

Difference Between Empire and Kingdom

Even though they sound like similar concepts, there is a significant difference between empire and kingdom. Although no official Empires exist in the modern world, some Kingdoms like the United Kingdom, the Kingdom of Hawaii, the Kingdom of Mali, and so on still exist.

Here's a set of differences presented below in tabular form to help you understand the difference between Empire and Kingdom:

Empire VS Kingdom	
Empire	Kingdom
An Empire is a set of several regions towards one person's (Emperor or Empress) authority.	A Kingdom is one of the regions that fall under the Empire that a King or a Queen rules.
One person can only rule an Empire, and that is the Emperor or the Empress.	A Kingdom can have more than one ruler at a time. A Kingdom ruled by one King is called a Monarchy, and when two people rule a kingdom, it is called a Biarchy. Similarly, when more than two people rule a certain Kingdom, it is called Oligarchy.
An Empire expands in size by absorbing more regions.	A Kingdom transforms into an Empire when it absorbs other regions.
Generally, an Emperor or Empress is the outright authority who settles on critical decisions regarding the empire; however,	A King or Queen is the authority, but on account of a constitutional monarchy, the

in specific cases, powerful aristocrats' voice is also regarded.	authority might be restricted by a parliament or the ruling body of ministers.
Examples: British Empire, Roman Empire, Arab Empire, etc.	Examples: Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Travancore Kingdom, etc.

What is an Empire?

An Empire or realm is a group of states or nations controlled by a solitary ruler, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state. An Emperor or Empress rules an empire. They are considered more powerful than Kings or Queens since they have command over a larger geographical region.

Kings or Queens can likewise govern the various states and locales, but the Emperor has the major control of the whole region. An Empire can come into power by legacy or conquest. A large portion of the strong empires in the world are made by conquering various nations. For example, when a King conquers another region, his Kingdom becomes an Empire, and he becomes an Emperor.

What is a Kingdom?

A Kingdom is a single state or country administered by a King or Queen. A Queen becomes the ruler when the King dies or when there are no male beneficiaries in the Royal family. Kingdoms can have more than one ruler at a time. A Kingdom ruled by one King is called a Monarchy, and when two people rule a Kingdom, it is called a Biarchy. Similarly, when more than two people rule a certain Kingdom, it is called an oligarchy.

Even though a King or Queen is considered the Kingdom's ruler, the Kingdom can also be a part of an Empire. When this happens, the ruler of the Kingdom is under the empire's influence.

Key Difference Between Empire and Kingdom

The key difference between empire and kingdom is given below.

- An empire is a collection of nations, states, or areas that are under the control of a monarch, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state. However, a kingdom is a nation, state, or region that is governed by a king or queen.
- Empire is ruled by an Emperor whereas a Kingdom is ruled by a King/Queen.

- An empire is larger in geographical area than a kingdom.
- An empire can develop from another empire either voluntarily—when the citizens of a nation consent to cede control to a foreign government—or involuntarily—when the government of that nation is overthrown by an outside force. In essence, it is a nation that has abused force to rule its own citizens.

