皇族內閣

日本戰勝俄國後,中國朝野不論是維新派還是頑固守舊派都認為關 鍵在於日本是君主立憲國,而俄國則是君主專制政權。1905年7 月,清廷派遣滿洲親貴出國考察憲政,並於次年下詔預備立憲,以 十年為期;實際上卻是拖延時間,借機鞏固朝廷權力。1911年5 月,清廷頒布內閣名單,以宗室慶親王奕劻為總理大臣,其餘十二 名內閣成員中滿人七、漢人四、蒙古人一,而滿、蒙共九名閣員中 皇族竟佔七人,舉國譁然,時人稱之為「皇族內閣」。

革命派的崛起

The Imperial Cabinet

After Japan defeated Russia, both reformists and conventionalists believed the key to the Japanese success was its constitutional monarchy, which was considered superior to the absolute monarchy of Russia. In July 1905, the Qing court dispatched royal members abroad to study constitutionalism, and they were to prepare to announce the formation of their own constitution the year after, with the constitution scheduled to be formed within 10 years' time. In reality, they were only buying time and looking for ways to strengthen the court's power. In May 1911, the Qing court announced the list of cabinet

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members. Prince Ching was named head chancellor, and the 12 remaining seats were to be taken up by seven Manchurians, four Chinese and one Mongolian. Of the nine Manchurian and Mongolian cabinet members, seven were from the royal clan. The whole country was shocked, and people at the time called it "the Imperial Cabinet".

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