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'king-craft, *n.*

The art of ruling as a king; the skilful exercise of royalty; *esp.* the use of clever or crafty diplomacy in dealing with subjects.

[1650 A. WELDON *Court & Char. King James* 102 Nor must I forget to let you know how perfect the King [Jas. I] was in the art of dissimulation, or to give it his own phrase (*King-craft*).]

1643 W. PRYNNE *Sovereign Power Parl.* II. 34 In this dissembling age; when King-craft is improved to the utmost.

1677 T. GALE *Court of Gentiles: Pt. IV* IV. 4 Solomon was endowed with this natural sagacitie..which kind of sagacitie Politicians cal King-craft.

1827 H. HALLAM *Constit. Hist. Eng.* II. xviii. 736 The king-craft and the priest-craft of the day taught other lessons.

1874 J. R. GREEN *Short Hist. Eng. People* viii. §7. 534 With Charles they were simply counters, in his game of king-craft.

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