



(3) Emperor

JE 1, Affidavit on Documentary Evidence ▲ important

18 title of document: 「大日本帝国憲法 (明治憲法)」天皇条項 “the Constitution of the Empire of Japan” (often referred to as the Meiji constitution), Articles concerning the Emperor

author of document:

date of issue: 11 February 1889

character of document: Document that shows how the Emperor's sovereign power was defined in the pre-war constitution, and makes clear that the Emperor held absolute power, as f.ex. the authority of supreme command over the imperial army and navy (article 11), authority to organize the forces and to determine the force of arms (article 12), the authority to issue declarations of war and treaty-making power (article 13), and so forth.

location of the part concerned within the document: see below

quote [official translation]:

Article 1. The Empire of Japan shall be reigned over and governed by a line of Emperors unbroken for ages eternal.

Article 2. The Imperial Throne shall be succeeded to by Imperial male descendants, according to the provisions of the Imperial House Law.

Article 3. The Emperor is sacred and inviolable.

Article 4. The Emperor is the head of the Empire, combining in Himself the rights of sovereignty, and exercises them, according to the provisions of the present Constitution.

Article 11. The Emperor has the supreme command of the Army and Navy.

Article 12. The Emperor determines the organization and peace standing of the Army and Navy.

Article 13. The Emperor declares war, makes peace, and concludes treaties.

Article 55. The respective Ministers of State shall give their advice to the Emperor, and be responsible for it.

I hereby swear on this day of , 2000, that the information contained above is accurate and the quotation genuine.

横田雄一 Yokota Yuuichi