



# Lecture on Imperial Throne Succession

SARTAK Arslan

Prime Minister, His Imperial Majesty's Government (of Manchuria) in Exile  
President, Concordia Association of Manchuria



滿洲帝國流亡政府

滿洲帝國流亡政府

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S

GOVERNMENT(OF MANCHURIA)

IN EXILE

# Outline: Laws concerning the Imperial Throne Succession

- *Organic Law (1 March 1934)*
- *Imperial Throne Succession Law (1 March 1937)*
- *Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (1 March 2020)*



# 帝位 帝位 Imperial Throne

- 組織法：第一章“皇帝”第一條：“滿洲帝國皇帝統治之。帝位之繼承再定之。”
- *Organic Law*: Chapter I “Emperor” → Article I:

Manchoutikuo shall be ruled by the Emperor. The Succession of Imperial Throne shall be determined separately.

“**Manchoutikuo**” is the official full English name of Manchukuo, as defined in the Department of Foreign Affairs Edict No.5 of Kangteh I (1934). Because the general public today is not familiar with this word, so far, we haven't used it frequently.



# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- Emperor Kangleh's Imperial Assent: 1 March 1937 (Kangleh 4)
- The Imperial Edict before the Articles: Showing the legislation purpose of this Law

“.....Today, I am hereby enacting the Imperial Throne Succession Law. I assent this Law, with the essentiality of the Imperial Lineage inheritance, and proclaim it to all. The Imperial Throne is solemn and majestic, and the founding of our Empire was not easy.....Whoever is of my heirs and successors, or my subjects, shall all comprehend deeply that this Law is a basis of our nation's founding and a fundamental of our Imperial Lineage, shall all comprehend my mind, and shall all observe this law without changes thousand and thousand years, in order to have our Empire last long and long.”

**The Legislation Purpose:**

**Make the Imperial Throne of Manchukuo pass on forever and make our Manchukuo prosper forever.**

# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- In total: 10 articles.
- Article 1: the essential of this Law
- Article 1 regulates that Emperor Kangteh is the Founding Emperor of Manchukuo, and the Imperial Throne of Manchukuo shall be succeeded to by male descendants of the patrilineal line of Emperor Kangteh.
- Article 2 to Article 10 regulate the order of succession to the Manchukuo Imperial Throne.



# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- 第一條 滿洲帝國帝位由康德皇帝男系子孫之男子永世繼承之。
- Article I The Imperial Throne of Manchoutikuo shall be succeeded to by male descendants of the patrilineal line of Emperor Kangteh.
- Article I is the key to the entire Imperial Throne Succession Law.



# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- Article 1's Key Word: male descendants of the patrilineal line of Emperor Kangteh.
- Patrilineal Line of Emperor Kangteh: clarifies that Emperor Kangteh is the Founding Emperor, in order to eliminate people's potential mistaken regarding Manchukuo as Ching Empire.
- It is NOT the patrilineal line of Nurhaci, but the patrilineal line of Emperor Kangteh, although it is biologically the same patrilineal line.



# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- Aisin-Gioro:  
the patrilineal line of Nurhaci as well as the patrilineal line of Emperor Kangteh.
- They are biologically same, but politically different.
- The political difference:  
whether an Aisin-Gioro self-identifies as a Manchukuo's Aisin-Gioro instead of a Ching's Aisin-Gioro or a China's Aisin-Gioro.
- Example:  
Pujen (Emperor Kangteh's younger brother).  
Pujen and his sons are not Manchukuo's Aisin-Gioro → ineligible to succeed to the Imperial Throne.



# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法 Imperial Throne Succession Law

