

# Environmental Politics In Japan Networks Of Power And Protest

Politics in JapanMedia and Politics in JapanJapanese PoliticsIntroduction to Japanese PoliticsPolitics in Modern JapanParty Politics in JapanDynamic and Immobilist Politics in JapanParty Politics in JapanChanging Politics in JapanPolitics, the Japanese WayThe Government and Politics of JapanParty Politics in JapanThe State and Politics in JapanGreen Politics in JapanGoverning JapanParty Politics in JapanThe Enigma of Japanese PowerThe Logic of Japanese PoliticsPolitics and the News Media in JapanBuddhist Politics: Japan's Clean Government Party Bradley M. Richardson Susan Pharr Takashi Inoguchi Louis D. Hayes Kōichi Kishimoto Ronald J. Hrebenar Martin Collick Ronald J. Hrebenar Ikuo Kabashima Jon Woronoff 田中 久雄 Hans Baerwald Ian Neary Peng Er Lam J. A. A. Stockwin Hans H Baerwald Karel Van Wolferen Gerald L. Curtis Ofer Feldman A. Palmer

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japan is one of the most media saturated societies in the world the circulations of its big five national newspapers dwarf those of any major american newspaper its public service broadcasting agency nhk is second only to the bbc in size and it has a full range of commercial television stations high brow and low brow magazines and a large anti mainstream media and mini media japanese elites rate the mass media as the most influential group in japanese society but what role do they play in political life whose interests do the media serve are the media mainly servants of the state or are they watchdogs on behalf of the public and what effects do the media have on the political beliefs and behavior of ordinary japanese people these questions are the focus of this collection of essays by leading political scientists sociologists social psychologists and journalists japan s unique kisha press club system its powerful media business organizations the uses of the media by japan s wily bureaucrats and the role of the media in everything from political scandals to shaping public opinion are among the many subjects of this insightful and provocative book

as a former assistant secretary general of the united nations and academic inoguchi chuo u is considered one of the foremost political scientists in japan in this treatment of the political issues facing modern japan he makes sure readers receive the correct background needed to understand the complexities of political behavior

this classic introduction to the japanese political system has been revised and updated to take the account of a time of turmoil in the country s political life it incorporates new coverage of the end of the koizumi era the brief and troubled premiership of abe and the selection of fukuda as prime minister this edition also includes expanded material on bubble and post bubble economic developments as well as all new coverage of health care policy the text opens with an overview of japan s geographical setting and history the next group of chapters covers political institutions processes and actors two sections then address the country s distinctive social order and economy educational healthcare and public safety systems part five looks at the increasingly contentious realm of foreign relations and security issues including china s expanding role and the issue of north korea a concluding section considers dynamics of change in japanese politics

the japanese political system is a parliamentary democracy and was the first western style government in asia when the parliamentary system was adopted in the 1880s it has a multiparty system free elections and a parliament that functions much the same way that any other democratic parliament functions however for much of its existence the japanese party system has been dominated by one party this fact is crucial to understanding contemporary politics in japan especially since the long term ruling party the liberal democratic party is once again back in power this book presents an up to date analysis of the political parties that make up the japanese party system and their impact on japanese politics and government given that the executive branch is selected as a result of the pattern of party numbers in the parliament to understand japanese politics and policy one must first know the nature of the ruling and opposition parties and their leaders indeed in the past decade the quality of japan s government has been closely associated with the strengths and weaknesses of japan s prime ministers and the dominant party in the system this book focuses on a central question why japanese politics and government has been so dysfunctional in the past two decades with this question in mind the chapters provide key background information on japanese politics and political parties discuss each of the major political parties that have governed japan since 1955 and finally examine the december 2012 house of representatives elections that returned the ldp to power and the differences between the first 1955 1993 and the second post war party systems 1993 party politics in japan provides a comprehensive analysis of the past sixty years of japanese party politics as such it will be of great interest to students and scholars of japanese politics and asian politics as well as to those interested in political parties and political systems more broadly

over the past thirty years japan has shown that it is a highly dynamic society and its economic policy making has often astonished the world japanese politics however though sometimes showing dynamism are very stable and frequently strangely immobilist in this book six specialists on japanese politics seek to find out why

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changing politics in japan is a fresh and insightful account of the profound changes that have shaken up the japanese political system and transformed it almost beyond recognition in the last couple of decades ikuo kabashima a former professor who is now governor of kumamoto prefecture and gill steel outline the basic features of politics in postwar japan in an accessible and engaging manner they focus on the dynamic relationship between voters and elected or nonelected officials and describe the shifts that have occurred in how voters respond to or control political elites and how officials both respond to and attempt to influence voters the authors return time and again to the theme of changes in representation and accountability kabashima and steel set out to demolish the still prevalent myth that japanese politics are a stagnant set of entrenched systems and interests that

are fundamentally undemocratic in its place they reveal a lively and dynamic democracy in which politicians and parties are increasingly listening to and responding to citizens needs and interests and the media and other actors play a substantial role in keeping democratic accountability alive and healthy kabashima and steel describe how all the political parties in japan have adapted the ways in which they attempt to organize and channel votes and argue that contrary to many journalistic stereotypes the government is increasingly acting in the the interests of citizens the median voter s preferences

provides an overview of the central government of japan the bicameral parliament and civil service bureaucracy and how these institutions create the laws and policies of the country discusses the electoral system political parties the role of local governments democracy and political participati

