**Великие женщины в истории Англии: королевы Елизавета I и Виктория**

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**The Great Women of English History: Queens Elizabeth I and Victoria**

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**Аннотация.** В работе рассматриваются биографии и вклад двух выдающихся монархов Великобритании – Елизаветы I и Виктории. Проведен сравнительный анализ их влияния на политику, культуру и общественную жизнь страны. Особое внимание уделяется личным качествам королев и их вкладу в развитие Великобритании.

**Abstract.** The paper examines the biographies and contributions of two outstanding British monarchs – Elizabeth I and Victoria. A comparative analysis of their influence on the country’s politics, culture, and society is presented. Special attention is paid to the personal qualities of the queens and their role in the development of Great Britain.

**Ключевые слова:** Королевы Британии: Елизавета I, Виктория, британская монархия, политика, культура, история.

**Keywords:** Queens of Britain: Elizabeth I, Victoria, British monarchy, politics, culture, history.

**The aim of the project**

To examine and compare the reigns of Queens Elizabeth I and Victoria, to identify their impact on Britain and the rest of the world.

**1. Early Life and youth of two Queens.** Elizabeth I was born on September 7, 1533. Her childhood was overshadowed by her mother’s execution and her status as an illegitimate child. Despite hardships, she received an excellent education and showed remarkable abilities from an early age. Victoria was born on May 24, 1819. Her father died when she was less than a year old, and she grew up in relative seclusion. Nevertheless, she received a broad home education and understood early the responsibilities of the crown.

**2. Ascension to the Throne.** Elizabeth became queen after the death of her sister Mary I in 1558. Victoria ascended the throne in 1837 following the death of King William IV.

**3. Political Role.** Elizabeth I strengthened state governance, supported naval development, and helped establish England as a maritime power. Her reign included the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, which solidified England’s naval supremacy and elevated its global standing. Victoria ruled during the Industrial Revolution, supporting the expansion of the British Empire and the development of international relations. She played a role in promoting peace and reconciliation in foreign policy and oversaw important social reforms.

**4. Social Contributions.** Under Elizabeth I, laws for poor relief were enacted, and arts and theatre flourished, with figures like William Shakespeare rising to prominence. Victoria focused on charity, education reforms, and the modernization of the monarchy. She became a symbol of the British Empire, especially after being proclaimed Empress of India in 1877.

**5. Interesting Facts.** Elizabeth corresponded with Ivan the Terrible and skillfully used marriage negotiations as diplomatic tools without ever marrying.

Victoria was the first British monarch to travel by train and survived several assassination attempts.

Both queens were multilingual and passionate about arts and culture.

**6. Comparative Analysis.**

*Sheet 1*

***Comparative analysis of two Queens***

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Aspect** | **Elizabeth I** | **Victoria** |
| Major Achievements | Defeat of Spanish Armada, Protestant Church establishment, cultural flourishing | Expansion of British Empire, social reforms, modernization of monarchy |
| Personal Qualities | Strong-willed, independent, diplomatic | Responsible, influential, devoted to duty |
| Historical Impact | Unified England, established naval power | Symbolized Victorian Era, oversaw industrial and imperial growth |

**Conclusion.** Queens Elizabeth I and Victoria made enormous contributions to the development of Great Britain. Their reigns symbolize distinct historical epochs, and their personal qualities and achievements continue to inspire respect and interest.

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