

# History, politics and philosophy of the succession to the Chrysanthemum Throne: Is the Imperial Family of Japan “misogynistic”?

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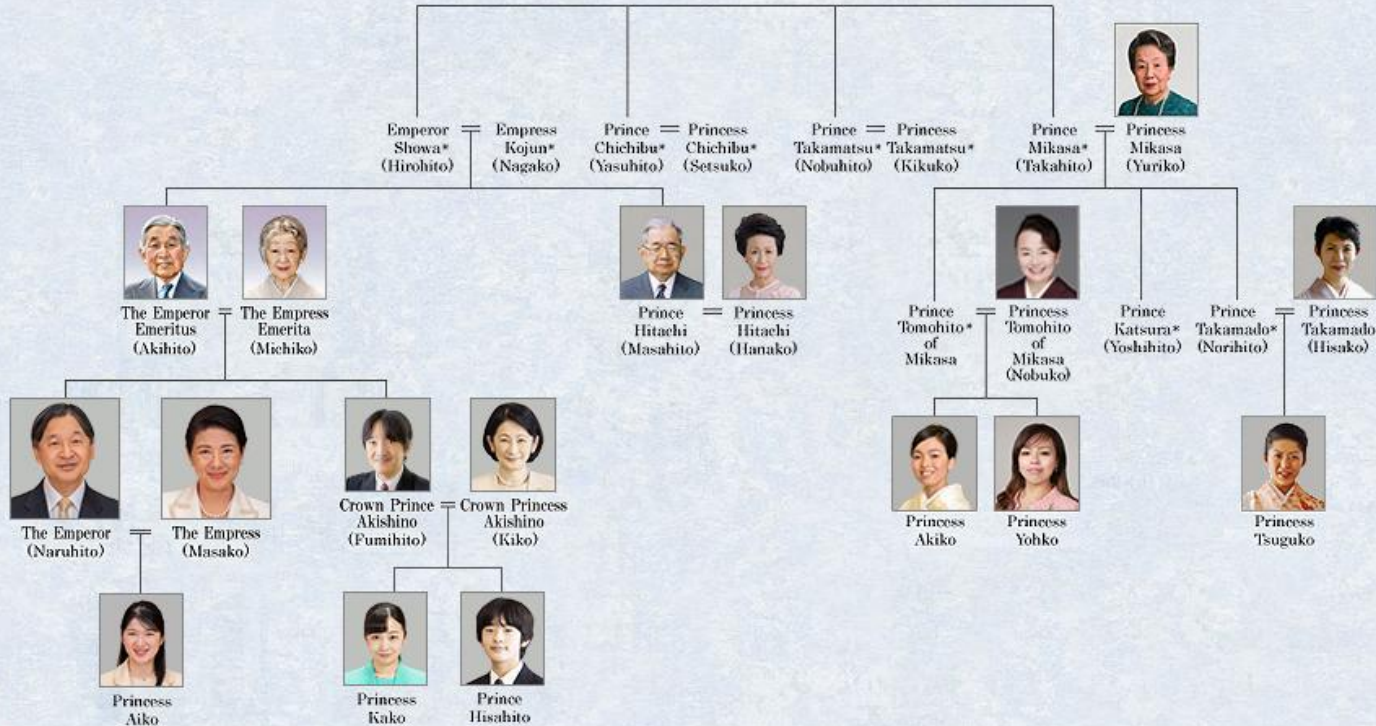
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# Current issue for the Imperial succession

## Genealogy of the Imperial Family

\*Deceased.



## Line of the Imperial Succession

1. H.I.H. Crown Prince Fumihito of Akishino  
皇嗣秋篠宮文仁親王殿下(1965-)
2. H.I.H. Prince Hisahito  
悠仁親王殿下 (2006-)
3. H.I.H. Prince Masahito of Hitachi  
常陸宮正仁親王殿下 (1935-)

## Living Former Miyake

- Higashikuni-no-Miya 旧東久邇宮家
- Kuni-no-Miya 旧久邇宮家
- Kaya-no-Miya 旧賀陽家
- Asaka-no-Miya 旧朝香宮家
- Takeda-no-Miya 旧竹田宮家
- Fushimi-no-Miya 旧伏見宮家

## 17 Members of the Imperial Family

- Princes = 3 (3 *shinnō* 親王, 0 *ō* 王)
- Princesses from the Imperial Family = 5 (2 *naishinnō* 内親王, 3 *joō* 女王)