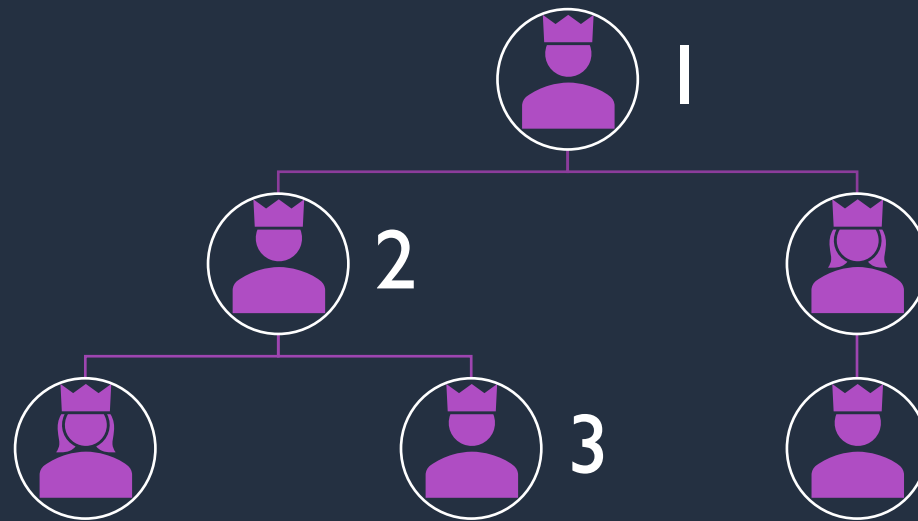
- His Imperial Majesty's Heirs and Successors according to law: The male descendants of the patrilineal line of Emperor Kangteh

a Manchurian version of Salic Law

- Salic Law = agnatic primogeniture

agnatic=patrilineal

Primogeniture:  
the firstborn son  
succeeds first




# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- In summary of Article 1: who is eligible to succeed to the Imperial Throne?
- A male descendant of the patrilineal line of Emperor Kangteh  
= A male Manchukuo's Aisin-Gioro
- Article 2 to 10: defines the order of succession to the Imperial Throne.
  - Article 2 to 4 defines the situation when the Emperor has sons
  - Article 5 to 8 defines the situation when the Emperor does not have sons
  - Article 9
  - Article 10

# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- 第二條 帝位傳帝長子。
  - Article 2 The Imperial Throne shall be succeeded to by the Imperial eldest son.
  - 第三條 帝長子不在，傳帝長孫；帝長子及其子孫皆不在，傳帝次子及其子孫，以下皆仿此。
  - Article 3 When there is no Imperial eldest son, the Imperial Throne shall be succeeded to by the Imperial eldest grandson. When there is neither Imperial eldest son nor any male descendent of his, it shall be succeeded to by the Imperial son next in age, and so on in every successive case.
- 

# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- 第四條 帝子孫之繼承帝位，先嫡出；帝庶子孫之繼承帝位以帝嫡子孫皆不在為限。
- Article 4 For succession to the Imperial Throne by an Imperial descendant, the one of full blood shall have precedence over descendants of half blood. Their succession to the Imperial Throne by the latter shall be limited to those cases only in which there is no Imperial descendant of full blood.
- **Cultural Differences: full blood & half blood**
- Full blood: the wife's children
- Half blood: the concubine's children

# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法 Imperial Throne Succession Law

- Example: Our Emperor Kangteh



# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- 第五條 帝子孫皆不在，傳帝兄弟及其子孫。
- Article 5 If there is no Imperial descendant, the Imperial Throne shall be succeeded to by an Imperial brother and by his descendants.
- 第六條 帝兄弟及其子孫皆不在，傳帝伯叔父及其子孫。
- Article 6 If there is no such Imperial brother or descendent of his; the Imperial Throne shall be succeeded to by an Imperial uncle and his descendants.





# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- 第七條 帝伯叔父及其子孫皆不在，傳最親者及其子孫。
- Article 7 If there is neither such Imperial uncle nor descendant of his, the Imperial Throne shall be succeeded to by the next nearest member among the rest of the Imperial Clan.
- 第八條 帝兄弟以上于同等內，先嫡後庶先長後幼。
- Article 8 Among the Imperial brothers and the remoter relations, precedence shall be given, in the same degree, to the descendants of full blood over the descendants of half blood, and to the elder over the younger.



# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- 第九條 帝嗣精神或身體如有不治重患，或有重大事故時，得經諮詢參議府，依前數條更易繼承之次序。
- Article 9 If the Imperial heir is suffering from an incurable disease of mind or body, or when any other weighty cause exists, the order of succession may be changed in accordance with foregoing provisions, with the advice of the Privy Council.
- **Attention: the entire territory of Manchukuo being fallen into enemy occupation is a weighty cause.** This article is crucial during our great mission of Manchukuo Restoration.

# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法 Imperial Throne Succession Law

- *Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo* is a law proclaimed on 1 March 2020. The legislation basis of that law is the *Imperial Throne Succession Law*, especially its Article 9.
- Article 9 will be used as the basis for the imperial heir's accession to the Imperial Throne after the Manchukuo Restoration.



# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- 第十條 繼承帝位之次序概依實系。
- Article 10 The order of succession to the Imperial Throne shall be entirely based on blood relations.
- **Cultural Differences: Blood Relations**
- Manchukuo's Imperial Throne Succession is entirely by blood relations, so is the Empire of Japan.
- East Asian styles of adoption have had affects on the order of succession in many East Asian states, such as Ching Empire and Korea.

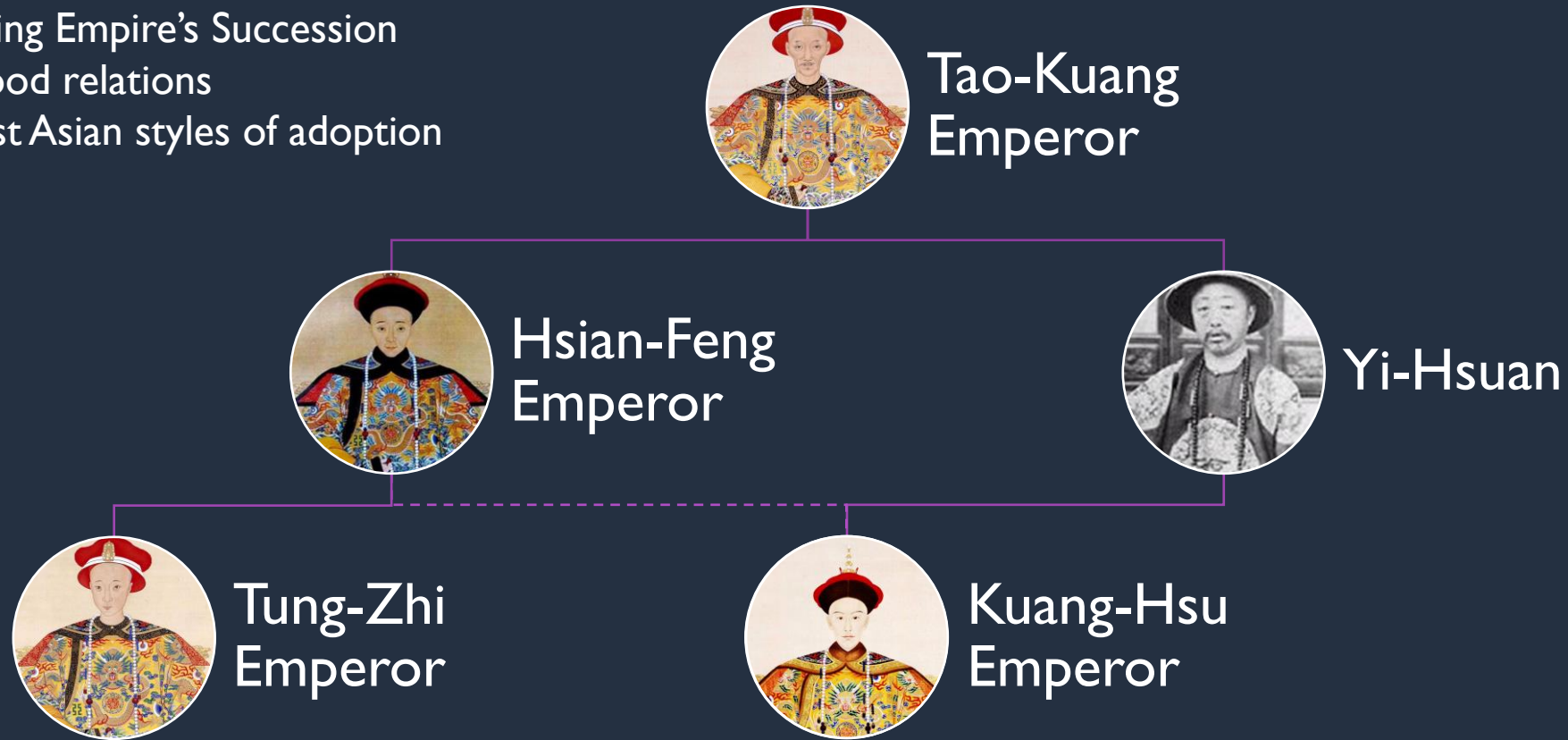
# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

