, so the Karađorđevićs are guided by this motto in all their activities, from striving to preserve the traditions and culture of the Serbian people, through support for young people, improving the image of Serbia and its promotion in the international community, to humanitarian work and everything else, up to this day.

Supreme Leader Karadjordje



The founder of the Karadjordjevic dynasty Djordje (George) Petrovic, called “Karadjordje” (Black George), was born on 15 November 1752, in the village of Visevac in Lepenica district during the Ottoman occupation of Serbia and the Balkans. The Serbs at this time used “patronymics” rather than family surnames. Karadjordje’s parents were Peter and Marica Zivkovic. In 1786, Karadjordje married Jelena Jovanovic from the village of Maslosevo. The marriage produced seven children – four daughters Sava, Sara, Poleksija and Stamenka, and three sons: Sima (died after birth), Aleksa (died when he was 29 in Kishinev, Russia, today Moldavia) and Alexander.

Soon after starting a family, Karadjordje went to Syrmia, where he took part in the Austro-Turkish war 1787-1791, as a member of the Austrian “Freikorps” under the command of Radic Petrovic. During that war he was awarded a gold medal for courage and became a non-commissioned officer.

Upon returning to Serbia, Karadjordje joined Serb resistance groups to the Ottoman occupation. These popular “Robin Hoods” were known as “hajduks.” He was at first a member of the Hajduk bands of Lazar Dobric and Stanoje Glavas. Later he became a leader of one of these bands of rebels. The establishment of limited autonomy in the Belgrade administrative region (“Pashaluk”) of Ottoman occupied Serbia enabled Karadjordje to go back to farming and trade and to settle in his estate in Topola in the Serbian district of Sumadija (“Sylvania”).

The fragile peace in Serbia ended in 1801 with a reign of terror by the local Ottoman administrators, the Janissary. During this period the Serbian people were reduced to slavery and suffering. At this time, the Serbs experienced humiliation and torment unprecedented since the fall of Serbia to the Ottomans hundreds of years earlier. The Janissary repression culminated in the terrible slaughter of prominent Serb leaders. History records this episode in Serbia as the “hacking of the headmen”.

In response to these developments the surviving Serbian leaders met at a rally in the village of Orasac on 15 February 1804. At that meeting the rebel leaders chose “Karadjordje” Petrovic to lead an uprising against the Janissary chieftains – known as the “Dahis”. From that moment Karadjordje’s life became inseparably connected with the destiny of the First Serbian Uprising (in Serbian “Prvi Srpski Ustanak”). As the elected Supreme Leader he became the central figure and driving force of the national liberation movement of the Serbian people. From that moment on he would be the Supreme Leader, Lord of the Serbs, state builder, commander in chief and diplomat.

After successfully removing and executing the Dahis, the Serb rebels found themselves opposing the Ottoman Sultan’s army sent to quell the rebellion. Serbian victories followed one after the other in the battles of Ivankovac (1805), Misar and Deligrad (1806). By the end of 1806 the Serb army had liberated Belgrade. In 1807 there were no Ottoman controlled fortifications in Serbia.

The Serb victories under Karadjordje took place at the beginning of the Russian-Turkish War towards the end of 1806. This situation forced Turkey to negotiate with the victorious Serbs. According to the ensuing, so-called “Ickov’s peace,” Serbia should have become a vassal Turkish principality. However, Karadjordje’s ambitions were for full independence and liberation of all Serbs under Ottoman rule. After establishing an alliance with Russia in the spring of 1807, Serbia’s war against the Ottoman’s continued.

Southern Serbia was liberated and Serbian troops entered into the Raska region and established a connection with Montenegro. After their defeat in Cegar, the Serbs withdrew to the Morava, continuing to fight the Ottomans in the regions of Timok and Podrinje.

The Serbian state and Karadjordje’s position as the Supreme Leader were strengthened alongside the liberation of additional territories. Within the independent Serbia Government, courts, post offices and a regular army were established, as well as the “Great School” (the future University) of Belgrade. Elementary schools were founded in all towns in Serbia. Karadjordje’s laws and constitutional reforms turned Serbia into a country ruled by law. At the end of 1808, Karadjordje Petrovic was proclaimed the hereditary Supreme Leader of the Serbs. Under the constitutional reform of 1811, Karadjordje strengthened his position as the leader of the Uprising and the country, but peace was not to last.

Under pressure from Napoleon’s Army, Serbia’s ally Russia signed a peace treaty with Turkey in 1812 and this left Serbia alone to face the Ottoman army. Subsequently, Serbia did not sign the Bucharest peace treaty and its negotiations with Turkey failed. In response the Ottomans launched a military campaign against Serbia in 1813. Almost a decade of warfare had weakened the Serbian army, and the First Serbian Uprising was crushed in bloody repression.

Karadjordje with his family and the most prominent Serbian chieftains left the country, initially for Austria and later for Bessarabia (Russia). After attempts to persuade the Russian Tsar to go to war against Turkey failed, Karadjordje made contacts with the Greek organization “Heteria”, whose aim was the allied uprising of the Greeks, Serbs and Bulgarians and the establishment of a great Balkan state. With the intention to start the struggle anew Karadjordje secretly came to Serbia. Under orders of the Turkish vizier and rival Serbian chieftain Milos Obrenovic, Karadjordje was assassinated in Radovanjski Lug near the city of Smederevo, on the night of 24 July 1817. His body was later buried in the Mausoleum of St. George in Oplenac, built by King Peter I.



Karadjordje’s popularity grew over time into a legend and spread beyond Serbia’s borders. Balkan Christians saw God’s messenger in him, the Serbs from Austria thought of him as their emperor who would free them from the oppressors, and the Archbishop of Montenegro called him the Unifier of the Serbian people. For the contemporary generation of the Serbs, the name Karadjordje was a synonym for the people’s leader, an idol and inspiration to all.

His Serene Highness Prince Alexander



The youngest son of Karadjordje and Jelena was born in Topola 11 October 1806. Alexander Karadjordjevic was educated in Hotin, Bessarabia (Russia), under the patronage of the Russian Tsar. In 1830, he married Persida, daughter of Vojvoda (Duke) Jevrem Nenadovic. They had ten children: four daughters Poleksija, Kleopatra, Jelena and Jelisaveta and six sons Aleksij, Svetozar, (both of them died as young children), George, Andrej, Peter and Arsen.

After the Ottoman Sultan's decree acknowledging the title of Prince for Mihailo Obrenovic at the end of 1839, the Karadjordjevic family returned to Serbia. Once in Serbia, Alexander joined the Headquarters of the Serbian Army, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and appointed as adjutant to Prince Mihailo.

After internal political conflicts in Serbia caused by popular disrespect for the so-called "Turkish constitution", and Milos's and then Mihailo Obrenovic's abdications, the National Assembly in Vracar elected Alexander Karadjordjevic as the Prince of Serbia in September 1842. Having had his title acknowledged by Russia and Turkey, Prince Alexander started a number of reforms and founded a number of new institutions in order to improve the progress of the Serbian state. He implemented the code of civil rights, introduced the regular Army, built a canon foundry, improved the existing schools and founded new ones, and established the National Library and the National Museum.

During the Hungarian revolution against the Austrian government in 1848, Prince Alexander Karadjordjevic sent Serbian volunteers under the command of Stevan Knicanin to the Austrian province of the "Vojvodina of Serbia" to help the Serbs' struggle for autonomy. As a follow-up of the national-political movement in 1848, a pan-Slavic idea of a Southern Slav "Yugo-Slav" Monarchy emerged with the "Nacertanije" (the "Draft") document, written as a Serbian political program by Ilija Garasanin four years earlier; its objective was to liberate all Southern Slavs from Austrian and Turkish domination.