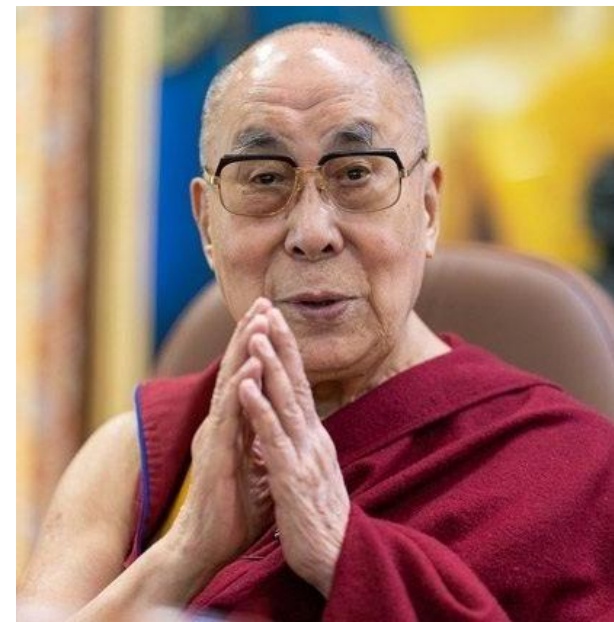
# UN CEDAW's Recommendations



“The Committee recommends that the State party look at the good practices of other States parties that have reformed their succession laws to ensure the equality of women and men and amend the Imperial House Law to guarantee the equality of women and men in the succession to the throne.”  
(*CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/9*, para. 12)

CEDAW meeting

# Priest Kings as the Heads of State



Dalai Lama of Tibet  
(Buddhism)



Emperor of Japan  
(Shinto)

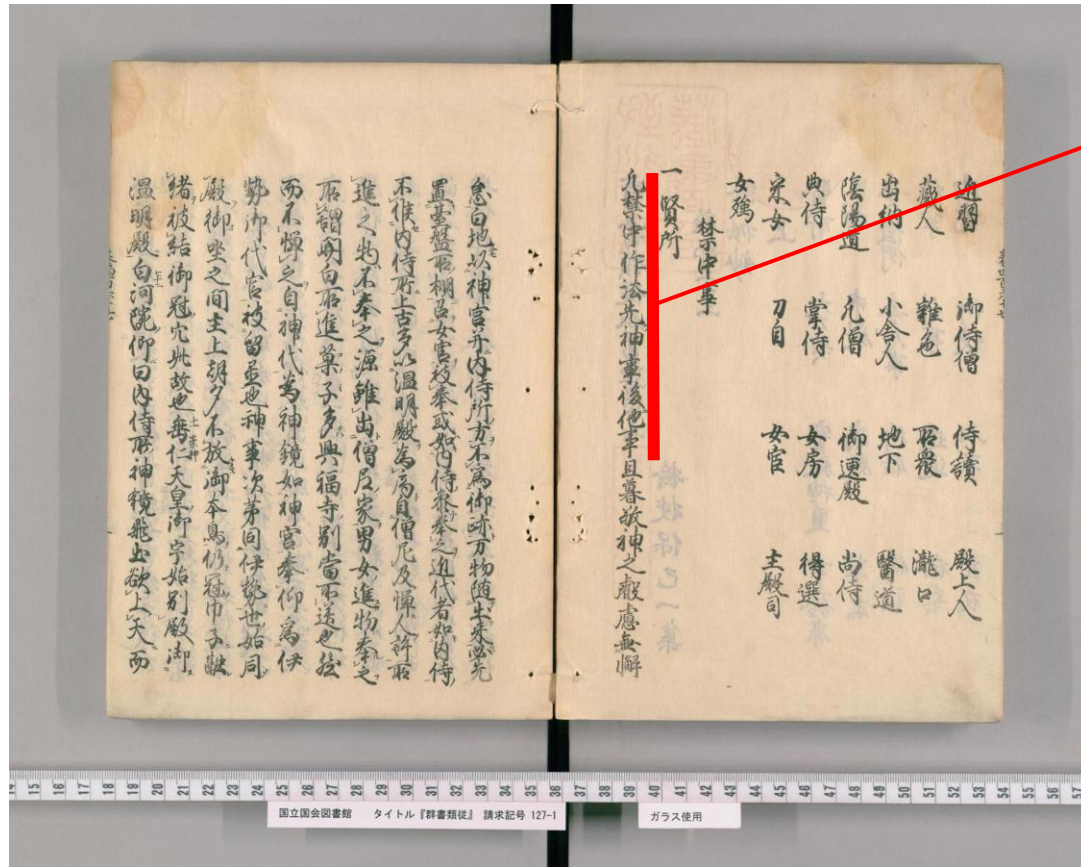


Pope of Vatican City State  
(Christianity)



Sultan of Brunei Darussalam  
(Islam)

# Emperors of Japan are priest kings



"凡禁中作法、先、神事、後、他事、  
(At the Imperial Court, Shinto rituals must come first and everything else must come afterwards.)"