Example: Ching Empire's Succession


—— blood relations

- - - - East Asian styles of adoption



# 帝位繼承法 帝位繼承法

## Imperial Throne Succession Law

- Summary of the order of succession:
    1. The full-blood over the half blood;
    2. The elder over the younger;
    3. The closer over the farther.
  - ❖ Order can be changed in special occasions.
  - ❖ No adoption, real blood relations only.
- 

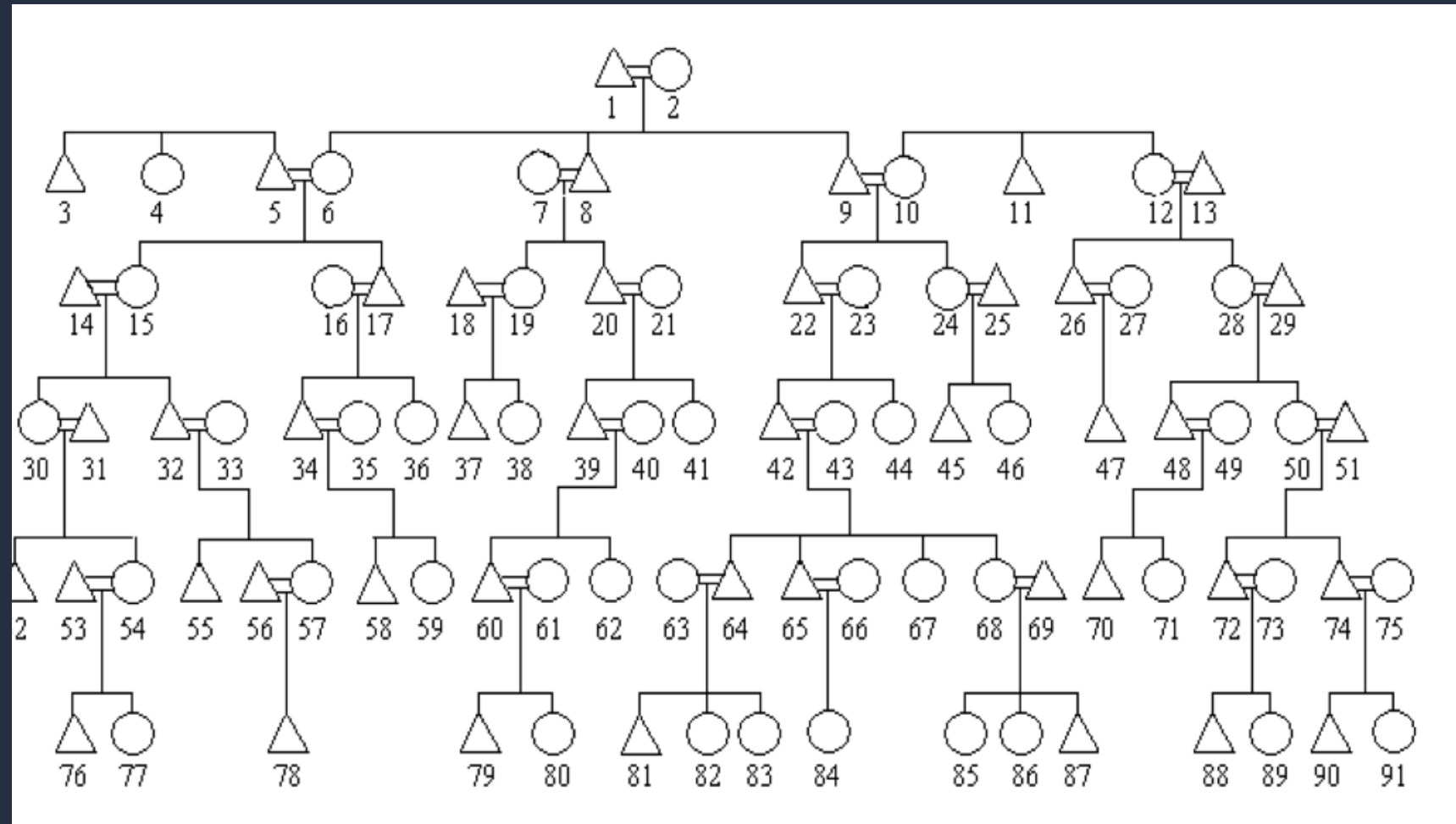


# Exercise:

Suppose all figures were living.  