In internal policy, Prince Alexander came into conflict with the members of the Council, which culminated in the convocation of the National Assembly on St. Andrew's day in December 1858, which forced him to abdicate.

After his abdication, Prince Alexander withdrew to his property near Timisoara (Romania). His peaceful life was agitated by the accusation of providing weapons and money for the conspiracy in Prince Mihailo's assassination. He was deeply hurt by the verdict for a deed he never committed. Dynastic struggles became more severe and it was only then that Prince Alexander took part in them. He detested the thought of the hideous deed that was imputed to him by his opponents and fought with all his strength to bring another Karadjordjevic to the throne. Prince Alexander died in Timisoara 3 May 1885. He was buried in Vienna, and his remains were moved in 1912 to the Mausoleum of St. George built by King Peter I in Oplenac.



His Majesty King Peter I



King Peter I Karadjordjevic was the fifth child of Prince Alexander and Princess Persida (the daughter of Voivode Jevrem Nenadovic). He was born on St. Peter's Day 11 July 1844. He finished elementary and high school in Belgrade, and continued his education at the Venel – Olivier Institute in Geneva. After his graduation, Prince Peter went to College Saint Barb in 1861, and then in 1862 he enrolled in the famous French military academy Saint-Cyr and graduated in 1864.

While he was in Paris he showed interest in photography and painting, and kept improving his military and political education. That broadened his views on liberalism, parliamentarianism, democracy and its institutions. In the beginning of 1868, when he was only 24 Prince Peter printed his translation of John Stuart Mill's essay "On Liberty", with his preface, which later became his political program.

After the assassination of Prince Mihailo Obrenovic in May 1868, political circles close to the Obrenovic dynasty included a paragraph in the new constitution, prohibiting the Karadjordjevic's from returning to Serbia and confiscated their property.

Prince Peter joined the Foreign Legion in 1870 and fought in the war between France and Prussia during which he was decorated with the Legion of Honour. In 1875, he took part in the Bosnian-Herzegovina uprising as a volunteer under the assumed name of Peter Mrkonjic. After the failure of the Topola rebellion in 1877 he continued his political activities.

In the summer of 1883 he married Princess Ljubica-Zorka, the eldest daughter of the Montenegrin Prince Nikola in Cetinje, Montenegro. They had five children: two daughters Jelena and Milena and three sons Djordje (who renounced his right to the throne in 1909), Aleksandar and Andrija (he died as a child). After a short time in Paris, the Karadjordjevic family moved to Cetinje, where they lived for ten years. Due to his poor financial situation, Prince Peter sold his residence in Paris in 1894 and settled in Geneva Switzerland with his family. His contacts with people from Serbia continued, above all with Nikola Pasic, the leader of the Radical Party.

During 1897 Prince Peter left for Russia and was received by Tsar Nikola II. Three years later, he tried to reach an agreement with Serbia's King Aleksandar Obrenovic regarding the recognition of the title Prince and the return of Karadjordjevic family confiscated property, but without success. Prince Peter reinforced his political activity for his return to Serbia. In 1901, he intensified his efforts to get closer to Austro-Hungary, offering his political programme.

On 28 May 1903, a group of Serbian army officers assassinated King Alexander and Queen Draga Obrenovic. The Serbian army organized a Coup d'Etat and proclaimed Prince Peter Karadjordjevic, then living in Switzerland, as the new King of Serbia. The National Parliament confirmed this on 15 June 1903. After 45 years the Karadjordjevic family regained the leadership of the Serbian state, starting a new era in its development. "I want to be a true constitutional King of Serbia" – said King Peter I in his declaration on the day of taking his oath.

From the beginning of his reign, King Peter I faced serious obstacles. Interior political fights disrupted the country and Austro-Hungary, benevolent towards the new Serbian King at first, it soon became an open enemy of Serbia, particularly after the crisis caused by the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary in 1908.

The first Balkan War against Turkey in 1912 and the second – against Bulgaria in 1913, ended in the triumph of the Serbian Army under the supreme command of King Peter I. Serbian victories in these wars resulted in the liberation of the Raska District, Kosovo, Metohija and Macedonia, and their uniting with Serbia.



The constant physical demands of the Balkan Wars resulted in King Peter's deteriorating health and on 24 June 1914 he transferred his royal prerogatives to his son Crown Prince Alexander. A month later Austro-Hungary declared war on Serbia, which sparked World War I. After the victories of the battles of Cer and Kolubara in 1914, Germany and Bulgaria entered the war in 1915 and the Serbian Army was forced to withdraw and leave the country. The Albanian Golgotha, a winter retreat of the Serbian Army through the mountains of Albania, furthermore affected the health of the aging King. However, he lived on to witness Serbia's victory at the end of World War I and the liberation of Serbia along with the establishment of the new country the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes of which he was proclaimed the first King.

King Peter I died 16 August 1921 in Belgrade and was buried in the Mausoleum of St. George in Oplenac. Owing to his accomplishments in the Balkan wars and World War I, he was known by the people as King Peter I, The Liberator.

His Majesty King Alexander I



King Alexander I of Yugoslavia was the second son of King Peter I and Princess Zorka, who was born in Cetinje Montenegro 16 December 1888. His Godfather was the Russian Tsar Alexander II. Young Prince Alexander spent his childhood in Montenegro and was educated in Geneva Switzerland. He continued his schooling at the Military School in St. Petersburg Russia and then in Belgrade. After the death of King Peter I he ascended the throne of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

Prince Alexander's future changed in 1909, when his elder brother Prince George renounced the throne. Alexander as the new Crown Prince of Serbia immediately began reorganizing the Serbian army, and preparing for the ultimate battle against the Ottomans who still occupied part of the Balkans.

In the first Balkan War of 1912, HRH Crown Prince Alexander was commander of Serbia's First Army, fought victorious battles in Kumanovo and Bitola, and later in 1913, during the second Balkan War he was victorious at the battle in Bregalnica. Crown Prince Alexander was the supreme commander of the Serbian army in World War I at the Cer and Kolubara battles in 1914, when the Serbian troops were victorious against the Austro-Hungarian army. Attacked by Austro-Hungary, Germany and Bulgaria, Serbia's Army suffered a series of defeats in 1915. To insure its survival and ability to fight another day the Serbian army with the aged King Peter I and Crown Prince Alexander made a strategic withdrawal through Albania to the island of Corfu and there the Serbian Army was refitted and reorganized.

HRH Crown Prince Alexander became on 11 June 1916 the Regent of Serbia when King Peter I partially transferred his duties owing to ill health. After the army was regrouped and reinforced, it had a glorious victory at the Thessalonica Front, at Kajmakcalan. The Serbian army carried out the final operations of the Thessalonica breakthrough in the autumn of 1918, under the supreme command of the Regent Alexander, with superb commanding officers such as Field Marshals Zivojin Misic, Stepa Stepanovic and Petar Bojovic. Crown Prince Alexander's military success during World War I was followed by his accomplishments as a statesman. After a decree of the National Assembly and the National Council in Zagreb, The Regent HRH Crown Prince Alexander proclaimed the unification of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes into a single nation 1 December 1918.



This act completed the dream of his father and grandfather – to unify Southern Slavs in one nation. When King Peter I died on 16 August 1921, the Regent HRH Crown Prince Alexander became the King of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. In 1922, he married HRH Princess Maria of Romania. They had three sons – Crown Prince Peter, Prince Tomislav and Prince Andrej.

