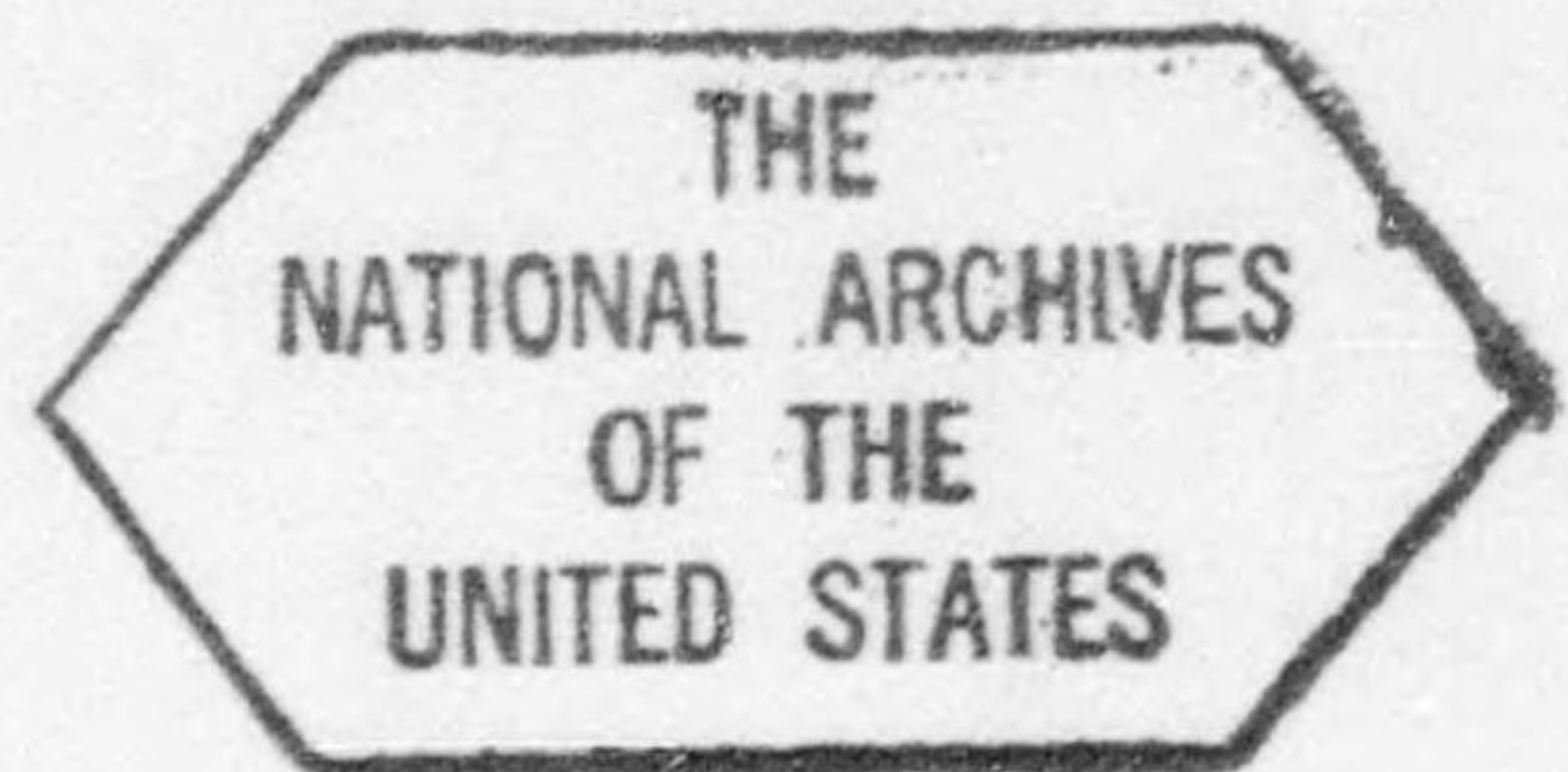


GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)  
Description of contents



- (1) Box no. 2046
- (2) Folder title/number: (18)  
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Government Section

Tokyo, Japan.

25 October 1948.

Dear Mr. Mallory:

In response to your letter of October 1st 1948, I am sending you herewith chapter entitled "Japan" from the Political Handbook of the World, 1948, which has been revised to bring it right up to date for your forthcoming edition. You will notice that revisions include the Japanese Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida which was installed just one week ago.

Trusting this material will be of assistance in the preparation of your valuable publication, I am,

Sincerely yours,

COURTNEY WHITNEY  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
Chief, Government Section

2 Incls:  
1 "Japan"- Revised Chapter  
2 "Japan"- Printed Proofs

Mr. Walter H. Mallory,  
Council on Foreign Relations Inc.,  
The Harold Pratt House,  
58 East 68th Street,  
New York City, New York.

*See General Whitney's  
Secretary for copy of  
final revision mailed  
70: 25 Oct 48.*



*old draft*

## JAPAN

Capital: Tokyo  
Area: 147,492 square miles (Japan proper - Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu and Hokkaido) Population: Japan proper, 78,627,000 (1947 census)

Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers  
GENERAL of the Army DOUGLAS MacARTHUR

The Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers was appointed on August 14, 1945, following unconditional surrender by Japan. The surrender terms included acceptance by Japan of the provisions of the Potsdam Proclamation and provided that from the moment of surrender the authority of the Emperor and of the Japanese Government to rule the state would be subject to the Supreme Commander. The Supreme Commander is the sole executive authority for the Allied Powers in Japan. He is charged, subject to advising and consulting with the Allied Council for Japan, with the implementation of the terms of surrender and of directives expressing the policy decisions of the Far Eastern Commission. In case of Disagreement in the Council the decision of the Supreme Commander is controlling on all but the reserved questions mentioned below; if disagreement on any of these questions arises, action is withheld pending clarification by the Commission.

### Far Eastern Commission

The Far Eastern Commission, established by the Foreign Ministers at the Moscow meeting in December 1945, was convened in Washington on February 26, 1946. It replaced the Far Eastern Advisory Commission which had been meeting in Washington since October 30, 1945, and had made a fact-finding trip to Tokyo. The Far Eastern Commission is empowered by the Terms of Reference announced in the Moscow Communiqué of December 27, 1945, to formulate the policies, principles and standards in conformity with which the



fulfillment by Japan of its obligations under the terms of surrender may be accomplished; and to review directives issued to the Supreme Commander or any action taken by the Supreme Commander involving policy decisions within jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission acts by majority vote which must include the concurring votes of China, the United Kingdom, the USSR and the United States. In accordance with the Terms of Reference the Commission is bound to respect the control machinery established in Japan by the United States immediately following the surrender, including the chain of command from the United States Government to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. Thus, policy decisions of the Commission are sent to the United States Government which prepares appropriate directives for transmission to the Supreme Commander.

