

Emperor Tenji

Tenji

Emperor of Japan

Reign	661–668 (regency) 668–672
Predecessor	Saimei
Successor	Kōbun
Born	626
Died	January 7, 672) Ōmi no Miya(Shiga)
Burial	<i>Yamashina no misasagi</i> (Kyoto)

Emperor Tenji (, *Tenji-[tennō](#)*, 626 – January 7, 671), also known as Emperor Tenchi, was the 38th [Emperor of Japan](#),^[1] according to the traditional [order of succession](#).^[2] His [reign](#) started in 661 and ended in 671.^[3]

Traditional narrative

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Before he became the monarch, his [personal name](#) (*imina*) was Prince Naka-no-Ōe (, *Naka-no-Ōe no Ōji*).^[4]

He was the son of [Emperor Jomei](#).

Events of Tenji's life

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Prince Naka no Ōe was made [heir apparent](#) and [Crown Prince](#) in 661.

- **661**: In the third year of [Empress Saimei](#)'s reign, she died. Her son received the [succession](#) (*senso*), but he governed as Crown Prince for the next six years. He did not formally accept the [monarch's](#) role and duties and powers.^[5]
- **668**: Emperor Tenji became the monarch (*sokui*).^[6] This was [confirmed](#) in [ceremonies](#).^[7]
- **668**: In the seventh year of Tenji's reign, flammable water ([petroleum](#)) from [Echigo Province](#) was presented to Emperor Tenji.^[8]
- **672**: Tenji is said to have compiled the first Japanese legal code. This was the [Ōmi Code](#), consisting of 22 volumes. These law became effective in the last year of Tenji's reign.^[9]

Prince Ōtomo (Ōtomo-*shinnō*) was the favorite son of Emperor Tenji; and he was also the first to be accorded the title of *Daijō-daijin*.^[10]

Memorial Shinto shrine and mausoleum honoring Emperor Tenji

Tenji improved the military forces which had been established during the Taika reforms.^[11]

After his death

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The actual site of Tenji's [grave](#) is known.^[1] This emperor is traditionally venerated at a [memorial Shinto shrine](#) (*misasagi*) at Yamashina-ku, Kyoto.

The [Imperial Household Agency](#) designates this location as Tenji's [mausoleum](#). It is formally named *Yamashina no misasagi*.^[12]

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References

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The [chrysanthemum symbol](#) of the [Japanese emperor](#) and his family

- ↑ 1.0 1.1 [Imperial Household Agency](#) (*Kunaichō*): ____ (38)
- ↑ [Ponsonby-Fane, Richard](#). (1959). *The Imperial House of Japan*, p. 52.
- ↑ [Titsingh, Isaac](#). (1834). *Annales des empereurs du Japon*, pp. 52-58.
- ↑ [Titsingh](#), pp. 52-53.
- ↑ [Titsingh](#), pp. 52-54.
- ↑ [Titsingh](#), p. 54.
- ↑ [Varley](#), p. 44; a distinct act of *senso* is unrecognized prior to Emperor Tenji; and all sovereigns except [Jitō](#), [Yōzei](#), [Go-Toba](#), and [Fushimi](#) have *senso* and *sokui* in the same year until the reign of [Emperor Go-Murakami](#). Compare [Imperial Household Agency](#) (*Kunaichō*), [Ceremony of Accession \(Sokui-no-Rei\)](#); retrieved 2011-12-23.
- ↑ [Aston, William George](#). (1896). *Nihongi*, p. 289 n2.
- ↑ [Ponsonby-Fane](#), p. 52; [Varley](#), p. 136 n. 43.
- ↑ [Ponsonby-Fane](#), p. 53.
- ↑ [Asakawa, Kan'ichi](#). (1903). *The Early Institutional Life of Japan*, p. 313.
- ↑ [Ponsonby-Fane](#), p. 420.

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Preceded by **Emperor of Japan:**
Empress Saimei
Tenji
 661–672
 Succeeded by **Emperor Kōbun**

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Kofun period	Ōjin · Nintoku · Richū · Hanzei · Ingyō · Ankō · Yūryaku · Seinei · Kenzō · Ninken · Buretsu · Keitai · Ankan · Senka
Asuka period	Kimmei · Bidatsu · Yōmei · Sushun · Suiko ♀ · Jomei · Kōgyoku ♀ · Kōtoku · Saimei ♀ · Tenji · Kōbun · Tenmu · Jitō ♀ · Monmu · Genmei ♀
Nara period	Genshō ♀ · Shōmu · Kōken ♀ · Junnin ·
Heian period	Kanmu · Heizei · Saga · Junna · Ninmyō · Montoku · Seiwa · Yōzei · Kōkō · Uda · Daigo · Suzaku · Murakami · Reizei · En'yū · Kazan · Ichijō · Sanjō · Ichijō · Go-Suzaku · Go-Reizei · Go-Sanjō · Shirakawa · Horikawa · Toba · Sutoku · Konoe · Go-Shirakawa · Nijō · Rokujō · Takakura · Antoku · Go-Toba
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