The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes faced continuing crisis caused by severe conflicts between different political parties and ethnic groups. Due to an assassination in the National Assembly and the chaotic situation in the country, King Alexander I suspended the Constitution in 1929, changed the name of the state, from the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes to the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. He also reorganized the state administration by establishing nine “banovinas” (provinces) named after major geographic features such as river valleys.

When the King estimated that the political turmoil in the country had calmed down, a new Constitution was proclaimed in 1931 (known as the “October Constitution”). The King firmly believed that the state crisis would be permanently resolved only when a Yugoslav nation was established, and King Alexander I tried to achieve that goal by implementing a policy “Yugoslav integralism”, which eventually failed.

In foreign policy the King worked intensively on making defensive alliances against the forces that aimed at the revision of the Versailles Peace Treaty. The King’s first achievement was the “Small Entente” proclaimed in 1921 between the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Romania and the Czech Republic. An alliance with France was established in 1927, and another one in 1934 included Yugoslavia, Romania, Turkey and Greece.

King Alexander I was assassinated in Marseilles 9 October 1934 along with the French Foreign Minister Monsieur Louis Barthou during a state visit to France. King Alexander had travelled to France with the aim to strengthen the defensive alliance against Nazi Germany. The King’s death deeply moved the whole of Yugoslavia, and hundreds of thousands of people paid their last respects all along the funeral route through the country to the royal crypt in Oplenac. King Alexander I was buried in the Mausoleum of the Church of St. George built by King Peter I. In recognition of his greatest accomplishments the National Parliament and the Senate of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia proclaimed him King Alexander I The Unifier.

His Majesty King Peter II



Њ.В. Краљ Петар II (1923 - 1970)

His Majesty King Peter II of Yugoslavia was the firstborn son of King Alexander I and Queen Maria of Yugoslavia. King Peter II was born in Belgrade 6 September 1923 his Godfather was King George V. His education commenced at The Royal Palace Belgrade after which he went to Sandroyd School in England, which he left after his father's assassination in 1934. Since King Peter II was 11 years old and underage at the time of his father's assassination, a regency was formed consisting of three regents including his father's cousin Prince Paul Karadjordjevic.

In 1939 at the beginning of the Second World War, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia found itself surrounded by countries that had joined the Axis as allies of Nazi Germany. Prince Paul's decision in 1941 to sign a non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany resulted in severe protests in the country and this led to a government crisis and a coup d'état by Yugoslav officers on 27 March 1941. As a result of the coup, King Peter II was proclaimed of age.

The Yugoslav Army was unprepared to resist the ensuing invasion by Nazi Germany and Yugoslavia was occupied within eleven days. King Peter II was forced to leave the country along with the Yugoslav Government – initially to Greece, Palestine and then to Egypt. King Peter II joined other monarchs and leaders of German occupied Europe in London in June 1941. There King Peter was regarded by the people of Yugoslavia as the symbol of resistance against Nazism. King Peter II completed his education at Cambridge University and joined the Royal Air Force.

Despite the collapse of the Yugoslav army two rival resistance entities were formed. The first resistance entity was the loyalist one led by Yugoslav Army Colonel Dragoljub Mihailovic who was later promoted to General and made the Minister of Defence of the Yugoslav government in exile. The other resistance entity was that of the communist Partisans led by the communist party leader Josip Broz – later known to the world as Tito. A bitter civil war followed during the German occupation.

The Allies, having initially supported General Mihailovic later threw their support behind Tito. The Partisans entered Belgrade in 1944 in the wake of Soviet tank brigades and illegally established a communist Government. In November 1945, the monarchy was illegally abolished without a referendum and Yugoslavia remained a totalitarian single party state under the League of Communists for more than four decades.



King Peter II never abdicated. Initially King Peter II lived in exile in London with his wife (he married the Princess Alexandra of Greece and Denmark in 1944, she was the daughter of His Majesty King Alexander of the Hellenes and Aspasia Manos) and his son Crown Prince Alexander was born in 1945.

King Peter II spent the last years of his life in America. After a long and grave illness, King Peter II died 3 November 1970 in Denver Hospital Colorado, and he was buried at the St. Sava Monastery Church in Libertyville Illinois. He was the only king buried in the United States. The King's remains were transferred to Royal Palace Chapel in Belgrade on 22 January 2013 and a State Funeral took place 26 May 2013 at the Royal Family Mausoleum of St. George in Oplenac, Serbia where His Majesty joined other members of The Royal Family interned the Royal Mausoleum.

Jelena Petrovic



Jelena Petrovic, born Jovanovic, was the wife of the Supreme Leader Djordje Petrovic Karadjordje, the leader of the First Serbian Uprising and the founder of the Karadjordjevic Dynasty. She was born in the village of Maslosevo in 1765 or 1771, as the daughter of Bosiljka and Nikola Jovanovic, Jasenica's "obor-knez" (senior chief of a group of villages). She lost her mother early, and later her father and two brothers died as hajduks, so she lived with her aunt Bisenija in the village of Jagnjilo.

She married Djordje Petrovic in 1785 and had seven children with him: Sima (who died immediately after birth), Sava, Sara, Poleksija, Stamenka, Aleksa (died at 29 in Chisinau, today's Romania) and Karadjordje's heir, Alexander, later the Prince of Serbia. She was the maid of honour at the wedding of Princess Ljubica and Prince Milos Obrenovic. Later in her life she spent a long time at the Krusedol Monastery in Srem.

After the collapse of the First Serbian Uprising, she left Serbia with Karađorđe and their children. After the murder of her husband, she lived in fear of reprisals against her family. Despite this, as some sources testify, she wrote to Miloš Obrenović, "His Serene Prince and Most Reverend Godfather," to grant her permission to return home, unwilling to comply with Russia's demands that she move all the way to Novomirgorod with her children. Prince Miloš delayed granting her permission, and after he was dethroned, he and Jelena met in Wallachia in 1839, when she rebuked him "for the injustice he had done her."

When Karadjordjevics were allowed to return to Serbia, she arrived in Belgrade before her son Aleksandar and his family. After Prince Mihailo was enthroned as ruler, he granted Jelena a pension of 1,500 thalers per year. Newspapers record that "in Belgrade she received numerous visits from those who wished to welcome her," and she also went to Topola, to her husband's grave.

She passed away at a very old age, in Belgrade on 9 February (29 January according to the old calendar) 1842. The funeral service was held in the newly built Cathedral Church in Belgrade, led by Metropolitan Petar, and the deceased was escorted to the Varoš-kapija by Prince Mihailo. His mother, Princess Ljubica, followed her kuma's coffin all the way to Topola, while people gathered along the way to pay their respects to Karađorđe's widow.

The Serbian newspaper records that in all the villages through which the funeral procession passed and along the entire route, regardless of the winter, people from "all sides and locals, both old and young", gathered to see off Mrs. Jelena, Karađorđe's widow, for the last time, to "pray for her soul" and many to continue with the procession.

Princess Persida Karađorđević



Persida Karadjordjevic (15 February 1813 – 29 March 1873) was the Princess consort of Serbia as the wife of Alexander Karadjordjevic.

Persida was born in Brankovina, the daughter of voivode (commander) Jevrem Nenadovic and Jovanka Milovanovic. Her paternal grandfather was Jakov Nenadovic, the first Serbian Interior Minister of Revolutionary Serbia, maternal grandfather Mladen Milovanovic was the first Minister of Defence.

On 1 June 1830 in Hotin, Bessarabia, at the age of 17, she married Alexander Karadjordjevic, the son of Karadjordje Petrovic, who was elected the Prince of Serbia in 1842.

