

Over the years, as Zhabdrung became popular, he established his authority as the religious and temporal leader of the country. He assumed the title “Zhabdrung” meaning “at whose feet one submits”.

After Zhabdrung’s death, the following two centuries saw civil wars breaking out in the country. The regional ‘penlops’ or ‘governors’ in their quest for power engaged themselves in constant warfare.

One man stood above all. He was to bring all the warring penlops under his authority to once again unify the country. Ugyen Wangchuck, the Trongsa penlop, was unanimously elected the first hereditary monarch of Bhutan in 1907.

That was the beginning of the Wangchuck dynasty in Bhutan. Under the Monarchy, Bhutan has enjoyed peace, progress and stability.

After the Fourth King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck abdicated his throne in favor of his son. The Fifth King His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck was crowned in November 6<sup>th</sup> 2008. His Majesty the Fourth King also initiated parliamentary democracy in Bhutan that is in full bloom today with a written Constitution. The country will have its second election for a new government in the year 2013.