to the outside observer the character and dynamics of japan s political parties and diet national assembly are often obscure this volume is an invaluable description of party politics in japan and a unique analysis of the influence that a changing balance of power has had upon the functioning of the diet the book covers the party system and how it has changed since 1955 the electoral systems for the representatives and councillors in the diet an extensive analysis of the diet s internal governance a discussion of the influence on the diet s functioning and role of the arrival of near parity between the governing and opposition parties the book is based on numerous interviews with japanese politicians journalists and bureaucrats as well as extensive discussions with japanese political scientists

this book provides a comprehensive guide to the state and politics in japan at the start of the twenty first century in it ian neary asks if the state in japan is in any important sense different from states in western societies he seeks to answer this question through an examination of the historical process that created the modern state a description of the main institutions and actors in contemporary political life and an analysis of four important areas of policy making in japan as elsewhere in east asia where the developmental state has played a key political and economic role civil society has been the product of not the precondition

to the development of capitalist society and the modern state neary explores the formation of the modern japanese state and shows that though it established the foundations of industrial growth it left little or no room for the formation of groups that make up civil society elsewhere the book then focuses on the political parties of both left and right characteristics of the electoral systems and the political and bureaucratic structures at national and local levels individual chapters on foreign and defence policy industrial policy welfare provision and human rights consider the interaction between state and non state actors in specific policy contexts assuming no prior knowledge of japan or politics this textbook will be essential reading for students of political science and international relations as well as anyone seeking an introduction to government in japan today

green politics in japan reveals that green issues have yet to displace the traditional urban politics of post industrial japan indeed it seems that political values are still informed by the conservative values of hierarchy and deference

this fourth edition provides an in depth up to date chronological analysis of japan s current political system and the contributions of its leaders it emphasizes why japan and its politics matters in a global society ideal for college courses on japanese or comparative politics as well as for those interested in japanese war memory constitutional revision and japan s relationship with the us china and north and south korea investigates the divided aspects existing below the veneer of consensus in japanese politics explores conflicts between power hungry political groups as well as fundamental differences regarding japan s constitution the interpretation of japanese actions in the asia pacific war and japan s place in today s world advocates a system that readily permits changes of party in power for the present system dominated by the liberal democratic party examines the extreme statements of high profile politicians to determine whether a nationalist resurgence in japan is real or not sheds light on the official incompetence and the spectacular rise of civil society following the kobe earthquake features numerous japanese sources

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a full scale examination of the inner workings of japan s political and industrial system

widely recognized both in america and japan for his insider knowledge and penetrating analyses of japanese politics gerald curtis is the political analyst best positioned to explore the complexities of the japanese political scene today curtis has personally known most of the key players in japanese politics for more than thirty years and he draws on their candid comments to provide invaluable and graphic insights into the world of japanese politics by relating the behavior of japanese political leaders to the institutions within which they must operate curtis makes sense out of what others have regarded as enigmatic or illogical he utilizes his skills as a scholar and his knowledge of the inner workings of the japanese political system to highlight the commonalities of japanese and western political practices while at the same time explaining what sets japan apart curtis rejects the notion that cultural distinctiveness and consensus are the defining elements of japan s political decision making emphasizing instead the competition among and the profound influence of individuals operating within particular institutional contexts on the development of japan s politics the discussions featured here as they survey both the detailed events and the broad structures shaping the mercurial japanese political scene of the 1990s draw on extensive conversations with virtually all of the decade s political leaders and focus on the interactions among specific politicians as they struggle for political power the logic of japanese politics covers such important political developments as the liberal democratic party s egress from power in 1993 after reigning for nearly four decades and their crushing defeat in the voters revolt of the 1998 upper house election the

formation of the 1993 seven party coalition government led by prime minister morihiro hosokawa and its collapse eight months later the historic electoral reform of 1994 which replaced the electoral system operative since the adoption of universal manhood suffrage in 1925 and the decline of machine politics and the rise of the mutohaso the floating nonparty voter scrutinizing and interpreting a complex and changing political system this multi layered chronicle reveals the dynamics of democracy at work japanese style in the process the logic of japanese politics not only offers a fascinating picture of japanese politics and politicians but also provides a framework for understanding japan s attempts to surmount its present problems and helps readers gain insight into japan s future

an in depth look at the way journalists and politicians work together in japan

on november 17 1964 a new and rather unique political organization was inaugurated in japan this organization was called komeito or the clean government party the mother organization was the lay buddhist group soka gakkai 2 or value creation society it had previously been engaged in some political activities but the establish ment of the party was an indication of serious intent to become even more involved in japanese political affairs the rather militant posture of soka gakkai and its phenomenal success in converting literally millions of japanese to the nichiren buddhist religion was somewhat disconcerting for observers both japanese and foreign because of its political activism many persons viewed the organization as similar to the pre world war ii ultra nationalist movement while others ap plauded soka gakkai for giving new life and hope to a large segment of japanese society that was only receiving a marginal share of japan s increasing prosperity any mass movement may appear rather ominous to some people and a rapidly expanding and aggressive movement is bound to be perceived as a threat to society soka gakkai is no exception and therefore has been the subject of much debate and controversy in both japan and abroad as is often the case with controversial matters a new perspective will help to clarify some of the more contentious issues of this movement



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