The United States Government may issue interim directives to the Supreme Commander on urgent matters not covered by policies already formulated by the Commission pending action by the Commission and subject to subsequent review by the Commission. Three questions reserved to the Commission and excepted from United States' authority to issue interim directives are those dealing with: 1) fundamental changes in the Japanese constitutional structure; 2) changes in the regime of control as set forth in the surrender terms; and 3) changes in the Japanese Government as a whole.

States members of the Commission and their representatives are as follows: United States -- Major-General Frank R. McCoy, USA (ret.) (Chairman); Australia -- Mr. Norman J. O. Makin; Canada -- Mr. H. H. Wrong; China -- Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo; France -- Mr. Paul E. Naggier; India -- Sir Benegal Rama Rau; Netherlands -- Dr. E. N. van Kleffens; New Zealand -- Sir Carl Berendsen; Philippines -- Brigadier-General Carlos P. Romulo; United



Kingdom -- Sir Oliver S. Franks; the USSR -- Mr. A. S. Panyushkin. The Secretary-General is Mr. Nelson T. Johnson (United States).

Since its inauguration, the Commission has formulated forty-seven policy decisions which have been transmitted as directives by the United States Government to the Supreme Commander. These policy decisions include "Basic Post-Surrender Policy for Japan," a statement of general policy governing the conduct of the occupation and basic principles for a new Japanese constitution and the review of the new constitution.

Eleven policy decisions, comprising the "interim reparations program," have been approved. After the final amount of reparations is determined, these reparations will be allocated to each claimant country according to certain percentage shares.

Further policies have been formulated dealing with such matters as the trial and apprehension of war criminals in Japan, the restitution of looted property to original owners, the destruction of Japanese war potential, the sources of Japanese imports and the destination of exports, the food supply for Japan, trade union activity, education, and the safeguarding of aliens and alien property in Japan.

#### Allied Council for Japan

The Moscow Communique of December 27, 1945, provided for the establishment, under the chairmanship of the Supreme Commander (or his Deputy), of an Allied Council for Japan with its seat in Tokyo. The Council was convened on April 5, 1946, and meets every two weeks. Its meetings are open to the press.

The Council is an advisory body and has no executive authority. Its



functions are to advise and consult with the Supreme Commander as to the method of implementing the terms of surrender and the policies approved by the Far Eastern Commission.

Membership: Mr. William J. Sebald, Deputy for the Supreme Commander, Chairman, and Member for the United States; General Shang Chen, Member for China; Mr. Patrick Shaw, Member representing jointly the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and India; Lieutenant General Kuzma N. Derevyanko, Member for the USSR.

Since its inauguration, the Allied Council for Japan has observed the implementation of Allied policy and its members have advised the Supreme Commander accordingly. The Council's discussions have included discussions of the progress in Japan of such matters as: rural land reform, demobilization of the Japanese officers corps, the liquidation of the zaibatsu, educational reform, police reform, fishing areas, repatriation, the control of Japanese imports and exports, the indemnification by the Japanese Government of war industries devastated by Allied bombing, the nationalization of coal mines, the purge of Japanese militarists and ultra-nationalists, the stabilization of wages and prices, public health, the reopening of private trade with Japan.

Monarch

EMPEROR HIROHITO

Born in 1901; ascended throne December 25, 1926.

Cabinet

Democratic Liberal Party  
Installed October 19, 1948

Premier

Shigeru Yoshida (Democratic Liberal)



Parliament  
(KOKKAI)

House of Representatives  
(Shugi - in)

Speaker: Komakichi Matsuoka  
(Social Democrat)

Parties

Democratic Liberal (Former Liberal)-----	151
Social Democrat-----	112
Democrat-----	90
People's Cooperative-----	30
Social Renovation-----	20
New Liberal-----	11
1st Diet Members Club (Daiichi Giin Club)-----	10
Farmer-Labor-----	9
Japan Farmers-----	7
Communist-----	4
Neutral-----	4
Vacancies-----	<u>18</u>
Total	466

House of Councillors  
(Sangi - in)

President: Tsuneo Matsudaira  
(Independent)

Parties

Green Breeze (Ryokufukai)-----	77
Democratic Liberal-----	47
Democrat-----	45
Social Democrat-----	40
Independent Club-----	19
New Government----- (Shinsei Club)	7
Neutrals-----	5
Communists-----	4
Vacancies-----	<u>6</u>
Total	250

The YOSHIDA Cabinet

Members of the Cabinet: Shigeru Yoshida, Prime Minister (Democratic Liberal); Shigeru Yoshida, Minister of Foreign Affairs (concurrently); Shigeru Yoshida, Attorney General (concurrently); Sanroku Izumiya, Minister of Finance (Democratic Liberal); Yasumaro Shimojo, Minister of



Education, (Green Breeze); Joji Hayashi, Minister of Welfare (Democratic Liberal); Hideo Sudo, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (Democratic Liberal); Shinzo Oya, Minister of Commerce and Industry (Democratic Liberal); Kaneshichi Masuda, Minister of Labor (Democratic Liberal); Saeki Ozawa, Minister of Transportation (Democratic Liberal); Tokuya Furuhata, Minister of Communications (Democratic Liberal); Hideji Masutani, Minister of Construction (Democratic Liberal); Shunkichi Ueda, Minister without Portfolio (Democratic Liberal); Nobuyuki Iwamoto, Minister without Portfolio (Democratic Liberal); Tomoharu Inoue, Minister without Portfolio (Democratic Liberal); Kotaro Mori, Minister without Portfolio (Democratic Liberal); Eisaku Sato, Chief Cabinet Secretary.

