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monarch, but indeed an emperor.

It so happens that Felipe is one of the most plausible candidates for that job, at least in the hypothetical scenario that the Roman Empire never declined and fell. He's also the only actual sitting monarch among them, though each of the others can also make his own credible claim to the imperial throne.

So who would rightfully rule over a still-extant Roman Empire? Understanding that history buffs enjoy nothing more than a speculative but knowledgeable- and judgment-intensive debate of that kind, *UsefulCharts* creator Matt Baker (whose online store happens to offer a [Roman emperors family tree poster](#)) once [invited thirteen history YouTubers](#) to cast their votes — and, of course, explain their answers.

In addition to Felipe, the roster of potential modern-day Roman emperors includes Dündar Ali Osman, heir to the Ottoman dynasty, and Andrew Romanov, heir to the Russian throne (a choice for those who accept the onetime description of Moscow as the “third Rome”). Alas, both have died since the making of this video, but the claimants who could draw their legitimacy from the legacy of the Holy Roman Empire live on: the still relatively young Jean-Christophe Napoléon, a descendant of Bonaparte's brother, and Karl von Habsburg, the undisputed current head of the eponymous house. In favor of each candidate, one can make a variety of arguments political, cultural, and geographical. Nor, as some of us would insist, can we reasonably ignore the sartorial.

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Based in Seoul, [Colin Marshall](#) writes and broadcasts on cities, language, and culture. He's the author of the newsletter [한국 요약 금지](#) (No Summarizing Korea) and [Korean Newtro](#). Follow him on the social network formerly known as Twitter at [@colinmarshall](#).

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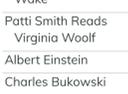
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- Apple
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- Architecture
- Archives
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- Artificial Intelligence
- Astronomy
- Audio Books
- Biology
- Books
- Business
- Chemistry
- Coloring Books
- Comedy
- Comics/Cartoons
- Computer Science
- Creativity
- Current Affairs
- Dance
- Data
- Deals
- Design
- e-books
- Economics
- Education
- English Language
- Entrepreneurship
- Environment
- Fashion
- Film
- Finance
- Food & Drink
- Games
- Gender
- Google
- Graduation Speech
- Harvard
- Health
- History
- How to Learn for Free
- Internet Archive
- iPad
- iPhone
- Jazz
- K-12
- Language Lessons
- Law
- Letters
- Libraries
- Life
- Literature
- Magazines
- Maps
- Math
- Media
- MIT
- MOOCs
- Most Popular
- Museums
- Music
- Nature
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- Online Courses
- Opera
- Philosophy
- Photography
- Physics
- Podcasts
- Poetry
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- Pretty Much Pop
- Productivity
- Psychology
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- Religion
- Sci Fi
- Science
- Software
- Sports
- Stanford
- Technology
- TED Talks
- Television
- Theatre
- Travel
- Twitter
- UC Berkeley
- Uncategorized
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### Archives

March 2026

February 2026

January 2026

December 2025

November 2025

October 2025

September 2025

August 2025

July 2025

June 2025

May 2025

April 2025

March 2025

February 2025

January 2025

December 2024

November 2024

October 2024

September 2024

August 2024

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