

Stanley Ho, flamboyant 'godfather' of Macau casinos, dies aged 98

Stanley Ho, the **flamboyant** and **charismatic** godfather of gambling in Macau, who steered gaming in the special administrative region to eclipse Las Vegas, has died in Hong Kong aged 98.

flamboyant 火焰的; 绚丽的

charismatic 超凡魅力的

With 20 casinos under his control in Macau, he was credited with bringing in about half the region's tax receipts via the "Las Vegas of Asia" and was personally worth almost \$7bn (£5.7bn), only retiring aged 96.

Born in 1921 in Hong Kong into a wealthy and politically well-connected **Eurasian** family which had made money from the British trading company Jardine Matheson, the family fell on hard times during the Great Depression in the mid-1920s.

Eurasian 欧亚的; 欧亚混血的

"I was a very poor man, " Ho told Reuters in an interview about his arrival in Macau with the few dollars he had earned working with the air raid administration in the week before Hong Kong's capture by the Japanese.

"I started with only HK\$10. That was my capital."

It was there, however, that Ho would make his first fortune before the age of 24. By 1961, he was well enough established to secure the **monopoly** for Macau's new legal gambling **franchise** that would propel him to stellar riches.

monopoly 垄断

franchise 特权

His last years, however, would be marked by illness and infighting among the **factions** in his **sprawling** family. After a fall at his home in 2009, after which he had brain surgery, his family was **riven** by a bitter dispute resolved two years later when his gambling business passed to his daughter Daisy.

faction 内讧; 派别

sprawling 蔓延的

riven 破裂的