Suppose Figure 1 in this diagram were a male Manchukuo's Aisin-Gioro, and suppose none of the figures suffered from any incurable disease of mind or body, and suppose no other weighty cause that might affect the change of line of succession existed, according to the Imperial Throne Succession Law, which figures would also be eligible to succeed to the Imperial Throne?

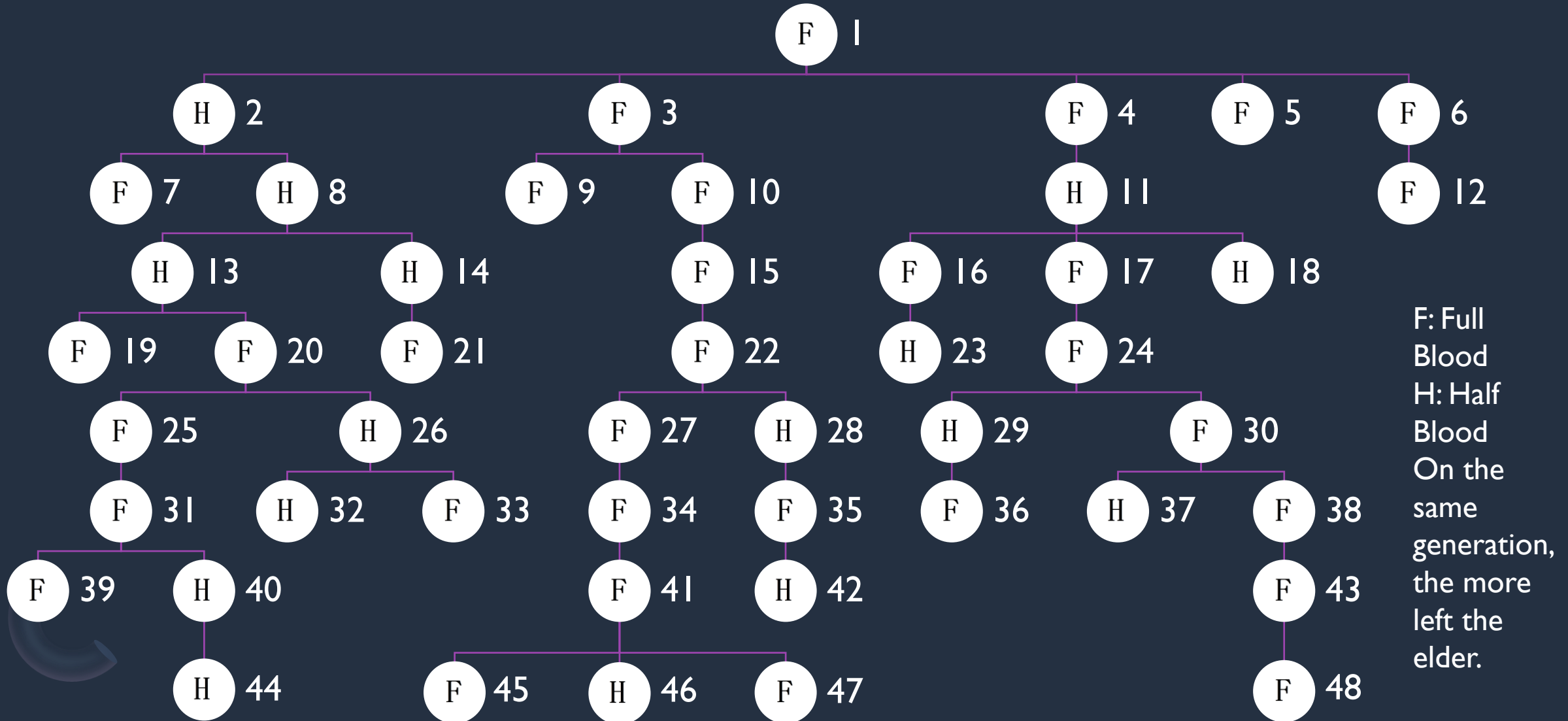
Δ: male O: female

On the same generation, the more left the elder.



