

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

BY LAUREN MCKEE — KEY ISSUES IN ASIAN STUDIES BOOK SERIES

SUGGESTED COURSES:

- History
- Politics
- International Relations

KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:

- Modern statehood and sovereignty
- Democracy
- Elections, election regulations, and electoral reform
- Bureaucracy
- Civil society
- Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How has the role of the Japanese Emperor changed over time?
2. What are some of the effects of the LDP's electoral dominance?
3. Why is Article 9 of Japan's constitution a controversial topic and what are some challenges to constitutional revision?
4. Describe various bureaucracies' powers and their limitations in policymaking in Japan.
5. What are the pros and cons of a parliamentary democracy (like Japan) compared to a presidential democracy (like the United States)?
6. What roles does civil society play in politics in Japan?
7. How strong is civil society in Japan compared to other places?
8. What are some of Japan's most significant foreign policy challenges and options?

EXTERNAL LINKS & RESOURCES:

- <http://www.laboratoryx.us/campaign/>
- <https://iffr.com/en/iffr/2023/films/one-hundred-years-and-hope>
- <https://www.brookings.edu/regions/asia-the-pacific/japan/>
- <https://www.cfr.org/asia/japan>
- <https://www.csis.org/regions/asia/japan>
- <https://www.nctasia.org/>



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS, THE TOKUGAWA PERIOD, MEIJI REFORMS, DEMOCRATIC ROOTS
2. POSTWAR POLITICAL REFORMS AND THE REMAKING OF JAPANESE DEMOCRACY
3. BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTIONS
4. THE BUREAUCRACY
5. CIVIL SOCIETY AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
6. DEFENSE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS
7. CONCLUSIONS AND LOOKING AHEAD

“Written in a style that is readily accessible to non-specialists, Japanese Government and Politics is a wonderful resource for secondary teachers who want a basic, broad overview for use in social studies classes. Chapters can easily be incorporated into and enhance lessons ranging from medieval Japan to WWII to current global events. Material on the role of the emperor throughout history, the court system, elections, political parties, ministries which oversee international matters, civic participation and more make this a must-have volume on your bookshelf.”

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“McKee’s fascinating book provides a comprehensive and detailed, yet eminently readable, account of Japanese democracy. Placing Japan in comparative context, it will be an invaluable resource for students and teachers.”

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