#### THE CONSTITUTION

A new constitution which became the supreme law of Japan on May 3, 1947, was promulgated on November 3, 1946. This instrument provides for drastic changes in Japan's political system. Sovereign power now resides in the people. The Emperor is deprived of his supreme authority and retains only ceremonial functions. War and the threat or use of force are forever renounced as sovereign rights of the nation. Peers and peerage are specifically abolished. The Diet, consisting of a House of Representatives and House of Councillors, becomes the sole law-making authority with ultimate power residing in the House of Representatives. The decision of the House of Representatives prevails in the election of the Prime Minister, the Budget and all matters pertaining to Diet procedures. A bill passed by the House of Representatives and rejected by the House of Councillors will become law if passed again by the lower house by a two-thirds majority. The



House of Councillors which replaces the former House of Peers, consists of two hundred fifty members elected for six-year terms. Members of the House of Representatives are popularly elected and serve for four years. Total membership of the House of Representatives is four hundred sixty six. Executive power is vested in a Cabinet, headed by a Prime Minister and collectively responsible to the Diet. The Prime Minister and a majority of the Cabinet members must be chosen from among members of the Diet. On a vote of non-confidence by the Diet the Cabinet must resign. Judicial power is vested in a Supreme Court and in inferior courts. The appointment of each Supreme Court judge by the Prime Minister is subject to popular review during the first general election held following his designation and at ten-year intervals thereafter. State finances are administered by the Diet, which has sole power to levy taxes and make appropriations. Local self government is guaranteed. A bill of rights contains such basic guarantees as universal adult suffrage, secret ballot, freedom of thought, religion and assembly, right of peaceful petition, impartial public trials and due process of law; it also provides for compulsory education, the right to minimum standards of living, and nondiscrimination on the basis of social status, sex, race, or religion. Amendments to the Constitution must be initiated by a two-thirds majority of all members of each House of the Diet and must be ratified by a majority vote of the people participating in a subsequent referendum.



## MAJOR POLITICAL EVENTS 1945-1948

### Japanese Cabinets

Prime Minister	Date Installed
Naruhiko Higashikuni	August 17, 1945
Kijuro Shidehara	October 9, 1945
Shigeru Yoshida	May 22, 1946
Tetsu Katayama	May 24, 1947
Hitoshi Ashida	March 11, 1948
Shigeru Yoshida	October 19, 1948

### THE ELECTIONS OF 1946

On April 10, 1946, an election for members of the House of Representatives was held in Japan, the first since the Occupation. The Japanese people freely expressing their popular will, rejected leadership both of the extreme Right and of the extreme Left. More than 27,000,000 people or 73 percent of the entire electorate cast their votes. Japanese women, voting for the first time in Japan, took advantage of their new, democratic rights. Sixty-six percent of eligible women voters cast their ballots. Highlights among the first reforms in the election Laws enacted by the Diet since the Occupation began were: granting the vote to women; lowering the voting age from 25 to 20; and lowering the age of candidates to the Diet from 30 to 25.

### 1946 ELECTION RESULTS

<u>Party</u>	<u>House of Representatives</u>
Liberal -----	139
Progressive -----	93



Social Democrat -----	92
Cooperatives -----	14
Independents -----	83
Minor Parties -----	38
Communist -----	5
Vacancies -----	<u>2</u>
Total	466

#### THE ELECTIONS OF 1947

In anticipation of the entry into force of the new Constitution on May 3, 1947, local and national elections, the second since the occupation, were held during April under modified legislation which permitted universal suffrage and the selection of more officials than had previously been possible in Japan. New election laws permitted the electorate to vote for members of the House of Councillors and for local executives. In the past the upper house consisted mainly of appointed nobility while local executives were designated by the central government. Approximately seventy-four percent of the eligible voters participated at the polls. The elections were characterized by a general disregard for party lines and a tendency to vote for the candidate appearing most suitable to the individual voter.

#### 1947 ELECTION RESULTS

<u>Party</u>	National	
	<u>House of Representatives</u>	<u>House of Councillors</u>
Social Democrat -----	143	47
Liberal -----	131	37



Democrat -----	121	-----	28
People's Cooperative -----	29	-----	9
Independents -----	25	-----	113
Minor Parties -----	13	-----	12
Communist -----	<u>4</u>	-----	<u>4</u>
	466		250

The Social Democrat party, having gained the highest number of seats in the National Diet, was designated to form the Cabinet following the elections of April 1947. Tetsu Katayama, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Social Democrat party, was elected Premier by the National Diet in May 1947. A Coalition Cabinet was formed May 24, 1947, including the Social Democrat, Democrat and People's Cooperative parties.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR POLITICAL EVENTS 1948

- February 10, 1948 - Resignation of Katayama Cabinet. Precipitated by dissension within the Social Democrat party; Left-Wing faction votes against party policies on the issue of Government Employees' Wages.
- March 11, 1948 - Coalition Cabinet led by Hitoshi Ashide, Democrat, installed. Cabinet included Democrat, Social Democrat and People's Cooperative parties.
- March 15, 1948 - Liberal Party reorganizes; enrolls minor groups in parliament; attains the highest number of members in the House of Representatives. Renamed "Democratic Liberal party".



October 7, 1948 - Ashida Cabinet resigns following indictment of Deputy-Prime Minister Suehiro Nishio, Social Democrat, and State Minister Takeo Kurusu, Democrat, on charges of having received bribes in connection with the Showa Denko Scandal.

October 19, 1948 - Democratic Liberal Cabinet installed headed by Shigeru Yoshida, former Japan Premier, May 22, 1946 - May 24, 1947.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES

##### MAJOR

**Democratic Liberal Party:** Diet Membership - Representatives-151; Councillors-47; successor to Liberal party March 15, 1948.

Major support from business and financial circles, regards suppression of Communism as major objective, advocates gradual return to free enterprise.

**Social Democrat Party:**

Diet Membership - Representatives-112; Councillors-40; dominated by pre-war farmer labor and post-war labor elements, advocates nationalization of key industries and taxation as basis for recovery; while advocating Socialism in its platforms, the party has not strictly adhered to these policies.

**Democrat Party:**

Diet Membership - Representatives-90; Councillors-45; successor to Progressive party March 31, 1947, advocates strict economic controls but not nationalization, seeks early peace treaty and intensified



foreign trade as basis for recovery; advocates middle-of-the-road policies.

People's Cooperative Party: Diet Membership - Representatives-30; Councillors-7; claims major support from farmers and agriculture produce marketing elements, advocates expansion of cooperative principle to major industries and equalization of profits.

MINOR

Green Breeze Party: Diet Membership - Councillors-77; organized as a society following the April 1947 elections, registered as a political party December 9, 1947; no specific platforms announced; dominant force in the House of Councillors through its independent status.

Social Renovation Party: Diet Membership - Representatives-20; formed by seceders from Social Democrat party right wing.

New Liberal Party: Diet Membership - Representatives-11; formed by seceders from Democratic Liberal party (then Liberal).