# Exercise:

Suppose all figures were living. Suppose all figures in this diagram were male Manchukuo's Aisin-Gioros, and suppose none of the figures suffered from any incurable disease of mind or body, and suppose no other weighty cause that might affect the change of line of succession existed, according to the Imperial Throne Succession Law, what would be the order of succession to the Imperial Throne?



關於復國大業中帝室及帝位繼承之件

復國大業中ニ帝室及帝位繼承ニ關スル件

Matters Concerning the Imperial House and  
Imperial Throne Succession during the Great  
Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo



# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo

- Totally based on the *Imperial Throne Succession Law* (Imperial Assent: 1 March 1937)
- Purpose: only to clarify how the *Imperial Throne Succession Law* shall be implemented during the process of Manchukuo Restoration.
- Does NOT change any pre-existing Laws and Ordinances established by Emperor Kangteh.



# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo

- Government Edict No.1 of Kangteh 87 (2020)

- 2 Parts:

- Regency's Words
- Body Text

Government Edict is a special form of the official documents of the Government of Manchukuo. It has the same effect as a law. It has been only used in the following occasions:

- 1) when the Government of Manchukuo had not been completely formed by early 1932;
- 2) when the Government-in-Exile was not completely formed by 1 March 2020;
- 3) When it is concerning super important matters that are not suitable for any other form of the official documents of the Government.

There are 6 in total so far.

# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Regency's Words)

- The Regency's Words before the body: showing the context and introducing the purpose.
- “.....It has been more than seventy-four years since the collapse of our Manchukuo. The Imperial House was devastated by the national calamity and urgently needs rebuilding based on constitution. The Imperial Heirs were scattered by the national calamity and only waits to be reassembled according to law. Emperor Kangteh's Manchukuo, is by the grace of the Mandate of Heaven, will pass through generations. The affairs concerning the Imperial Heirs are of essence in the Restoration of Manchukuo. As is known to all, the entire territory being occupied by the enemy is the weightiest cause of a nation. Therefore, in the great mission of Restoration, the Government needs to issue a special edict concerning the affairs about the Imperial House and the Imperial Throne Succession.....”



# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

- According to the *Imperial Throne Succession Law*, the Government of Manchoutikuo does not recognize the legitimacy of anyone who is not a direct descendant of the patrilineal line of Aisin-Gioro and pretends to use Aisin-Gioro as their surname. In any case, the Government of Manchoutikuo uses Aisin-Gioro, referring to the descendants of the patrilineal line of Aisin-Gioro.
- In this Edict, Manchuria refers to in the entire territory of Manchuria, that is, the territory of Manchoutikuo plus Kantoushoo.

Kantoushoo, also referred as the Leased Territory of Kwantung, is the south end of Liaotung Peninsula. The sovereignty of Kantoushoo belongs to Manchukuo, while the right of administration and jurisdiction belongs to Japan according to a series of international treaties since Late Ching Dynasty.

# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

- In this Edict, the Fallen Areas, unless otherwise specified, refer to all areas effectively ruled by the People's Republic of China, including the entire territory of Manchuria, including Hong Kong and Macau.
- In this Edict, the “Free Areas” or the “Free World”, is not defined based on the political system, but refers to all areas where the people, institutions, and national symbols of Manchoutikuo will not be persecuted by public power.
- In this Edict, the Government of Manchukuo, the Government of Manchoutikuo, and His Imperial Majesty's Government of Manchuria in Exile are different expressions of the same term.

# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

- In this Edict, the Kangteh Period refers to the period from the founding of Manchukuo on 1 March of Datung 1 (1932) to the collapse of Manchukuo on 20 August of Kangteh 12 (1945), that is, the Datung era plus the Kangteh era.
- In this Edict, the descendants of the patrilineal line of Aisin-Gioro, according to the *Imperial Throne Succession Law*, refer to the descendants of the males whose paternal line is Aisin-Gioro, that is, these males' male and female descendants.
- In this Edict, an Imperial Heir, according to the *Imperial Throne Succession Law*, refers to a successor to the Imperial Throne of Manchoutikuo. Its synonymous English term is the Manchukuo Emperor's Heirs and Successors.

# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

- What is not exhaustive in this Edict, according to the Order-in-Council No. 1 on 20 August of Kangteh 86 (2019) *Matters Concerning the Validity of the Laws and Ordinances by the time of the Collapse of the Government of Manchoutikuo*, shall be interpreted and implemented in accordance with the Laws and Ordinances by the time of the Collapse of the Government of Manchoutikuo.



# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

- I. Although the Imperial Clan of Manchukuo and the Imperial Clan of the Ching Empire are biologically the same, according to the *Imperial Throne Succession Law* and other Laws and Ordinances of Manchukuo, the Imperial Clan of the Ching Empire cannot be naturally counted as the Imperial Clan of Manchukuo.



# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

2. According to the *Imperial Throne Succession Law* and other Laws or Ordinances of Manchukuo, the necessary condition for the Ching Imperial Clan to be included in the Imperial House of Manchukuo is to recognize the sovereignty of Manchoutikuo and Emperor Kangteh's status as the Founding Emperor of Manchoutikuo, and to recognize the Founding Spirits of Manchukuo. As it is today, it can be specified as follows:

- Recognize that Manchoutikuo is not China, and discard all Chinese identities;
- Recognize the only necessity of restoring Manchoutikuo in accordance with the pre-existent Kangteh Manchukuo;
- Recognize the legitimacy of His Imperial Majesty's Government of Manchuria in Exile;
- Sacrifice for the Imperial Ancestors and the Manchukuo people's great mission of Manchukuo Restoration.


# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

3. It has been more than 74 years since the collapse of Manchoutikuo. The original members of the Imperial House have been scattered throughout the world today. In terms of legal status, the original members and new candidates of the Imperial House can be divided into the following three categories:

- Residents in Manchuria;
- Residents in Fallen Areas outside Manchuria;
- Residents in the Free World.




# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

4. According to the Constitutional Laws and other Laws and Ordinances of Manchoutikuo, all descendants of the patrilineal line of Aisin-Gioro, regardless of the category listed in Article 3, if they request to be included in the Manchukuo Imperial House, they must not have any anti-Manchukuo or anti-Japanese remarks, or they used to have such mild remarks but have had deep repentance and correction; also, they must not have any anti-Manchukuo or anti-Japanese actions, or they used to have such mild actions but have had deep corrections and been trying to eliminate the bad consequences.
- 



# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

5. According to the Constitutional Laws and other Laws and Ordinances of Manchoutikuo, all descendants of the patrilineal line of Aisin-Gioro, regardless of the category listed in Article 3, if they request to be included in the Manchukuo Imperial House, they must provide the proof of identity of a member of the Ching Imperial Clan or an original member of the Manchukuo Imperial House; and the application must be submitted by the applicant or his legal representative, and signed by himself or the legal representative, and sent to His Imperial Majesty's Government of Manchuria in Exile.
- 

# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

6. The descendants of the patrilineal line of Aisin-Gioro, according to the steps in Article 4 and Article 5, are included in the Imperial House of Manchukuo after approval by His Imperial Majesty's Government of Manchuria in Exile. All information concerning their specific identity, name, address, kinship etc. is only known by the specifically appointed personnel in the Government of Manchoutikuo and will never be disclosed before the Restoration of Manchukuo and shall be disclosed according to law after the Restoration of Manchukuo.



# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)


7. Any member of the Imperial House who violates the Laws and Ordinances of Manchukuo and commits acts that endangers Manchukuo may be removed from the status of the member of the Imperial House in accordance with the Constitutional Laws and other Laws and Ordinances of Manchoutikuo.
8. According to the *Imperial Throne Succession Law*, the Imperial Heirs are the male descendants of the patrilineal line of Manchukuo's Aisin-Gioro, thus the Imperial Heirs are naturally selected from the male descendants of the patrilineal line of Aisin-Gioro of the Imperial House.

# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

9. The Imperial Heirs selected by the Regency Council in accordance with the *Imperial Throne Succession Law* are to obtain the status of candidates for the next Emperor. They must practice the Founding Spirits, well learn the teachings bequeathed by Emperor Kangteh, and abide by the Laws and Ordinances of Manchukuo.
10. According to the *Imperial Throne Succession Law*, an Imperial Heir is a member of the Imperial House of Manchukuo and a candidate for the next Emperor. He is neither an emperor nor a crown prince but is a subject of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor Kangteh along with the Regency and all the Government officials. Before the Imperial Heir ascends the Imperial Throne, he must not be treated as the Emperor of Manchukuo or with the same courtesy as the Crown Prince of Ching Empire.

# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

11. In response to the situation of the struggle during the exile, it can be known that the Imperial Heirs must be the enemies' key targets. Therefore, the identity, age, name, place of residence and other information of the Imperial Heirs are the top secrets of the Government of Manchoutikuo. Except the Regency Council and the specifically appointed personnel by the Regency Council, all Manchukuo people and foreigners are not allowed to ask or snoop. The Regency and the specifically appointed personnel by the Regency are also not allowed to directly or indirectly provide any information that can be used to obtain or deduce the identity information of the Imperial Heirs to unrelated Government officials or any other person in any way, explicitly, implicitly, or in any other way.



# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

12. When an Imperial Heir is a minor, the educational policy of the Imperial Heir must be decided by his legal representative in consultation with the specifically appointed personnel by the Regency of Manchukuo.



# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

13. Before an Imperial Heir reaches adulthood, if the education of the Imperial Heir by his legal representative seriously harms the interests of Manchukuo or the Founding Spirits, the Imperial Heir's membership of the Imperial House may be removed according to law. When the legal representative is also a member of the Imperial House, the legal representative's status as a member of the Imperial Family may also be removed according to law at the same time. After that former Imperial Heir becomes an adult, he can apply for the restoration of his Imperial House membership and Imperial Heir status on the grounds that the decision made by the legal representative when he was a minor does not represent his own opinion.

# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

14. When an Imperial Heir is an adult, the membership of the Imperial House and the eligibility of the status of the Imperial Heir are only based on his own words and actions.
15. The standard of adulthood is determined by the Laws and Ordinances of Manchukuo and not by the laws or ordinances of the other civilized nations where the Imperial Heir currently resides.  
Since the People's Republic of China certainly has no jurisdiction over Manchoutikuo, for the Imperial Heirs residing in the Fallen Areas, the standard of adulthood is determined by the Laws and Ordinances of Manchukuo.



# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

16. When the human resources and financial resources are enough, His Imperial Majesty's Government of Manchuria in Exile may collect and sort out all written and physical materials about the Imperial House, and properly protect and use them.
17. His Imperial Majesty's Government of Manchuria in Exile may, when necessary, set up a temporary special agency to search for the members of the Imperial House and the Imperial Heirs. The composition and personnel of that agency and all its specific affairs shall not be disclosed to unrelated persons by any public or private means.
18. Except for the Fallen Areas, all investigation methods and measures concerning the members of the Imperial House and the Imperial Heirs must abide by the local laws.

# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

19. Those who apply to be included in the Imperial House of Manchukuo must prove the identity of the descendants of the patrilineal line of Aisin-Gioro. The proof of identity materials are:

- 玉牒 (the official genealogy documents of the Aisin-Gioro clan by Ching Empire and Manchukuo);
- Other Aisin-Gioro family tree genealogy documents;
- Evidence recognized by modern science, such as paternity test, DNA test, etc., which proves the relationship between the man who is known to be the male descendant of the patrilineal line of Aisin-Gioro and the applicant;
- Documents confirming the relationship between the man who is known to be the male descendant of the patrilineal line of Aisin-Gioro and the applicant;
- Other documents recognized as valid by the Government of Manchoutikuo.

# Matters Concerning the Imperial House and Imperial Throne Succession during the Great Mission of Restoring Manchoutikuo (Body Text)

20. The review and verification of the proof of identity materials are carried out according to the order of the Regency.
21. The procedures and results of the review and verification of the proof of identity materials shall be top secrets during the period of exile and shall not be disclosed to irrelevant persons. Those results shall be made public after the Restoration in order to ensure integrity.



# Thanks for listening

## Q & A



滿洲帝國流亡政府

滿洲帝國流亡政府