→ Shinto rituals are most important for the emperors

**Kinpishō 禁秘抄** by 84th Emperor Juntoku 順德天皇

# Dual Structure of the Japan's Family Concept

**uji 氏 (clans) = succession**

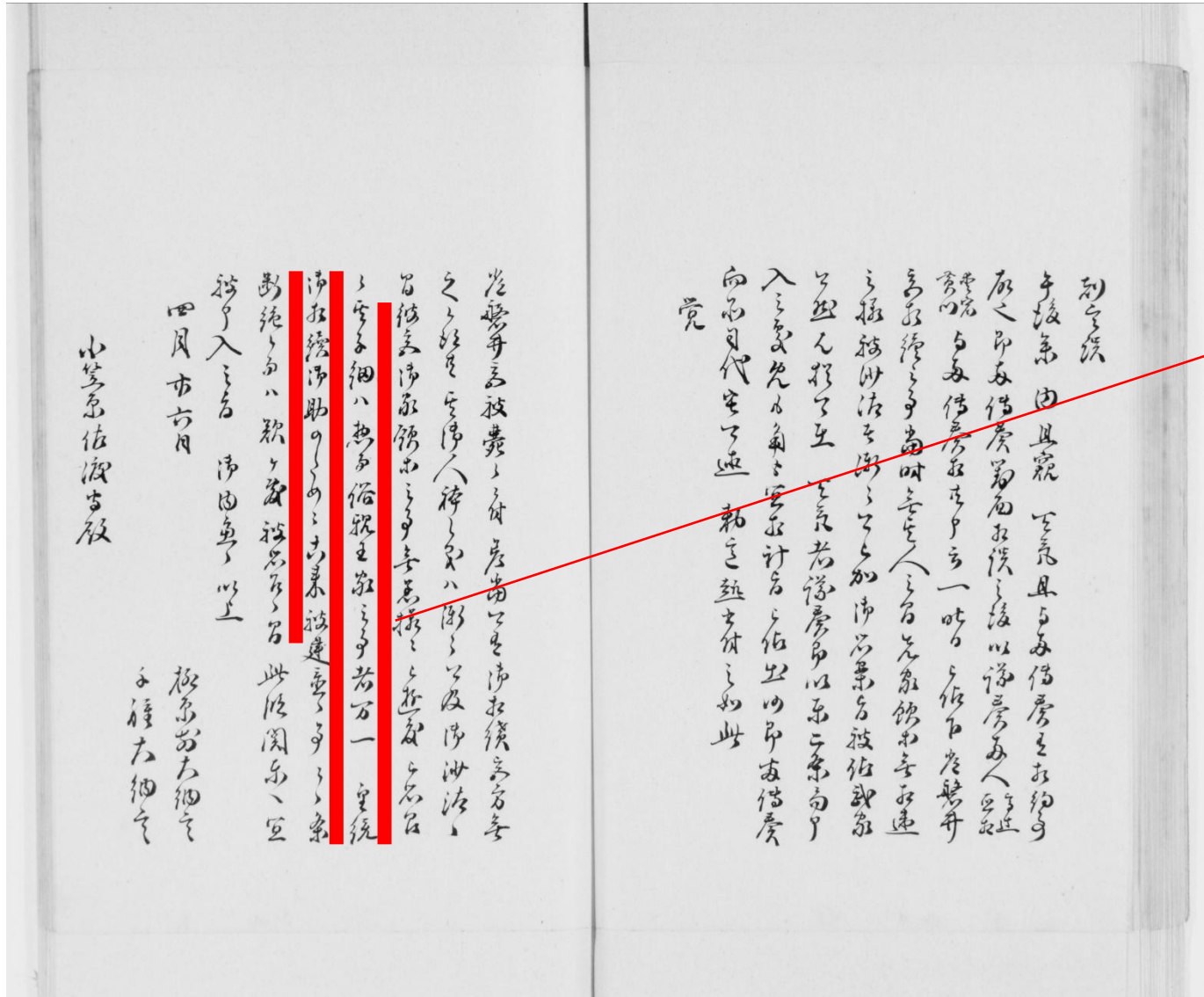
- Clan name *sei* 姓
- Male-line lineage (in the main family)  
=dynastic continuity (in monarchs)
- Ancestral rituals
- Father-line lineage is must
- Abilities are not required

**ie 家 (households) = inheritance**

- family name *myōji* 苗字 (or *yagō* 屋号)
- Family status (positions, court rank)
- Family jobs
- Properties (money, home, territory, etc)
- Male-line, female-line, bilateral descent, adoption, whatever
- Sometimes abilities are important

Ex) Minamoto no 源, Taira no 平, Fujiwara no 藤原... Ex) Tokugawa 徳川 (Minamoto), Hojo 北條 (Taira)...

