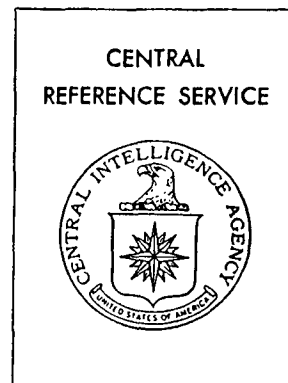


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JAPAN

Emperor HIROHITO

Hirohito, Emperor of Japan since 1928⁶ and head of state since 1945, heads the world's oldest ruling house and is 124th in succession in an unbroken line of reign. The postwar Japanese Constitution established the Emperor as the symbol of national unity. The Throne has no legal powers of government, but the Emperor performs many ceremonial functions.



The Emperor leads a quiet but busy life, studying and signing over 2500 laws and documents a year and attending public functions. He is well informed on internal security matters and international developments, and he has expressed a desire for continuing close relations between the United States and Japan.

In September and October 1971 the Emperor and Empress Nagako will make official state visits to the United Kingdom, West Germany, and Belgium, and will make unofficial stops in Denmark, the Netherlands, France, and Switzerland. Accompanied by the Foreign Minister, Hirohito will be Japan's first reigning monarch to travel abroad.

Michinomiya Hirohito was born on 29 April 1901, the eldest son of the late Emperor Taisho. He completed the elementary course of the Peers' School and then received private tutoring from the late Japanese military heroes, Admiral Heihachiro Togo and General Maresuke Nogi. In 1921 Hirohito toured the British Isles and Western Europe. When his father was incapacitated by illness later that year, he was named Regent. Emperor Taisho died in December 1926, and Hirohito was formally invested as Emperor on 10 November 1928.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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Emperor HIROHITO (cont.)

Much of the Emperor's leisure time is devoted to the study of marine biology, in which he is an international authority. He has published several volumes on his findings. Hirohito also enjoys composing poetry. He is a man of modest and simple tastes who neither smokes nor drinks. Hirohito has some knowledge of French and is said to read English with the aid of a dictionary.

In 1924 Hirohito married Princess Nagako, eldest daughter of the late prince and Field Marshal Kunihiko Kuninomiya. The Empress, born in 1903, completed the third year of the junior course at the Peers' School. Her interests include the composition of waka poetry, calligraphy, piano, painting, and handicrafts. She is honorary president of the Japan Red Cross.

The Emperor and Empress have had seven children, five of whom are still living. Akihito, their eldest son, was born in 1933 and was proclaimed heir apparent in 1952. Married to Michiko Shoda, daughter of a wealthy industrialist, he has two sons and one daughter. Prince Hitachi, born in 1935, is engaged in cancer research in Tokyo's National Cancer Center.

Their eldest daughters, Shigeko (born in 1926) and Sachiko (born in 1927), are both deceased. The former was married to Morihiro Higashikuni, son of the late Prince and Prime Minister Naruhiko Higashikuni. Kazuko, born in 1929, is the widow of the late Toshimichi Takatsukasa. Atsuko, born in 1931, is married to Takamasa Ikeda and resides in Okayama. Takako, born in 1939, is married to Hisanaga Shimazu.

July 1971

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