1st Diet Members Club: Diet Membership - Representatives-10; bargaining group; no specific platforms announced.

Farmer-Labor Party: Diet Membership - Representatives-9; formed



by seceders from Social Democrat party left wing.

**Japan Farmers Party:** Diet Membership - Representatives-7; offshoot of People's Cooperative party; advocates farmers' benefits.

**New Government Party:** Diet Membership - Councillors-7; formed by seceders from Green Breeze Society; members formerly elected as Cooperatives.

**Communist Party:** Diet Membership - Representatives-4; Councillors-4; advocates policies and doctrines of U. S. S. R., although not a member of the Cominform; opposes continuation of the Emperor system in Japan.

#### PRESS

During the war the government enforced newspaper amalgamations in the interests of thought control and newsprint conservation, but since the surrender the number of newspapers has risen from 55 to about 200, with a total circulation of approximately 17,705,000. The leading newspapers listed below are published in Tokyo unless otherwise noted:

<u>NAME OF PAPER</u>	<u>CIRCULATION</u>	<u>CHARACTER</u>	<u>PROPRIETOR, EDITOR, ETC.</u>
ASAHI SHIMBUN -	3,519,127 (Total)	Japan's leading paper; independent; published in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyushu	Seiji Tobata (Ed.)
MAINICHI SHIMBUN -	3,428,088 (Total)	Asahi's closest competitor; independent; published in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyushu	Toshio Kanda (Ed.)
YOMIURI SHIMBUN -	1,740,732	Independent	Tsuneko Baba (Ed.)
TOKYO SHIMBUN -	502,573	Independent; leading evening paper	Nobuo Koyama (Ed.)



<u>NAME OF PAPER</u>	<u>CIRCULATION</u>	<u>CHARACTER</u>	<u>PROPRIETOR, EDITOR, ETC.</u>
NIPPON KEIZAI SHIMBUN -	344,671	Leading economic journal	Sadakichi Odajima (Ed.)
JIJI SHIMPO -	266,129	Conservative	Takuzo Itakura (Ed.)
TOKYO MIMPO -	60,300	Leftist	Tooru Shobara (Ed.)
AKAHATA -	115,000	Communist Party organ (daily except Monday)	Yoshio Shiga (Ed.)
CHUBU NIPPON (Nagoya) -	795,082	Independent	Teranosuke Shiboyama (Ed.)
NISHI NIPPON SHIMBUN (Fukuoka) -	524,864	Independent	Saburo Tomiyasu (Ed.)
OSAKA SHIMBUN -	310,060	Independent	Nobuharu Zentoku (Ed.)
HOKKAIDO SHIMBUN - (Sapporo and other Hokkaido editions)	602,599	Independent	Keno Abe (Ed.)

#### NEWS AGENCY

KYODO NEWS AGENCY (118 Dailies & members of Japan Newspaper Assoc.) (Total - 143 subscribers; circulation over 17,000,000)	Cooperative Press Association. Founded Nov. 1945 to replace Domei News Agency, official organ since 1936.	Masanori Ito (Ch. of Bd.) Yoshisaburo Matsukata (Ed.)
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#### PRESS ASSOCIATION

JAPAN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION (134 members; includes 118 Dailies, 11 B-Class news- papers and 5 News Services)	Corporation of Japanese papers founded Oct. 1945.	Masanori Ito (Ch. of Bd.)
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JAPAN

Capital: Tokyo  
Area: 147,492 square miles (Japan proper - Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu  
and Hokkaido) Population: Japan proper, ~~78,140,000~~ 78,627,000  
(1947 census)

Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers  
GENERAL of the Army DOUGLAS MacARTHUR

The Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers was appointed on August 14, 1945, following unconditional surrender by Japan. The surrender terms included acceptance by Japan of the provisions of the Potsdam Proclamation and provided that from the moment of surrender the authority of the Emperor and of the Japanese Government to rule the state would be subject to the Supreme Commander. The Supreme Commander is the sole executive authority for the Allied Powers in Japan. He is charged, subject to advising and consulting with the Allied Council for Japan, with the implementation of the terms of surrender and of directives expressing the policy decisions of the Far Eastern Commission. In case of disagreement in the Council the decision of the Supreme Commander is controlling on all but the reserved questions mentioned below; if disagreement on any of these questions arises, action is withheld pending clarification by the Commission.

Far Eastern Commission

The Far Eastern Commission, established by the Foreign Ministers at the Moscow meeting in December 1945, was convened in Washington on February 26, 1946. It replaced the Far Eastern Advisory Commission which had been meeting in Washington since October 30, 1945, and had made a fact-finding trip to Tokyo. The Far Eastern Commission is empowered by the Terms of Reference announced in the Moscow Communique of December 27, 1945, to formulate the policies, principles and standards in conformity with which the fulfillment by Japan of its obligations under the terms of surrender may be accomplished; and to review directives issued to the Supreme Commander or any action taken by the Supreme Commander involving policy decisions within jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission acts by majority vote which must include the concurring votes of China, the United Kingdom, the USSR and the United States. In accordance with the Terms of Reference the Commission is bound to respect

~~( )~~



the control machinery established in Japan by the United States immediately following the surrender, including the chain of command from the United States Government to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. Thus, policy decisions of the Commission are sent to the United States Government which prepares appropriate directives for transmission to the Supreme Commander.

The United States Government may issue interim directives to the Supreme Commander on urgent matters not covered by policies already formulated by the Commission pending action by the Commission and subject to subsequent review by the Commission. Three questions reserved to the Commission and excepted from United States' authority to issue interim directives are those dealing with: 1) fundamental changes in the Japanese constitutional structure; 2) changes in the regime of control as set forth in the surrender terms; and 3) changes in the Japanese Government as a whole.

States members of the Commission and their representatives are as follows: United States -- Major-General Frank R. McCoy, USA (ret.) (Chairman); Australia -- Mr. Norman J. O. Makin; Canada -- Mr. H. H. Wrong; China -- Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo; France -- Mr. Paul E. Naggjar; India -- ~~Mr. W. Asaf~~ *Sir Benegal Rama Rau*; Netherlands -- Dr. E. N. van Kleffens; New Zealand -- Sir Carl Berendsen; Philippines -- Brigadier-General Carlos P. Romulo; United Kingdom -- ~~Lord~~ *Sir Oliver S. Franks*; ~~Inverchapel~~; the USSR -- Mr. A. S. Panyushkin. The Secretary-General is Mr. Nelson T. Johnson (United States).