With Prince Alexander she had ten children: daughters Poleksija, Kleopatra, Jelena and Jelisaveta (died in infancy), and sons Aleksije, Svetozar, Andrej (all three died as children), Petar, Djordje and Arsen.

The influence of Princess Persida was felt In Serbia of that era, both in politics and in culture. She participated in establishing the first Serbian theater in 1847. At her initiative, the Church of St. Ilija in Sokobanja was erected and a precious cross was donated to the Church of the Ascension in Mionica.

For her charitable work and cultural activities, Sultan Abdul Majid awarded her the Order of the Padishah Portrait in 1864. She also organized frequent art promotion gatherings that were quite significant for the life of the Serbian capital.



In 1858, Prince Alexander came into conflict with the members of the State Council, and eventuylly was coerced to abdicate, after which his moved family to Timişoara.

Princess Persida died on 29 March 1873 at the age of 60 in Vienna. In 1912, their son King Peter ordered the remains of her and Prince Alexander to be moved to the Church of St. George in Oplenac.

Princess Zorka Karadjordjevic



Ljubica-Zorka Karadjordjevic (née Petrovic; 1864-1890) was the eldest daughter of the Montenegrin Prince, later King Nikola I Petrovic and the wife of Peter I Karadjordjevic (King of Serbia from 1903 to 1918 and King of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes from 1918 to 1921).

She was born 11 December 1864 in Cetinje. At baptism on the day of Saint Sava, her godfather was the Serbian Prince Mihailo Obrenovic, who was represented at the baptism in Cetinje by the state counselor Djordje Djosa Milovanovic (1813-1885). In order to establish good neighborly relations between Serbia and Montenegro and to as a symbol of national unity, she was given the name Ljubica-Zorka at baptism, to be a symbol of the love and dawn of the new age. She was the first of twelve children of Montenegrin Prince Nikola I Petrovic and Princess Milena.

She spent her childhood up to the age of 11 in Cetinje, where she was educated by Cetinje teachers and a Swiss teacher Mrs. Nykom. In 1875, Princess Zorka was sent to Russia to continue her education at the Smolny Institute (attended by the girls from the most prominent Russian aristocratic families). After graduation, she returned to Cetinje. At the beginning of 1883, Prince Petar Karadjordjevic came to Cetinje. His intention was to marry in Cetinje, get closer to the Montenegrins and move there to live with his family. He asked for the hand of the young and beautiful Princess. The arrival of Petar Karadjordjevic in Cetinje and his engagement with Kneginja Zorka Petrovic-Njegos were disapproved by the opponents of these two dynasties, but the act was gladly accepted by the Serbian and Montenegrin people, who saw it as the confirmation of their future bond. The wedding of Princess Zorka (19 at the time) and Petar Karadjordjevic (39) took place at the Cetinje Monastery on 30 July 1883. The wedding party, like the engagement before it, was organized according to folk tradition, with many guests who could barely accommodate themselves in the small space of Cetinje.

Prince Peter and Princess Zorka traveled on their wedding day, in the afternoon, to Paris, on their honeymoon. When they returned, the Princely couple settled in Cetinje. There, in Cetinje peace, they raised their children. Princess Zorka gave birth to five children to Peter I Karadjordjevic:

• Jelena, born 23 October 1884. She was the wife of Grand Duke Ian Konstantinovich. With her children, she luckily escaped the fate of the imperial family in 1917, thanks to her courage and resourcefulness, as well as the assistance of the Serbian Ambassador in St. Petersburg. Miroslav Spalajkovic, while her husband, as the closest relative of the imperial Romanov family, was shot. She died in 1962.

• Milena, born 26 April 1886, died as a child 22 December 1887.

• Djordje, born 27 August 1887. He relinquished his right to the throne in 1909 in favor of his younger brother Alexander. He died in 1972.

• Alexander, born 4 December 1888. He was the second King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1921-1929) and later the King of Yugoslavia (1929-1934). He was assassinated in Marseille in 1934.

• Andrija, born and died in 1890.

The Karadjordjevics lived in Cetinje until their residence there became small for the new family. Then they decided to build a new one, on the Bar coast. It was named Topolica, after Peter's birthplace Topola in Serbia and it is located on the waterfront. Two high masts, in the yard's corners, hoisted the Serbian and Montenegrin flags.

The principal preoccupation of Princess Zorka was to make her husband the King of Serbia, and she was constantly pregnant in order to leave as many descendants to the Serbian throne pretender. She died on 4 March 1890, shortly after the birth of her last son Andrija, who also passed away a few days after his mother. In order to help his wife, Peter I called the doctors from Vienna, but they could not help the Princess. She died with the words: "He will be the King!", referring to Petar Karadjordjevic, which happened 13 years later, after the May Coup. She was buried in Cetinje, near the St. Peter's Monastery, but when the Foundation of King Peter I was finished in Oplenac, she was transferred there on 15 March 1912. Although her life was not a long one, Princess Zorka left a big mark in history as a link between Serbia and Montenegro and as the mother of the Yugoslav King Alexander I Karadjordjevic.



Thirteen years after her death, her father, Nikola I, congratulated his brother-in-law, Peter Karadjordjevic on acceding the throne of Serbia with this telegram, on 6 June 1903: "Our common interest and blood ties are a warrant for eternal and indivisible brotherhood of Serbia and Montenegro. This brotherhood will forever remain shining, holy, unblemished and lifesaving for our people. The souls of our Serbian martyrs are praying to the throne of the Almighty for this brotherhood. It will always be guarded by the angelic soul of my Zorka, your wife, whose blood and love will bind your and my sons forever".

Her Majesty Queen Maria



Her Majesty Queen Maria of Yugoslavia was the daughter of HM King Ferdinand of Romania and HM Queen Marie of Romania (daughter of HRH Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, a son of Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom). Queen Maria was born in Gotha, Thuringia, Germany, on 9 January 1900, and died in London, the United Kingdom, on 22 June 1961.

She was named after her maternal grandmother, Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna of Russia, and was known as Mignon in the family to distinguish her from her mother. In 1914, after the death of HM King Carol I, her parents became the King and Queen of Romania, and Princess Maria moved with them to Romania, which became her new home country.

During World War I, she worked as a nurse with her mother, along with her two sisters.

On 8 June 1922, in Belgrade, Her Majesty married HM King Alexander I of Yugoslavia. Their marriage represented not only a personal union but also a strong dynastic alliance between the Royal Houses of Karađorđević and Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen. The Royal Couple had three sons: HRH Crown Prince Peter (later HM King Peter II of Yugoslavia, father of HRH Crown Prince Alexander II), HRH Prince Tomislav, and HRH Prince Andrej.

Upon her arrival in Yugoslavia, Queen Maria quickly became deeply loved by the people, known for her simplicity, warmth, and dedication. She actively participated in public life and was particularly committed to advancing social welfare, education, culture, and overall humanitarian work.

Her Majesty founded and supported hospitals, schools, homes for children, student dormitories, and charitable institutions across the Kingdom. Very soon after the wedding, together with her husband, she formed a charitable organisation called “The King’s Fund” with the goal of supporting poor students. She was a strong advocate for women’s education and empowerment, encouraging the development of women’s associations and initiatives that improved the social status of women. She was also a patron of the arts and culture, supporting Serbian artists, writers, and cultural societies, and helped preserve national traditions while encouraging modern education. Among others, she was also a patron of the “Circle of the Serbian Sisters”, a patriotic and charitable organisation, as well as the Red Cross of Yugoslavia.

