

I do not want to live in a country where the government...

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There are many occasions in a year when, if I am honest, I feel embarrassed to be associated with the institutions of the British government, which I am as a consequence of having a UK passport. The approximately annual ritual of the King's speech is one of those occasions that brings out that sentiment within me.

Little offends me more than hearing somebody who is sitting on the throne as a consequence of an accident of their birth telling the assembled unelected peers and misrepresentative MPs about what 'their' government will do in the next year.

I do not want to live in a country where the government is the apparent possession of a monarch. I want to live in a country that is governed by those elected to represent the true interest of all its people, to whom they are genuinely accountable.

Is that too much to ask for in the 21st-century?