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Though both monarchs and nobles usually inherit their titles, the mechanisms often differ, even in the same country. The British crown has been heritable by women since the medieval era (in the absence of brothers), while the vast majority of hereditary noble titles granted by British sovereigns are not heritable by daughters.

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- Hereditary **monarchy** – in [Bhutan](#), [Brunei](#), [Cambodia](#), [Japan](#), [Thailand](#), [Tonga](#), [Belgium](#), [Denmark](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Liechtenstein](#), [Monaco](#), [the Netherlands](#), [Norway](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [Jordan](#), [Morocco](#), [Qatar](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [Kuwait](#), [Oman](#), [Bahrain](#), [Lesotho](#), [Swaziland](#), and the [Commonwealth realms](#). Other national constitutions use different modes of succession to their monarchies, e.g. the election of the Pope in the Vatican City, and especially in East Asia often adding an element of selection (e.g. at a family council) among eligible relations of the monarch. Special cases are the two federal monarchies, [Malaysia](#)^[3] and the [United Arab Emirates](#), where the constituent states of each federation are hereditary monarchies but those rulers form an [electoral college](#) that assigns the federal position of head of state to one of their number for a term (of five years). Similar system existed in [Holy Roman Empire](#).
- Titles of [nobility](#) in the United Kingdom ([Duke](#), [Marquess](#), [Earl](#), [Viscount](#) and [Baron](#)) and other countries (see [peerage](#)). In the United Kingdom, most titles of nobility (peerages and the lower title of [Baronet](#)) pass only to the eldest son (or in the non ducal Peerage of Scotland to the eldest daughter in the absence of male heirs); all other sons and daughters of peers are commoners though they may use one or more not independently heritable [courtesy titles](#), either [Lord](#), [Lady](#) or The [Honourable](#) depending on the rank of the peerage held by their father or mother, or another title styled like a peerage but without a seat in the Lords, usually one or two ranks below father's.^[4] In many European countries, titles may be inherited by all the heirs -- male and female -- of a family, whose members thus all share the same title at the same time (for instance, within the [szlachta](#) nobility of [Poland](#) or in the nobilities of the successor states of the [Holy Roman Empire](#)). Indeed in Poland a coat of arms could eventually be correctly adopted by marriage to a titled [szlachta](#) spouse -- either male or female. In the Far East the main (Chinese-induced) tradition is rather for titles to devalue as the generations succeed each other, but not to the same rank.
- Hereditary [chieftaincy](#) - manifested in countries in various parts of [Africa](#), [Asia](#), [South America](#), and [Oceania](#). Examples range from the politically powerful (such as the [Nigerian traditional rulers](#) and the [king of the Zulu Nation](#)) to the merely titular (such as the [rajas](#) of [India](#) and the [Arab shaykhs](#)).
- Some [court titles](#), e.g. in the [United Kingdom](#), including [Earl Marshal](#)^[5] and [Lord Great Chamberlain](#). Most of these are [sinecures](#), i.e. purely ceremonial. They pass generally to the eldest son (except for that of Lord Great Chamberlain, which is split between the heads of the [Cholmondeley](#) and [Willoughby](#) families).
- Many other – especially feudal age – offices became inheritable, often connected to military (e.g. keeper of a castle, such as [Castellan](#); in Japan even [shōgun](#)) or domanial functions, which is also why some such functions became noble titles (e.g. [Burgrave](#), [Margrave](#)).
- Certain religious positions, such as the [Aga Khan](#) and [Dāʿ al-Mutlaq](#).

[edit]

Law of Property Act 1925.^[6]

[edit]

- Substantive title
- Aristocracy
- False titles of nobility
- Forms of address in the United Kingdom
- Great Officers of State
- Honorifics
- List of last scions
- Royal and noble ranks
- Royal and noble styles

[edit]

- ¹ [^] Murphy, Michael Dean. "A Kinship Glossary: Symbols, Terms, and Concepts"[🔗]. Retrieved 2006-10-05.
- ² [^] Adels og Våpenbrev udstedt af danske (unions) konger indtil 1536 ("Letters Patents issued by danish (union) kings until 1536") published The Society for the advancement of science. Copenhagen 2007
- ³ [^] Yang di-Pertuan Agong[🔗]
- ⁴ [^] "Burke's Guide to British Titles: Courtesy Titles"[🔗]. Burke's Peerage and Gentry. 2005. Archived from [the original](#)[🔗] on 11 July 2006. Retrieved 13 November 2006.
- ⁵ [^] Earl Marshal[🔗]
- ⁶ [^] One or more of the preceding sentences incorporates text from a publication now in the [public domain](#): Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "*Coparcenary*". *Encyclopædia Britannica*. **7** (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. p. 94.

[edit]

- Hereditary titles
- Noble, princely, royal, and imperial titles
- British titles of nobility
- Fake titles

Categories: Titles | Inheritance

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