

Emperor Akihito - personal history

Emperor Akihito was born in Tokyo on 23 December 1933, to the great joy of the entire nation, as the first son of Emperor Showa and Empress Kojun. He has four elder sisters, one younger brother and one younger sister.

His Majesty received His elementary and secondary education at Gakushuin, the then Imperial Household Ministry school which later became a private institution. During the war, He and His elementary school classmates were evacuated from Tokyo to the countryside of Nikko. He was still in Nikko when the war came to an end in 1945.

In 1952, He entered Gakushuin University's Faculty of Political Science and Economics. In the same year, His Coming-of-Age Ceremony and His Investiture as Crown Prince were held. He thus began to carry out official duties in His capacity as Crown Prince. The next year, He made His first overseas journey to attend the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, and travelled extensively in North America and Europe. He completed His university education in 1956.

In addition to His formal education, the Crown Prince received special tutoring from authorities in Japanese History, Constitutional Law, and other areas of learning.



Crown Prince Akihito at his *Chakko no Gi*, a ceremony in which He first wears a *hakama*, a traditional pleated skirt worn on formal occasions. (December 1938)