Since its inauguration, the Commission has formulated ~~forty-six~~ *forty-seven* policy decisions which have been transmitted as directives by the United States Government to the Supreme Commander. These policy decisions include "Basic Post-Surrender Policy for Japan," a statement of general policy governing the conduct of the occupation and basic principles for a new Japanese constitution and the review of the new constitution.

~~Eight~~ *Eleven* policy decisions, comprising the "interim reparations program," have been approved. ~~designating for removal as reparations certain industrial facilities obviously not required by Japan's peacetime economy.~~ After the final amount of reparations is determined, these reparations will be allocated to each claimant country according to certain percentage shares. ~~still to be determined.~~



Further policies have been formulated dealing with such matters as the trial and apprehension of war criminals in Japan, the restitution of looted property to original owners, the destruction of Japanese war potential, the sources of Japanese imports and the destination of exports, the food supply for Japan, trade union activity, education, and the safeguarding of aliens and alien property in Japan.

#### Allied Council for Japan

The Moscow Communiqué of December 27, 1945, provided for the establishment, under the chairmanship of the Supreme Commander (or his Deputy), of an Allied Council for Japan with its seat in Tokyo. The Council was convened on April 5, 1946, and meets every two weeks. Its meetings are open to the press.

The Council is an advisory body and has no executive authority. Its functions are to advise and consult with the Supreme Commander as to the method of implementing the terms of surrender and the policies approved by the Far Eastern Commission.

Membership: Mr. William J. Sebald, Deputy for the Supreme Commander, Chairman, and Member for the United States; General Shang Chen, Member for China; Mr. Patrick Shaw, Member representing jointly the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and India; <sup>LIEUTENANT General Kuzma N. Serovyanko,</sup> ~~Major General E. P. Kislenko,~~ representing ~~the~~ Member for the USSR.

Since its inauguration, the Allied Council for Japan has observed the implementation of Allied policy and its members have advised the Supreme Commander accordingly. The Council's discussions have included discussions of the progress in Japan of such matters as: rural land reform, demobilization of the Japanese officers corps, the liquidation of the zaibatsu, educational reform, police reform, fishing areas, repatriation, the control of Japanese imports and exports, the indemnification by the Japanese Government of war industries devastated by Allied bombing, the nationalization of coal mines, the purge of Japanese ~~reactionaries and~~ <sup>and ultra-nationalists,</sup> militarists, the stabilization of wages and prices, public health, the reopening of private trade with Japan.

Monarch  
EMPEROR HIROHITO

Born in 1901; ascended throne December 25, 1926.



JAPAN

Cabinet

Democratic Liberal Party  
Installed October ~~20~~<sup>19</sup>, 1948

Premier  
Shigeru Yoshida (Democratic Liberal)

Parliament  
(KOKKAI)

House of Representatives  
(Shugi - in)

Speaker: Komakichi Matsuoka  
(Social Democrat)

Parties

Democratic Liberal (Former Liberal)-----	151
Social Democrat-----	112
Democrat-----	90
People's Cooperative-----	30
Social Renovation-----	20
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1st Diet Members Club (Daichi Giin Club)-----	10
Farmer-Labor-----	9
Japan Farmers-----	7
Communist-----	4
Neutral-----	4
Vacancies-----	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>466</b>

House of Councillors  
(Sangi - in)

President: Tsuneo Matsudaira  
(Independent)

Parties

Green Breeze (Ryokufukai)-----	77
Democratic Liberal-----	47
Democrat-----	45
Social Democrat-----	40
Independent Club-----	19
New Government (Shinsei Club)-----	7
Neutrals -----	5
Communists-----	4
Vacancies-----	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>



The YOSHIDA Cabinet

Members of the Cabinet: Shigeru Yoshida, Prime Minister (Democratic Liberal); Shigeru Yoshida, Minister of Foreign Affairs (concurrently); Shigeru Yoshida, Attorney General (concurrently); Sanroku Izumiyama, Minister of Finance (Democratic Liberal); Yasumaro Shimojo, Minister of Education, (Green Breeze); Joji Hayashi, Minister of Welfare (Democratic Liberal); Hideo Sudo, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (Democratic Liberal); Shinzo Oya, Minister of Commerce and Industry (Democratic Liberal); Kaneshichi Masuda, Minister of Labor (Democratic Liberal); Saeki Ozawa, Minister of Transportation (Democratic Liberal); Tokuya Furuhata, Minister of Communications (Democratic Liberal); Hideji Masutani, Minister of Construction (Democratic Liberal); Shunkichi Ueda, Minister without Portfolio (Democratic Liberal); Nobuyuki Iwamoto, Minister without Portfolio (Democratic Liberal); Tomoharu Inoue, Minister without Portfolio (Democratic Liberal); Kotaro Mori, Minister without Portfolio (Democratic Liberal); ~~XXX~~ Eisaku Sato, ~~Minister without Portfolio~~ Chief Cabinet Secretary.

~~778~~



Portfolio (Social Democrat); Kyoji Funada, Minister without Portfolio (Peoples' Cooperative); Sadakichi Hitotsumatsu, Minister without Portfolio (Democrat); Masaru Nomizo, Minister without Portfolio (Social Democrat); Gizo Tomabechi, Minister without Portfolio (Democrat).

#### THE CONSTITUTION

A new constitution which became the supreme law of Japan on May 3, 1947, was promulgated on November 3, 1946. This instrument provides for drastic changes in Japan's political system. Sovereign power now resides in the people. The Emperor is deprived of his supreme authority and retains only ceremonial functions. War and the threat or use of force are forever renounced, as <sup>sovereign</sup> rights of the nation. Peers and peerage are specifically abolished. The Diet, consisting of a House of Representatives and House of Councillors, becomes the sole law-making authority with ultimate power residing in the House of Representatives. The decision of the House of Representatives prevails in the election of the Prime Minister, the Budget and all matters pertaining to Diet <sup>procedures,</sup> sessions. A bill passed by the House of Representatives and rejected by the House of Councillors will become law if passed again by the lower house by a two-thirds majority. The <sup>House of Councillors which</sup> replaces the former House of Peers, <sup>consists</sup> in the Diet. Consisting of two hundred fifty members, ~~Councillors~~ are elected for six-year terms. Members of the House of Representatives are popularly elected and serve for four years. Total membership of the House of Representatives is four hundred sixty six. Executive power is vested in a Cabinet, headed by a Prime Minister and collectively responsible to the Diet. The Prime Minister and a majority of the Cabinet members must be chosen from among members of the Diet. ~~All Cabinet members must be civilians and will serve at the pleasure of the Prime Minister.~~ On a vote of non-confidence by the Diet the Cabinet must resign. Judicial power is vested in a Supreme Court and in inferior courts. The appointment of <sup>each</sup> Supreme Court judge <sup>by the Prime Minister, is subject to popular review</sup> ~~will be reviewed by the people at~~ <sup>during the first general election held following his designation and at ten-year intervals thereafter.</sup> ~~ten-year intervals in the general elections.~~ State finances are administered by the Diet, which has sole power to levy taxes and make appropriations, ~~all property of the Imperial Household becomes the property of the State.~~ Local self government is guaranteed. A bill of rights contains such basic guarantees as universal adult suffrage, secret ballot, freedom of thought, religion and assembly, right of peaceful petition, impartial public trials and due process of law; it also provides for compulsory education, the right to minimum standards of living, and nondiscrimination