Deeply engaged in humanitarian activities, Queen Maria worked to provide assistance to orphans, the poor, and war veterans. She personally visited hospitals, schools, and institutions, offering comfort and encouragement. Her life of simplicity — often seen driving her own car (she was the first woman in Yugoslavia to drive, often seen driving her husband, HM King Aleander I), gardening, or working in the field dressed in traditional folk costume — reinforced her image as a down-to-earth, compassionate Queen who lived close to her people. Her Majesty was well educated, she spoke several languages fluently and enjoyed painting and sculpting.

After the tragic assassination of her husband, HM King Alexander I, in Marseille on 9 October 1934, Queen Maria continued to care for her sons and became known as the Queen Mother, a title that was accepted by the entire nation. Despite her personal grief, she remained a devoted mother to her three young sons and a moral support to the nation, continuing her dedication to humanitarian efforts as well.

During the Second World War, although forced into exile together with all other members of the Royal family of Serbia, Queen Maria remained deeply connected to the suffering of the Yugoslav people. She worked actively with the Red Cross and other organisations, sending humanitarian aid to Yugoslavs and our prisoners of war in German camps. In order for her identity not to be revealed by the occupiers, she used the pseudonym “Maria K. Djordjević” when signing aid packages.

Following the war, although King Peter II never abdicated, the monarchy was abolished by an illegal act of the communist dictatorship on 29 November 1945. The Royal family was forced to live in exile, and on 8 March 1947, by an unlawful Decree of the Presidency of the Federative People’s Republic of Yugoslavia, the entire Royal family was deprived of their citizenship, and their entire private property was confiscated by the communists, including the Queen Mother.

Queen Maria lived a modest and private life on her estate in Kent, England. Though far from her homeland, she remained dedicated to charitable activities and continued to embody the dignity of her royal role. She even managed to provide the Serbian Orthodox community in London with an appropriate temple – the Church of Saint Sava in London, as the main and largest Serbian Orthodox church in Great Britain, was bought from the Anglican church thanks to the help of Queen Maria.

In recognition of her humanitarian service and moral authority, General Charles de Gaulle, President of France, decorated her with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour in 1959. In addition to tis decoration, Her Majesty received numerous high national and foreign honours in recognition of her public and humanitarian service, including: Dame Grand Cross of the Order of Karađorđe’s Star and the Order of the Yugoslav Crown (Kingdom of Yugoslavia); Dame Grand Cross of the Order of Carol I and the Order of the Crown (Romania); Grand Cross of the Order of the White Lion (Czechoslovakia, 4 April 1937); Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Saint Alexander (Bulgaria, Grand Cross in Diamonds, 1934).

Her Majesty Queen Maria passed away in London on 22 June 1961. She was initially buried at the Royal Cemetery at Frogmore, Windsor. Thanks to the efforts of her grandson, HRH Crown Prince Alexander, who fulfilled the vow of his father and great-grandfather, King Peter II and King Peter I, her remains were exhumed with the utmost honours and transferred to the Palace Chapel of St. Andrew the First-Called in Belgrade on 29 April 2013. The last farewell with a solemn church service in the United Kingdom, before the final return to the Homeland, was organised in the church of Saint Sava in London, the one she gave to our people. On 26 May 2013, she was laid to rest at the Royal Mausoleum of Oplenac, Topola, during a solemn State Funeral, alongside her husband, HM King Alexander I, and other members of the Royal Family, to rest in peace in her country, among the people who loved her dearly.



Her Majesty Queen Maria is remembered as one of the most beloved members of the Karađorđević Royal Family. Admired for her humility, generosity, and tireless service, she embodied the virtues of duty, compassion, and moral strength. Her deep commitment to humanitarian work, cultural and educational progress, and her closeness to the people secured her a lasting place in the hearts of generations of Serbs and Yugoslavs.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra



Her Majesty Queen Alexandra was the daughter of HM King Alexander I of the Hellenes and HRH Princess Aspasia of Greece and Denmark (née Aspasia Manos). She was born in Athens, Greece, on 25 March 1921, as the only child of her parents.

Her mother, Aspasia, came from a prominent Greek Phanariote families of Constantinople and the descendants of the ruling Princes of Wallachia and Moldavia. King Alexander and Aspasia Manos were married on 17 November 1919. Tragically, the King died of sepsis on 25 October 1920, five months before the birth of his daughter.

Due to political turmoil in Greece, Alexandra did not become de jure Queen of the country immediately after birth. Following the return of her grandfather, HM King Constantine I, to the throne of Greece, and the enactment of the necessary law and Royal Decree in July 1922, Alexandra and her mother, Aspasia, were granted the titles of Their Royal Highnesses Princesses of Greece and Denmark.

She was educated in England – first at Westfield, the junior school of Heathfield, and then at Heathfield School. After completing her education, Princess Alexandra went to Mademoiselle Ozanne in Paris, and after the restoration of the monarchy in 1935 she lived in her native Greece, as well as in her mother's villa in Venice, called the "Garden of Eden".

In 1940, Italy attacked Greece. After the invasion of Nazi Germany on Greece in 1941, Princess Alexandra went into exile together with other members of the Royal Family of Greece, led by HM King George II.

After a stay in Crete and South Africa, Princess Alexandra and her mother came to London, where she met her future husband, HM King Peter II of Yugoslavia, at the Allied Officers' Club in 1942.

King Peter II and Queen Alexandra were married on 20 March 1944 at the Yugoslav Embassy in London, with King George VI of the United Kingdom and King George II of the Hellenes as best men.

She gave birth to her only child, a son, HRH Crown Prince Alexander, in London on 17 July 1945 at Claridge's Hotel, in Suite 212, which had been temporarily declared Yugoslav territory.

Although King Peter II never abdicated, the monarchy was abolished by an illegal act of the communist dictatorship on 29 November 1945. The Royal family was forced to live in exile, and it was not an easy life.

It is often mistakenly said that she never set foot on Yugoslav soil, but it is true that she never actually did so as Queen. Namely, when Italy invaded Greece in October 1940, Princess Alexandra and her mother were in Venice. After the outbreak of war, they set off for Greece, and on their journey, they stopped in Belgrade, where they were given a ceremonial welcome at the train station.



Queen Alexandra died on 30 January 1993 in East Sussex, England. She was buried on 7 February 1993 at the Tatoi Palace Royal Cemetery near Athens.

Thanks to the efforts of her son, Crown Prince Alexander, who fulfilled the vow of his father and great-grandfather, King Peter II and King Peter I, her remains were exhumed with the utmost honours and transferred to the Palace Chapel of St. Andrew the First-Called in Belgrade on 9 May 2013. As part of the State Funeral, she was transferred to the Royal Mausoleum of the Karađorđevićs in Oplenac on Sunday, 26 May 2013, to finally rest in peace in the country of which she was Queen.

The Royal Compound

As a great lover of art and architecture, HM King Alexander I, with his private funds, built the Royal Compound in Belgrade, a jewel of the historical heritage of Serbia, it consists of two Palaces - the Royal Palace and the White Palace, which are different in style and concept, as well as the Royal Park - a masterpiece of landscape architecture.



The Royal Palace, as the most dominant building in the Royal Compound, has been the home of the Royal Family since 1929, when the construction was completed. The idea of building a new Royal House and moving it from the center of the city to a more peaceful and intimate environment came personally from King Alexander I of Yugoslavia, just before his wedding with the Romanian Princess Maria in 1922. For the location of his family's private home, the King chose the highest hill of Dedinje, which is at the same time isolated, but also dominant in the wider view of Belgrade. The Royal Palace unites elements of Serbian-Byzantine architecture, Balkan town houses and European aristocratic villas. The chief architect was Zivojin Nikolic, with substantial help of his colleagues – Nikolay Krasnov and Viktor Lukomski – emigrants from Russia who found a safe haven in Serbia after October Revolution, with great support of King Alexander I.

