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Description

British historian Dr. Andrew Roberts explains that with the birth of Kate and William's baby boy, it's the first time since 1901 that there have been four living monarchs, something he says is "quite extraordinary."

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Transcript

A “Sense of Continuity” in the House of Windsor

BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:

Andrew Roberts is here with us in the studio in New York. As contemporary British historians and authors go, he has covered wars and prime ministers and the Churchill years and the monarchy, which brings us to tonight. You and I were speaking earlier and I have a dual question for you. Number one- the distinction in the modern era about how many generations in the royal family are alive and with us? And second- what does this do for continuity and robustness going forward?

DR. ANDREW ROBERTS (NBC News British Historian): Well, it’s the first time since 1901, since the reign of Queen Victoria that we have had four living monarchs all at the same time, monarchs and monarchs-in-waiting, which is quite extraordinary, because it gives the sense of continuity to the House of Windsor. We know now that there will, assuming this young prince has his mother and his great-grandmother’s longevity, will be there in the 22nd century. And as far as the robustness is concerned, well, the monarchy has never been more popular since the abdication crisis than it is today.

WILLIAMS: Well, all things looking up for the people in the U.K. as the world kind of comes together and celebrates good news for a change today. Andrew, thank you as always for being here with us.

DR. ROBERTS: Thank you.