



Emperor Akihito thanks Japanese in farewell and prays for peace

April 30, 2019

Japanese Emperor Akihito, in his final remarks as his three-decade reign drew to a close on Tuesday, thanked the people for their support and expressed hope for a peaceful future.

1. For the first time in two centuries _____
- 2-1. On Tuesday, Emperor Akihito _____
- 2-2. in Tokyo's Imperial Palace's _____
3. Akihito used his final words _____
4. About 300 people were there and the event was broadcast live on television _____

- 5-1. Akihito's three decade reign _____
- 5-2. and engage with people, _____
6. His abdication and unprecedented move for modern Japan _____
7. But at 85 years-old Akihito has had heart surgery and _____
8. And has said he's afraid _____
9. Many Japanese _____
- 10-1. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's conservative base _____
- 10-2. mainly because _____
11. They're worried the next step might lead to women on the throne _____

- 12-1. With the enthronement of Akihito's son on Wednesday _____
- 12-2. there are only 3 possible successors left _____

- 13-1. When Princess Aiko was born in 2001 _____

- 13-2. because there were _____

14. But still, _____

15. Then, Naruhito's brother Akishino had a son - and _____

16. Akihito was allowed to step down _____

17. And an unprecedented 10 day holiday _____

18. Akihito will now be known as "joko" - _____

19. His wife, Michiko _____

- 20-1. They will leave the Imperial Palace and soon _____
20-2. where they lived, down the road - _____

[Vocabulary]

- ☐ **monarch:** a king, or a queen; Members of royal families and the nobility
• *He was the monarch of his country for 39 years.*
- ☐ **step down:** to give up or retire from a position; to resign from some job or position, especially one with high power or authority.
• *Following the scandal, the governor was forced to step down from office.*
- ☐ **abdicate:** to formally give up power; to step down; to renounce a throne, high office, dignity, or function
• *The king was forced to abdicate.*
- ☐ **prestigious:** admired and respected by people
• *a prestigious school/institution/literary prize*
- ☐ **tune in:** to regulate (a radio or television set) in order to receive a certain station or program
- ☐ **reign:** the period of time when a king or queen rules a country
• *His reign as king lasted 25 years.*
- ☐ **engage with:** to make an effort to understand and deal with someone or something
• *During high school, he engaged in various sports.*
- ☐ **marginalize:** to relegate to a lower or outer edge, as of specific groups of people
• *We must not marginalize the poor in our society.*
- ☐ **abdication:** a formal resignation and renunciation of powers
- ☐ **unprecedented:** never having happened or existed before
• *The government took the unprecedented step of releasing confidential correspondence.*
- ☐ **stunned:** very shocked or upset, especially so that you are unable to act normally
• *I was stunned when I heard the tragic news.*

☐ **surgery**: medical treatment in which a doctor cuts open someone's body

☐ **prostate**: the organ in a man's body that produces a liquid that combines with and carries sperm

☐ **prostate cancer**: cancer of the prostate gland

☐ **sympathize**: to behave in a kind way and show that you understand someone's problems; to approve of and support someone or something

• *We sympathize deeply with the families of the victims.*

☐ **conservative**: not willing to accept much change, especially in the traditional values of society

• *He's a serious person who's very conservative in his opinions.*

☐ **object to**: to oppose, disagree with, or disapprove of someone or something.

• *My parents have always objected to the women I date, so I just don't tell them about my love life anymore.*

☐ **royal**: a member of a royal family

☐ **heir**: someone who will receive money, property, or a title when another person dies

• *The crown princess is expected to bear an heir to the throne.*

☐ **enthrone**: to seat ceremonially on a throne; to make someone the new king, queen in a formal ceremony

☐ **enthronement**: the ceremony of installing a new monarch

☐ **reign**: to officially rule a country

• *In Great Britain the queen reigns, but doesn't govern.*

☐ **lawmaker**: a politician whose job is to help to make the laws of a country or state

☐ **sweep under the rug**: to conceal something in the hopes it won't be discovered by others

• *The mayor swept all of his dirty deals under the rug.*

☐ **pass**: to make a law, proposal, etc. become official, usually by voting to accept it

• *This is one of the worst laws ever passed.*

☐ **emeritus**: honorably retired from assigned duties and retaining your title along with the additional title 'emeritus' as in 'professor emeritus'; 'retired from assigned duties' need not imply that one is inactive

• *emeritus professor of physics*