Being a great admirer of art and supporter of artists, King Alexander I caringly engaged in the creation of the Royal art collection, for which he, with his own funds, purchased artworks by both domestic authors and old foreign masters. Today, in the Royal Complex, one can see the works of Paja Jovanovic, Toma Rosandic, Ivan Mestrovic, Jovan Bijelic, Palma Vecchio, Ivan Aivazovsky, Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux, Antonio Canaletto, Nicolas Poussin, Sébastien Bourdon, and many others.



The Royal chapel is dedicated to Apostle Saint Andrew the First Called, the Patron Saint of the Royal Family. The construction of the chapel began in the same year as the Royal Palace and is connected to it by a corridor with a colonnade, which provides visitors with a beautiful panoramic view of the northern, western and southern part of Belgrade, but also the nurtured rose gardens below the terrace. The Royal chapel was built on the model of the medieval King's Church from the Studenica Monastery, the endowment of King Milutin, and the Church of St. Andrew on the Treska River in Macedonia, the memorial church of King Vukasin's son. The Royal Chapel was painted by Russian masters, who had previously travelled through Serbia to get acquainted with the superb examples of our medieval fresco painting and used those frescoes as a model to paint some of the most famous and beautiful frescoes in the Royal chapel.



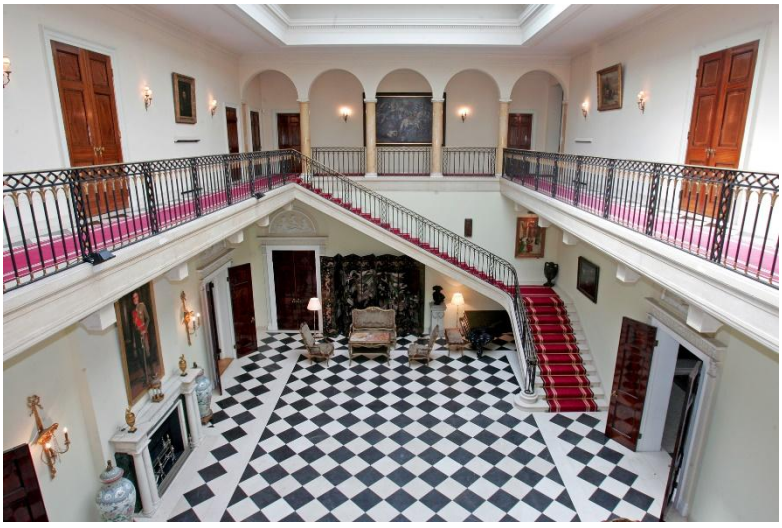
In front of the main entrance to the King's Palace there is a beautiful view of the pavilion which was made as an architectural frame for the famous sculpture of Ivan Mestrovic "History of the Croats" which is in the center of the pavilion. It is a sculpture that the King, with his own personal funds, bought from Mestrovic and which, at that time, had an exceptional price. It was his contribution to the idea of one nation made from three, visualization of his desire to unite South Slavs into the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians. The pool located in front of this pavilion is not built as a swimming pool, but as a water mirror, to reflect the image of this object.

The road to the Royal Palace leads past the so-called Thatched House, which is modeled as the village houses of Topola, a place in Serbia where the founder of the dynasty – the Supreme Leader Karadjordje Petrovic - came from. It was the first object that was built on this Compound, from which King Alexander I personally supervised the construction works. After the construction of the Royal Palace was completed, this house was used by Queen Maria, who had her art studio in it for some time, while later, the Thatched House served as a classroom for the King's three sons, Crown Prince Peter and Princes Tomislav and Andrej. Most part of the large scaled Royal Park is covered by carefully designed parks units in English-style of landscape architecture, where trees, shrubs and flowers grow as much as possible resembling nature. The contrast to this concept is provided by flower beds, rose gardens and lawns that surround the courtyards, decorated in the French style, which is characterized by a strict, symmetrical shapes. The credit for this beautiful face of the Royal Complex goes to Rene Eduardo Andre, who, together with his father, oversaw the garden architecture of the famous Versailles Palace and some of the main city parks of Paris.



Unlike the Royal Palace, which is raised on the highest peak of the hill and is visible from the surroundings, the White Palace, which is in the southern part of the Royal Compound, is tucked in and well hidden from view. King Alexander I wanted to build it as a residence for his three sons, Crown Prince Peter (the future King Peter II), and Princes Tomislav and Andrej, and the official competition for the construction was announced in the spring of 1934. The Belgrade architect Aleksandar Djordjevic won the competition with his project in the neoclassical style. However, just two months after the construction of the White Palace began, King Alexander I was assassinated in Marseilles during an official visit to France on October 9th, 1934. Nevertheless, the construction continued and the White Palace was completed in 1937.

The White Palace amazes visitors with its simplicity, noble elegance, balance and symmetrical precision of design. Its interior walls are richly decorated with masterpieces of fine art of European decoration. From the entrance to the hall, through the central hall, the Palace dining room, the Golden Salon, all the way to the Small Salon and the library, visitors are introduced to pieces of furniture and other interior elements in the style of Louis XV and Louis XVI.



Crown Prince Alexander permanently returned to his homeland, after almost 60 years of living in exile, on his birthday, July 17, 2001, together with his wife, Crown Princess Katherine and his three sons, Princes Peter, Philip and Alexander.

After the return to Serbia of Crown Prince Alexander and Princess Katherine, numerous humanitarian and cultural events were organized in the Palace Complex: Christmas and Easter receptions for children without parental care, the Serbian Medical Diaspora Conferences, receptions for the best high school students from Serbia and Republic of Srpska, and many artistic and cultural events.

One of the first decisions of Crown Prince Alexander after his return to his homeland was to open the Palace complex to the public and to enable visitors to enjoy in this jewel of Serbian history. Their Royal Highnesses try to greet every group of visitors who come to the tours, because they enjoy meeting people from all over the world, with whom they talk about Serbian culture, the beauty of Serbia and its wonderful people.

Many famous people from our country and abroad have visited the Royal Compound: King Charles III, King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, Prince Albert of Monaco, King Constantine and Queen Anne Marie of Greece, King Michael of Romania, King Simeon of Bulgaria, Patriarch Pavle, Patriarch Irinej, Patriarch Porfirije, and many others).



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is the state of the Serbian Throne?

When King Peter II passed away, his only son, Crown Prince Alexander, became the new King. The transition of the Kingship was immediate, it was without any conditions and irrevocable. As long as the King is alive, King Peter II only heir is Crown Prince Alexander, regardless of whether he is of age or not. At the moment of the death of the Crown Prince Alexander's father King Peter II, Crown Prince Alexander became the King and head of the Royal Family.

The Head of the Royal Family and the personality of the King and his function are united in the same person. HRH Crown Prince Alexander does not officially use at this time the title of King, but this has absolutely no bearings on his status and rights. The position and the right pertaining to the King can only be renounced through an official act of abdication, in which case the Crown Prince automatically becomes the new King.

