

# Japanese Emperor abdication bill approved

Japan's government has approved a bill to allow Emperor Akihito to hand over the Chrysanthemum Throne to Crown Prince Naruhito in what would be the country's first abdication in 200 years

## Current emperor:

Akihito acceded to throne in 1989. He is 125th emperor in imperial line believed to be unbroken for 2,600 years



**Emperor Hirohito**  
1901-1989

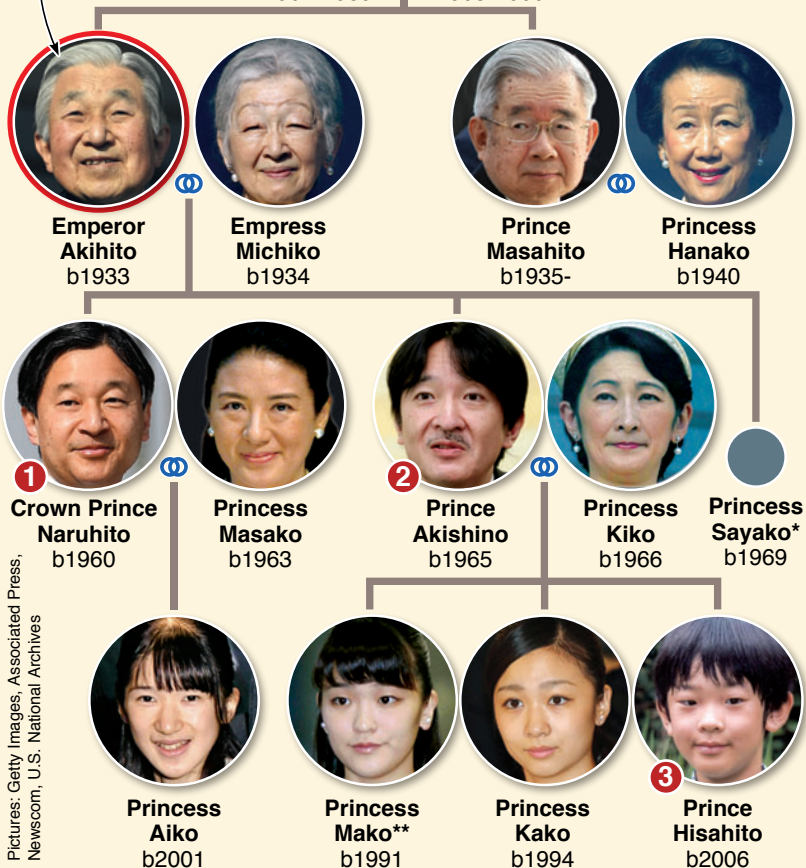


**Empress Nagako**  
1903-2000



*Imperial Standard*

**1** Place in line of succession



Pictures: Getty Images, Associated Press, Newscom, U.S. National Archives

\*Left Imperial Family in 2005 on marriage to commoner

\*\*Expected to leave family next year on marriage to commoner