on the basis of social status, sex, race, or religion. Amendments to the Constitution must be initiated by a two-thirds majority of all members of each House of the Diet and must be ratified by a majority vote of the people participating in a subsequent referendum.

— INSERT HERE — (#1)

#### THE ELECTIONS OF 1947

In anticipation of the entry into force of the new Constitution on May 3, 1947, local and national elections, the second since the occupation, were held during April under modified legislation which permitted universal suffrage and the selection of more officials than had previously been possible in Japan. New election laws permitted the electorate to vote for members of the House of Councillors and for local executives. In the past the upper house consisted <sup>mainly</sup> of appointed nobility while local executives were designated by the central government. Approximately seventy-four percent of the eligible voters participated at the polls. The elections were characterized by a general disregard for party lines and a tendency to vote for the candidate appearing most suitable to the individual voter.

— INSERT HERE — (#2)

#### POLITICAL PARTIES

##### MAJOR

- Democratic Liberal Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives-151; Councillors - 47; .  
Successor to Liberal party, ~~renamed~~ March 15, 1948. Major support from business and financial circles, regards suppression of Communism as major objective, advocates gradual return to free enterprise.
- Social Democrat Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives - 112; Councillors - 40;  
Dominated by pre-war farmer labor and post-war labor elements, advocates nationalization of key industries and taxation as basis for recovery; while advocating Socialism in its platforms the party has not <sup>strictly</sup> adhered to these policies.
- Democrat Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives - 90; Councillors - 45;  
Successor to Progressive party ~~of 1946 elections, renamed~~ March 31, 1947, advocates strict economic controls but not nationalization, seeks early peace treaty and intensified foreign trade as basis for recovery; advocates middle-of-the-road policies.
- People's Cooperative Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives - 30; Councillors - 7;  
Claims major support from farmers and agriculture produce



marketing elements, advocates expansion of cooperative principle to major industries and equalization of profits.

MINOR

- Green Breeze ~~Society~~ <sup>Party:</sup> Diet Membership-Councillors - 77; organized as a society following the April 1947 elections, ~~recently~~ <sup>December 9, 1947;</sup> registered as a political party; no specific platforms announced ~~XXX~~, <sup>dominant force</sup> in the House of Councillors <sup>through its independent status</sup>.
- Social Renovation Party: Diet Membership-Representatives - 20; Formed by seceders from Social Democrat party right wing.
- New Liberal Party: Diet Membership-Representatives - 11; Formed by seceders from Democratic Liberal party (then Liberal).
- 1st Diet Members Club: Diet Membership-Representatives - 10; Bargaining group; no specific platforms announced.
- Farmer-Labor Party: Diet Membership-Representatives - 9; Formed by seceders from Social Democrat party left wing.
- Japan Farmers Party: Diet Membership-Representatives - 7; offshoot of People's Cooperative party; advocates farmers' benefits.
- New Government Party: Diet Membership - Councillors - 7; Formed by seceders from Green Breeze Society; members formerly elected as Cooperatives.
- Communist Party: Diet Membership - Representatives - 4; Councillors - 4; Ad-  
vocates <sup>politics and doctrines of U.S.S.R.,</sup> ~~and follows Kremlin-like doctrines~~ although not a member of the Cominform; ~~strongly~~ opposes continuation of the Emperor system in Japan.

PRESS

During the war the government enforced newspaper amalgamations in the interests of thought control and newsprint conservation, but since the surrender the number of newspapers has risen from 55 to about 200, with a total circulation of approximately 17,705,000. The leading newspapers listed below are published in Tokyo unless otherwise noted:

<u>NAME OF PAPER</u>	<u>CIRCULATION</u>	<u>CHARACTER</u>	<u>PROPRIETOR, EDITOR, ETC.</u>
ASAHI SHIMBUN -	3,519,127 (Total)	Japan's leading paper; independent; published in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyushu	Seiji Tobata (Ed.)
MAINICHI SHIMBUN -	3,428,088 (Total)	Asahi's closest competitor; independent; published in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyushu	Toshio Kanda (Ed.)
YOMIURI SHIMBUN -	1,740,732	Independent	Tsuneo Baba (Ed.)
TOKYO SHIMBUN -	502,573	Independent; leading evening paper.	Nobuo Koyama (Ed.)



<u>NAME OF PAPER</u>	<u>CIRCULATION</u>	<u>CHARACTER</u>	<u>PROPRIETOR, EDITOR, ETC.</u>
NIPPON KEIZAI SHIMBUN -	344,671	Leading economic journal	Sadakichi Odajima (Ed.)
JIJI SHIMPO -	266,129	Conservative	Takuzo Itakura (Ed.)
TOKYO MIMPO -	60,300	Leftist	Tooru Shobara (Ed.)
AKAHATA -	115,000	Communist Party organ (Daily except Monday)	Yoshio Shiga (Ed.)
CHUBU NIPPON (Nagoya)	795,082	Independent	Toranosuke Shiboyama (Ed.)
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OSAKA SHIMBUN -	310,060	Independent	Nobuharu Zentoku (Ed.)
HOKKAIDO SHIMBUN - (Sapporo and other Hokkaido editions)	602,599	Independent	Keno Abe (Ed.)

#### NEWS AGENCY

KYODO NEWS AGENCY (118 Dailies - members of Japan Newspaper Assoc.) (Total - 143 sub- scribers; circula- tion over 17,000,000)	Cooperative Press Association. Founded Nov. 1945 to replace Domei News Agency, official organ since 1936.	Masanori Ito (Ch. of Bd.) Yoshisaburo Matsukata (Ed.)
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#### PRESS ASSOCIATION

JAPAN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION (134 members; includes 118 Dailies, 11 B-Class news- papers and 5 News Services)	Corporation of Japanese papers founded Oct 1945	Masanori Ito (Ch. of Bd.)
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Insert I

1945-1948.