2. How does one succeed to the Throne in Serbia?

The inheritance is passed on according to primogeniture, the principle of the first-born male, from the father to the eldest son, as long as the direct line of inheritance exists. In case the direct line becomes extinct, the principle of primogeniture is to be re-established according to the order of birth among the brothers of the last Monarch. This means that the order of birth among the children of the Monarch controls the order of their right to the Throne. In that sense there is no freedom of election or free will as such. In case of a formal abdication by any member of The Royal Family (regarding his position in the order of succession), that position is automatically transferred to the member of the Royal Family next in line according to the order of birth. Extraordinarily, this procedure can be rearranged by the decision of the Monarch who has no immediate heirs.

As of October 2026, the situation regarding the order of succession within The Royal Family of Serbia is the following:

Monarch (Alexander II) (17 July, 1945)

1. HRH Prince Hereditary Philip (15 January, 1982)
2. HRH Prince Stefan (25 February 2018)
3. HRH Prince Alexander (15 January 1982)
4. HRH Prince Marko Aleksandar (13 October 2026)
5. HRH Prince Nicolas (15 January 1958)
6. HRH Prince George (25 May 1984)
7. HRH Prince Michael (15 December 1985)
8. HRH Prince Vladimir (11 March 1964)

9. HRH Prince Dimitri (21 April 1965)

3. What is the present situation regarding the Royal Family of Serbia?

The Royal Family of Karadjordjevic has its senior line, which comes directly from Karadjordje, via his son Prince (Knjaz) Alexander, grandson King Peter I, great-grandson King Alexander I, great-great-grandson King Peter II and great-great-great-grandson – the current Head of the Royal Family is Crown Prince Alexander. This senior line also includes all direct descendants of any of the Kings from the Royal Family of Karadjordje, which presently refers to direct descendants of the King Alexander I and King Peter II. The senior line of the Royal Family branches is threefold. HRH Crown Prince Alexander represents the late King Peter II branch, which is the ruling branch, today, his sons (Princes – Kraljevici) Prince Peter, Prince Philip and Prince Alexander and his wife Crown Princess Katherine.

The late Prince (Kraljevic) Tomislav's branch is represented by his sons Prince Nicolas with his wife Princess Ljiljana and daughter Princess Maria, Prince George and Prince Michael, daughter Princess Katarina (Lady Desmond de Silva) and the Princess-Dowager Linda.

The late Prince (Kraljevic) Andrej's branch is represented by his sons Prince Vladimir with his wife Princess Brigitta and brother Prince Dimitri, and daughters Princess Tatjana and Princess Lavinia.

The Head of the late Prince Tomislav's branch is HRH Prince Nicolas.

The Head of the late Prince Andrej's branch is HRH Prince Vladimir.

The junior line, which has no dynastic rights, of the Karadjordjevic Royal Family originates from Karadjordje, and it is inherited via his son Prince (Knez) Alexander, his son Prince (Knez) Arsen and grandson Prince (Knez) Paul, up to the great-grandson Prince (Knez) Alexander. The junior line today is represented by the widow of the late HRH Prince (Knez) Alexander Princess Barbara, his sons Princes Dimitri, Prince Michel, Prince Serge, Prince Dusan, his daughter Princess Helen as well as his sister Princess (Kneginja) Elizabeth.

4. What are the obligations of the Head of the Royal Family towards the members, and what are the obligations of the members of the Royal Family towards the Head?

The Head of the Royal Family Crown Prince Alexander has indisputable authority over all Royal Family members, and their overall status of the Royal Family results from his will.

The Head of the Royal Family Crown Prince Alexander has the duty to protect the members of the Family and members are obliged to respect his position and his decisions.

The relationships among the members of the Royal Family are regulated by the Family Rules ("Pravilnik") for the members of the Family as prescribed by the Monarch.

The honour of the Head of the Family is the honour of the whole Royal Family, the Throne and the Crown. The violation of the honour of the Head of the Royal Family is equal to the violation of the Royal Family, the Throne and the Crown. In case of serious violation of the honour of the Royal Family, the Head may take the decision to suspend titles and ranks of the Royal Family members, including the act of expulsion from the Royal Family, and such a decision obliges the whole Royal Family until the procedure according to the "Pravilnik" is finalized. The validity and the ways of implementation of the "Pravilnik' procedures is independent of the factual power of the King.

The Head of the Royal Family is Crown Prince Alexander; he is the source of legalization of all the Family members; without the Head there is no Royal Family, nor could its members have the privilege of rank and the title by themselves.

5. Who has the right to a title and a rank?

Any Royal Family member can have a title and a rank. The "title" includes such qualifications as "Royal Highness" that, according to the current practice, can be ascribed to every member of the Royal Family. The "rank" is given to some members of the family by the decision of the Head and according to the "Pravilnik" procedures, based on their birthright or the will of the Head of the Royal Family. According to the "Pravilnik", all sons of the Monarch are "Kraljevici" (Princes Royal) and the other Royal Family members are "Knezevi" (Princes) and "Kneginje" (Princesses). However, since the latest version of the "Pravilnik" dates from 1930, when the number of Royal Family members was significantly smaller, the current practice on this issue, as implemented by the Crown, is somewhat different. Therefore, the sons of the Head are referred to as "Kraljevici", the heir to the Crown is the Prince-Heir (or "Kraljevic-naslednik"), and all the members of the senior line of the Royal Family have the rank of "Princ" or "Princeza".

The members of the junior line have the right to the rank of "Knez" and "Kneginja". (Note: "Knez" is similar to German "Furst", while Trine" is "Prince".)

The Female descendants of the Royal Family have the right to a title and a rank based on their membership in the Royal Family only until their marriage. Afterwards, it is current practice that the Head of the Royal Family allows usage of personal title and rank to female members of the Royal Family, but without the right to transfer it to spouses or issue.

6. Are Serbian Monarchs crowned?

The practice so far on this issue has been different. The Serbian Monarchs have so far, as a rule, always been anointed (the only exception was Knjaz Milan Obrenovic II, who was ill when he succeeded to the Throne), but King Peter I was the only one crowned and anointed.

King Alexander I and King Peter II were neither crowned nor anointed.

The act of anointment is the Holy Sacrament while the act of crowning is a ritual. The Royal insignia were prepared for the crowning of King Peter I in 1904 and are presently kept at the

Historical Museum of Serbia in Belgrade. The insignia include the Royal Crown, Scepter, Orb and the Coronation Mantle (a robe lined with ermine).

7. Does the existence of a Regent automatically mean that there is no King?

Regents rule the country only in the name of the King, but not instead of the King. The privileges pertaining to a King cannot be transferred to a Regent nor can it be done with the prerogatives of the Crown. The special privileges of a Regent do not, in any way, violate nor substitute the privileges of the King. Accordingly, the existence of the regency does not mean the vacancy of the Throne.

8. Did King Peter II abdicate?

King Peter II did not abdicate. The act of abdication is an official act and it must be submitted in a written form, properly witnessed and verified. At the moment of the official submitting of the act of abdication of a King, as a rule, the Crown Prince immediately takes over the function and the authority of the King.

9. Are there any living direct descendants of other national royal families in Serbia?

There are no living direct descendants of other national royal families in Serbia. HRH Crown Prince Alexander is, in many ways, a direct descendant from pre-Nemanjic Serbian rulers as well as from early Nemanjic's (from Stefan Nemanja to King Dragutin) and the early Kotromanic's of Bosnia.

The Montenegrin Royal family of Petrovic-Njegos is directly present in the person of Prince Nikola Petrovic-Njegos and his children Prince Boris and Princess Altinaj, and, in the female line, in the existing generations of the Karadjordjevic family.