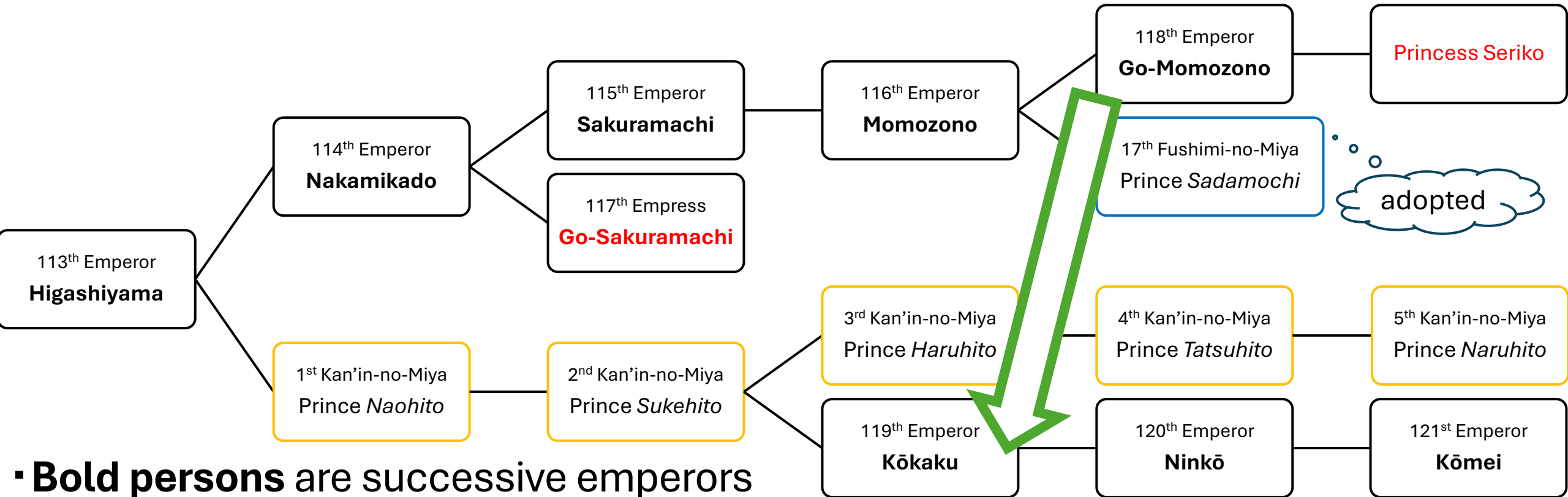
# Why are *miyake* important?



其子細ハ、惣而俗親王家之事者、萬一皇  
統御相續のためニ古來被ニ建置一候事ニ  
候條、斷絶候而ハ、歎个敷被ニ思召一候間、

(Since ancient times, *miyake* has been existed to produce a successor to the Chrysanthemum Throne in the event of a contingency in the Imperial-line. H.I.M. the Former Emperor deploras if these are abolished.)

# An example of relationship between the Imperial House (main family) and *Miyake* 宮家 (branch families)



- **Bold persons** are successive emperors
- *Italic persons* are successive heads of each mitake
- **Red persons** are females

[18-19c]

# Four *Shinnōke* 四親王家 in the Early Modern

- Fushimi-no-Miya 伏見宮 1409-1947  
established by Prince Yoshihito (Emperor Sukō's son)  
Family job: *Gagaku* (traditional court music)
- Katsura-no-Miya 桂宮 1589-1889  
established by Prince Tomohito (106th Emperor Ōgimachi's grand son)  
Family job: Maintenance of Katsura Imperial Villa
- Arisugawa-no-Miya 有栖川宮 1625-1922  
established by Prince Yoshihito (107th Emperor Go-Yōzei 's son)  
Family job: Calligraphy
- Kan'in-no-Miya 閑院宮 1710-1947  
established by Prince Naohito (113rd Emperor Higashiyama's son)  
Family job: *Waka* (traditional poem)

# Monarchy and Cultural Diversity



United Nations

“Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.”

(Article 1, *UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity*)

## Key References

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Thank you for your attention

ご清聴ありがとうございました