MAJOR POLITICAL EVENTS ~~SINCE THE OCCUPATION~~

Japanese Cabinets

Prime Minister	Date Installed
Naruhiko Higashikuni	August 17, 1945
Kijuro Shidehara	October 9, 1945
Shigeru Yoshida	May 22, 1946
Tetsu Katayama	May 24, 1947
Hitoshi Ashida	March 11, 1948
Shigeru Yoshida	October 19, 1948

The Elections of 1946 all caps

~~the first since the Occupation~~

On April 10, 1946 an election for members of the House of Representatives was held in Japan, the first since the Occupation. The Japanese people freely expressing ~~the~~ their popular will, rejected leadership both of the extreme Right and of the extreme Left. More than 27,000,000 people or 73 percent of the entire electorate ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> cast their votes. Japanese women, voting for the first time in Japan, took advantage of their new, democratic rights. Sixty-six percent of eligible women voters ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> cast their ballot. Highlights among the <sup>first</sup> reforms in the election <sup>Laws, enacted</sup> ~~bill, passed since the Occupation~~ by the Diet since the Occupation began were : granting the vote to women; lowering the voting age from 25 <sup>and</sup> to 20; lowering the age of candidates to the Diet from 30 to ~~23~~ 25.

1946 Election Results all caps

<u>Party</u>	<u>House of Representatives</u>
Liberal -----	139
Progressive -----	93
Social Democrat-----	92
Cooperatives -----	14
Independents -----	83
Minor Parties -----	38



Communist -----5

Vacancies ----- 2

---

Total      466



# 2

1947 Election Results

all caps

National

<u>Party</u>	<u>House of Representatives</u>	<u>House of Councillors</u>
Social Democrat -----	143	-----47
Liberal -----	131	----- 37
Democrat-----	121	----- 28
People's Cooperative--	29	----- 9
Independents-----	25	----- 113
Minor parties-----	13	----- 12
Communist -----	4	----- 4
	466	250

having gained highest  
 The Social Democrat party, ~~gaining the highest~~ <sup>was</sup> designated  
 number of seats in the National Diet, ~~designated~~ <sup>was</sup> following the elections of April 1947.  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ to form the Cabinet. Tetsu Katayama,  
 Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the <sup>Social Democrat</sup> party, was  
 elected Premier by the National Diet in May 1947. A Coalition  
 Cabinet was formed May 24, 1947 including the Social Democrat,  
 Democrat and People's Cooperative parties.

OF  
 HIGHLIGHTS RECENT MAJOR POLITICAL EVENTS 1948.

- February 10, 1948- Resignation of ~~the~~ Katayama Cabinet.  
 Precipitated by dissension within the  
 Social Democrat party; Left-Wing faction  
 votes against party policies on the issue  
 of Government Employees' Wages.
- March 11, 1948 - /Coalition Cabinet led by Hitoshi Ashida, Democrat,  
 installed. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Cabinet included  
 Democrat, Social Democrat and People's  
 Cooperative parties. ~~Tri-partite Policy Agreement reached.~~
- March 15, 1948 - Liberal Party reorganizes; enrolls minor  
 groups in parliament; attains the highest  
 number of members ~~of~~ the House of Represent-



atives. Re-named "Democratic Liberal party".

June 15, 1948 - Six Democrat party members of the House of Representatives from party secede to form independent Diet group; protest Socialist policies of the Cabinet.

July 7, 1948 - Ten Left-Wing Social Democrat party members of the Diet secede from the party, following the expulsion of six members of the House of Representatives from the party<sup>xxx</sup> for voting against <sup>Social Democrat</sup> party policies on the National Budget.

~~July 20, 1948 - Kyuichi Tokuda, Secretary-General Japan Communist party injured by bomb thrown by assassin.~~

October <sup>7,</sup> 1948 - ~~Resignation of Ashida Cabinet,~~ <sup>resigns</sup> following indictment of Deputy-Prime Minister Suehiro Nishio, Social Democrat, and <sup>State</sup> ~~former Finance~~ Minister Takeo Kurusu, Democrat<sup>xxxx</sup>, <sup>on charges of having received bribes</sup> in connection with <sup>this</sup> Showa Denko Scandal.

October 19, 1948 - Democratic Liberal Cabinet installed headed by Shigeru Yoshida, former Japan Premier, May 22, 1946-May 24, 1947.



JAPAN

*See change  
to attached.*

Capital: Tokyo  
Area: 147,492 square miles (Japan proper - Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu  
and Hokkaido) Population: Japan proper, ~~70,140,000~~  
(1947 census)

Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers  
GENERAL of the Army DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

The Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers was appointed on August 14, 1945, following unconditional surrender by Japan. The surrender terms included acceptance by Japan of the provisions of the Potsdam Proclamation and provided that from the moment of surrender the authority of the Emperor and of the Japanese Government to rule the state would be subject to the Supreme Commander. The Supreme Commander is the sole executive authority for the Allied Powers in Japan. He is charged, subject to advising and consulting with the Allied Council for Japan, with the implementation of the terms of surrender and of directives expressing the policy decisions of the Far Eastern Commission. In case of disagreement in the Council the decision of the Supreme Commander is controlling on all but the reserved questions mentioned below; if disagreement on any of these questions arises, action is withheld pending clarification by the Commission.

Far Eastern Commission

The Far Eastern Commission, established by the Foreign Ministers at the Moscow meeting in December 1945, was convened in Washington on February 26, 1946. It replaced the Far Eastern Advisory Commission which had been meeting in Washington since October 30, 1945, and had made a fact-finding trip to Tokyo. The Far Eastern Commission is empowered by the Terms of Reference announced in the Moscow Communiqué of December 27, 1945, to formulate the policies, principles and standards in conformity with which the fulfillment by Japan of its obligations under the terms of surrender may be accomplished; and to review directives issued to the Supreme Commander or any action taken by the Supreme Commander involving policy decisions within jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission acts by majority vote which must include the concurring votes of China, the United Kingdom, the USSR and the United States. In accordance with the Terms of Reference the Commission is bound to respect



the control machinery established in Japan by the United States immediately following the surrender, including the chain of command from the United States Government to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. Thus, policy decisions of the Commission are sent to the United States Government which prepares appropriate directives for transmission to the Supreme Commander.