10. What are the advisory bodies of the Crown?

According to the Act of Foundation dated 15 February 1992, the advisory bodies of the Crown are: the Privy Council, the Crown Council and the Crown Cabinet (formed later).The Privy Council is a Council inner body, with up to 10 members (not counting the members of the Royal Family appointed by the Crown), who are nominated by the Crown for an indefinite period of time. The Privy Council deals in everyday duties of the Crown.

The Crown Council is a larger body, with up to 30 members, who are appointed by the Crown to a life-long mandate. This body deals with strategic matters of paramount importance for the people, state and the Crown. The members of the Council are appointed by the Crown from the list of candidates prepared by the Council members themselves. The Crown can, if need be, make the appointment "in pectore", meaning that the appointment is to be made in discretion and is known to only the Crown and the person appointed in that way. Exceptionally, the Crown can call for a conference of all its counselling bodies, which are then transformed into the Crown Assembly.

The Crown presides over all the Crown bodies, names the Chancellor for coordination purposes or delegates the duties of a Chancellor to a Privy Council member. The power of the Crown is manifested in the person of the Head of the Royal Family.

Members of the Privy Council are HRH Prince Peter, HRH Hereditary Prince Philip, HRH Prince Alexander, Arch. Dragomir Acovic, The Hon. Branko Terzic and Mr. Dusan Babac.

Members of the Crown Council are Mr. Matija Beckovic, Mr. Dusan Kovacevic, Mr. Predrag Markovic, Prof. Dr Nikola Moravcevic, Prof. Dr. Aleksandar P. Simic, Dr Milan Parivodic, Prof. Dr Cedomir Antic, Prof. Dr Bogoljub Sijakovic, Mr. Emir Kusturica, Prof. Dr Slobodan Markovic, Mr. Darko Spasic, Mr. Vladan Zivulovic, Prof Dr Kosta Cavoski, Mr. Vladan Vukosavljevic, Mr. Zoran Zivanovic, Prof. Bojan Sudjic, Dr Marko Bumbasirevic, Mr. Milosav Tesic, Mr. Mirko Petrovic and Dr Nenad Zlataric.

Members of the Crown Cabinet are Mr. Vladimir Gajic and Mr. Dragoslav Micic.

11. Has the Crown conferred after 1970 any title of nobility or rank?

No. After the death of the late King Peter II, no title or rank was conferred to anyone.

Only the three sons (Prince Peter, Prince Philip and Prince Alexander) of HRH Crown Prince Alexander were born into titles and rank.

Furthermore, the Crown accepted that female members of The Royal Family who were born Princesses of the Blood could continue to use their titles and rank even after their marriage was consumed, and in case they divorced as well. Their favour is personal and non-transferable either to their consorts or to their posterity.

Since the Crown is the only source of all honours within The Royal Family, no title or rank is valid unless granted or confirmed by the Head of the Royal Family.

12. Are the contents of The Royal Palaces within Dedinje Complex free to remove or dispose with?

The contents of The Royal Palaces within the Dedinje Complex are fully protected by the existing laws of Serbia, and contents cannot be removed without the mutual consent of the Government of Serbia and HRH Crown Prince Alexander.

Prior to the moving of HRH Crown Prince Alexander into his ancestral home, a complete inventory of The Royal Palaces was made and signed by empowered representatives of the Federal Government and of the Crown. Everything was recorded by video camera and photography, and all the records deposited in three examples with 1) the Government, 2) Crown and 3) one national institution of highest renown.

13. Will any of the artworks in The Royal Palaces within the Dedinje Complex be restored?

The project of the restoration and conservation is being defined in close cooperation with the Serbian Ministry of Culture, the National Museum, the National Library and the Museum of Applied Arts, and is being implemented in a manner and form that these highest and the most authoritative professional institutions of our Nation propose.

14. Why is the grave of Tito's mistress still in the grounds of The Royal Palace Complex?

Ms Davorjanka Paunovic (1921-1946) was buried nearby The White Palace in 1946. Her destiny was tragic and the Crown sees her as a testimony of long passed times and only unless her family requests removal of her remains to some other location, they will remain right where they are.

15. Who built the Royal Palaces at Dedinje?

The Royal Palace of Dedinje was built by HM King Alexander I, the Grandfather of the HRH Crown Prince Alexander. It served as his Family Home, and The Royal Couple, with their eldest son (the future King Peter II), Prince Tomislav and Prince Andrej moved into it from The New Palace of Belgrade, which until then served as The Royal Private Residence of the King. In 1933, HM King Alexander decreed that the New Palace of Belgrade (presently used as the Official Residence of the President of Serbia) would in future serve as the National Museum, and the Palace was accordingly remodelled.

In 1934, HM King Alexander I started construction of a new structure known later as The White Palace (Beli Dvor), which was intended by HM King Alexander I to serve as the private residence for his three sons Crown Prince Peter, Prince Tomislav and Prince Andrej. Following the assassination of King Alexander I in Marseilles, construction continued and the White Palace was finished in 1936.

The White Palace once finished was used on temporary loan from 1936 until 1941 by HRH Prince Paul and his family. Prince Paul was the senior among the three Regents of the Realm, during HM King Peter II minority.

The New Palace of Belgrade, at that time already home of the National Museum, was from 1936 given a new name: Prince Paul’s Museum.

16. What is the property status of the Royal Palaces of Dedinje Complex?

The property status of The Royal Palace (Kraljevski Dvor) and The White Palace (Beli Dvor) in Belgrade (Dedinje) and compound following the death of His Majesty King Alexander I during the Regency administration of HRH Prince Paul, Dr. Radenko Stankovic and Dr. Ivo Perovic, the City of Belgrade District Court, competent for the inheritance of the deceased King Alexander I, issued on the 27 October 1938 Decree No. 0.428/34, determining the

outcome of the real estate and movable property of King Alexander I, which is specified in more detail in the above mentioned Decree of the District Court for the City of Belgrade.

The Decree lists in clauses 1 to 7 all the real estate at Dedinje stating the parcel numbers from the Real Estate Register, including the Palace (Old Palace) with surrounding terrain, yard and forest, as well as the building “Beli Dvor (White Palace)” with the appertaining houses. The aforementioned Decree of the City of the Belgrade District Court pronounced as the heirs of the entire private real estate and movable property of the deceased King Alexander I the Unifier, his underage sons: HM King Peter II, HRH Prince Tomislav and HRH Prince Andrej, in equal parts. This Decree became official law on the 4 March 1939.

All properties of The Royal Family were confiscated on the basis of the Edict of the Presidency Presidium of the People’s Assembly of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia (FPRY) Pov. No. 1433 of 2 August 1947 which, in caluse 6, under paragraph a., states that the “Palaces Dedinje and Beli Dvor” – “are registered in Real Estate Municipality Belgrade 7 in the names of Peter, Tomislav and Andrej Karadjordjevic, real estate excerpt 82, 86 and 89 on 9 parcels”.

The aforementioned Decree was abolished in 2001 by the Law on the Abolishment of the Edict of Confiscation of Citizenship and Property from the Karadjordjevic Family. This law determined that the conditions for the return of the confiscated property would be regulated by a special law. The above status remains unchanged up to the present.

17. What is the truth about some members of The Royal Family belonging to secret societies?

Since this question and the controversy usually relate to the issue of Freemasonry and the Order of the Temple, it is important to know that HRH Crown Prince Alexander is not, and has never been, a member of any obedience of Freemasons, or of any of the many organizations and sects claiming the succession of the historical Order of the Temple of Solomon.

It is difficult to say if and who among the various members of The Royal Family might belong (or did belong) to any of the hundreds of secret societies. According to the spirit of The Family Rules any such membership should require sanction from the Head of the Royal Family, but such requests were never received or approved.