THE BRITISH POLITICAL TRADITIONS
Traditions are the product of a long historical evolution. The study of the Political Traditions of Britain, which is also known as England, United Kingdom and Great Britain, is of special significance because British Politics and political institutions are the product of a long historical evolution.
VARIOUS ASPECTS OF BRITISH POLITICAL TRADITION:

- The British political system is like that house which undergoes changes according to time and needs. Thus, we can call the British political system not static but dynamic, not inactive but active and not non-progressive but progressive. The Gradual changes which it has undergone and its political traditional has been described as under-

- 1. OLD TRADITION OF POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE:

   In the 19th century, the increasing power of Napoleon did pose a threat to the independence of Britain but this danger was over with the defeat of Napoleon in the battle of Waterloo in 1815. In the 20th century, England had to face two World War but they defended their freedom by defeating Kaiser in World War I and Hitler in world II and thus England has the honour of being an oldest independent state.
2. **FOUNDATION OF KINGSHIP**-
   Kingship is the oldest British political institution on whose foundation was laid in the Anglo-Saxon period.

3. **CHANGING NATURE OF THE KINGSHIP**-
   There are various factors which prove that the nature of Kingship in England has undergone wide changes with the passage of time and as a result of these has become limited monarchy from absolute monarchy. These are-
   (i) Establishment of two Institutions-
       (a.) Magnum Concilium (Members of Royal Family) and
       (b.) Curia Regis   (The special confidants of the King)
(ii) **Magna Carta, 1215-**

It has special significance in transforming monarchy in England from unlimited and absolute to limited.

It had 63 clauses and its main provisions were as under:-

- A. Provisions related to the raising of money
- B. Provisions related to Law and Justice
- C. Provisions related to the establishment of the common council of Realm
(iii) **Petition of Rights, 1628** - In 1628, the King Charles was in dire need of money, so he had to sign the petition of the Rights.

(iv) **Civil War (1642-1645) and Glorious Revolution.**

(v) **Main Provision of Bill of Rights, 1689:** These are

a. King could not reject the laws passed by the parliament

b. Protection of the privileges of the parliament

c. Provision to check Judicial Abuse

d. Provision of the protection of Civil Rights

e. Restrictions on keeping permanent forces during peace time
4. ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PARLIAMENT-
Oldest among all the parliament of the world - describe by the "Mother parliament".

(a) Emergence of Bi-cameralism -

British Parliament

House Of Lords

House of Commons

Growth Of Powers Of The Parliament
5. GROWTH OF PARLIAMENTARY OR CABINET SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT:

- The cabinet system of government in England is the oldest and the most successful government in the world.

6. HISTORY OF FRANCHISE:

The comprehensive reforms have been done in the British electoral system by-
(a) Reform Act of 1832
(b) Reform Act of 1867 and 1884
(c) Reform Act, 1918
(d) Representation of People Act, 1928 and 1969
7. DEVELOPMENT OF PARTY SYSTEM-
It came into existence as name of – (i) Whig Party-later known as “Liberal Party”. (ii) Tory Party-later known as “Conservative Party.

8. TRADITION OF POLITICAL LIBERALISM AND LIMITED GOVERNMENT-
England has the distinction of being a Liberal state. It believes in the freedom of individual and the concept of limited government.
9. TRADITION OF UNWRITTEN CONSTITUTION-

Most of the British Constitution is based on “unwritten conventions”
Former PM of England Asquith said, “Our constitutional practices rest upon usages, upon customs and conventions”.


CONCLUSION-

- We can say in brief that the history of the U.K. political tradition is very old whose growth took about 1500 years and even today it is developing continuously.
REFERENCES

Thanks

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