The United States Government may issue interim directives to the Supreme Commander on urgent matters not covered by policies already formulated by the Commission pending action by the Commission and subject to subsequent review by the Commission. Three questions reserved to the Commission and excepted from United States' authority to issue interim directives are those dealing with: 1) fundamental changes in the Japanese constitutional structure; 2) changes in the regime of control as set forth in the surrender terms; and 3) changes in the Japanese Government as a whole.

States members of the Commission and their representatives are as follows: United States -- Major-General Frank R. McCoy, USA (ret.) (Chairman); Australia -- Mr. Norman J. O. Makin; Canada -- Mr. H. H. Wrong; China -- Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo; France -- Mr. Paul E. Naggiar; India -- <sup>Sir Benegal Rama</sup> ~~Mr. M. Asaf~~ <sub>Rau</sub>; Netherlands -- Dr. E. N. van Kleffens; New Zealand -- Sir Carl Berendsen; Philippines -- Brigadier-General Carlos P. Romulo; United Kingdom -- <sup>Sir Olivier</sup> ~~Lord~~ <sub>S. Franks</sub> Inverchapel; the USSR -- Mr. A. S. Panyushkin. The Secretary-General is Mr. Nelson T. Johnson (United States).

Since its inauguration, the Commission has formulated forty-six policy decisions which have been transmitted as directives by the United States Government to the Supreme Commander. These policy decisions include "Basic Post-Surrender Policy for Japan," a statement of general policy governing the conduct of the occupation and basic principles for a new Japanese constitution and the review of the new constitution.

Eight policy decisions, comprising the "interim reparations program," have been approved, designating for removal as reparations certain industrial facilities obviously not required by Japan's peacetime economy. After the final amount of reparations is determined, these reparations will be allocated to each claimant country according to certain percentage shares, still to be determined.



Further policies have been formulated dealing with such matters as the trial and apprehension of war criminals in Japan, the restitution of looted property to original owners, the destruction of Japanese war potential, the sources of Japanese imports and the destination of exports, the food supply for Japan, trade union activity, education, and the safeguarding of aliens and alien property in Japan.

#### Allied Council for Japan

The Moscow Communiqué of December 27, 1945, provided for the establishment, under the chairmanship of the Supreme Commander (or his Deputy), of an Allied Council for Japan with its seat in Tokyo. The Council was convened on April 5, 1946, and meets every two weeks. Its meetings are open to the press.

The Council is an advisory body and has no executive authority. Its functions are to advise and consult with the Supreme Commander as to the method of implementing the terms of surrender and the policies approved by the Far Eastern Commission.

Memberships: Mr. William J. Sebald, Deputy for the Supreme Commander, Chairman, and Member for the United States; General Shang Chen, Member for China; Mr. Patrick Shaw, Member representing jointly the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and India; ~~Major General W. P. Kislenko~~ <sup>Lieutenant General Hezma Derevyanko</sup>, representing the Member for the USSR.

Since its inauguration, the Allied Council for Japan has observed the implementation of Allied policy and its members have advised the Supreme Commander accordingly. The Council's discussions have included discussions of the progress in Japan of such matters as: rural land reform, demobilization of the Japanese officers corps, the liquidation of the zaibatsu, educational reform, police reform, fishing areas, repatriation, the control of Japanese imports and exports, the indemnification by the Japanese Government of war industries devastated by Allied bombing, the nationalization of coal mines, the purge of Japanese reactionaries and militarists, the stabilization of wages and prices, public health, the reopening of private trade with Japan.

Monarch  
EMPEROR HIROHITO

Born in 1901; ascended throne December 25, 1945.



JAPAN

Cabinet

Coalition

Installed March 11, 1948

Resigned October 7, 1948

Premier

Hitoshi Ashida (Democrat)

Parliament

(KOKKAI)

House of Representatives  
(Shugi - in)

Speaker: Komakichi Matsuoka  
(Social Democrat)

House of Councillors  
(Sangi - in)

President: Tsuneo Matsudaira  
(Independent)

Parties

Democratic Liberal (Former Liberal)-----	151
Social Democrat-----	112
Democrat-----	90
People's Cooperative-----	30
Social Renovation-----	20
New Liberal-----	11
1st Diet Members Club (Daichi Giin Club)-----	10
Farmer-Labor-----	9
Japan Farmers-----	7
Communist-----	4
Neutral-----	4
Vacancies-----	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>466</b>

Parties

Green Breeze (Ryokufukai)-----	77
Democratic Liberal-----	47
Democrat-----	45
Social Democrat-----	40
Independent Club-----	19
New Government (Shinsei Club)-----	7
Neutrals-----	5
Communists-----	4
Vacancies-----	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>

The ASHIDA Cabinet  
(Coalition)

Members of the Cabinet: Hitoshi Ashida, Prime Minister (Democrat); Hitoshi Ashida, Minister of Foreign Affairs (concurrently); Tokitaro Kitamura, Minister of Finance (Democrat); Yoshio Suzuki, Attorney General (Social Democrat); Tatsuo Morito, Minister of Education (Social Democrat); Giichi Takeda, Minister of Welfare (Democrat); Kazuo Nagae, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (Social Democrat); Chosaburo Mizutani, Minister of Commerce and Industry (Social Democrat); Ryoze Kato, Minister of Labor (Social Democrat); Seiichi Okada, Minister of Transportation (Peoples' Cooperative); Eiji Tomiyoshi, Minister of Communications (Social Democrat); Takeo Kurusu, Minister without Portfolio (Democrat); Suehiro Nishio, Minister without



Portfolio (Social Democrat); Kyoji Funada, Minister without Portfolio (Peoples' Cooperative); Sadakichi Hitotsumatsu, Minister without Portfolio (Democrat); Masaru Homizo, Minister without Portfolio (Social Democrat); Gizo Tomabechi, Minister without Portfolio (Democrat).

#### THE CONSTITUTION

A new constitution which became the supreme law of Japan on May 3, 1947, was promulgated on November 3, 1946. This instrument provides for drastic changes in Japan's political system. Sovereign power now resides in the people. The Emperor is deprived of his supreme authority and retains only ceremonial functions. War and the threat or use of force are forever renounced as sovereign rights of the nation. Peers and peerage are specifically abolished. The Diet, consisting of a House of Representatives and House of Councillors, becomes the sole law-making authority with ultimate power residing in the House of Representatives. The decision of the House of Representatives prevails in the election of the Prime Minister, the Budget and all matters pertaining to Diet sessions. A bill passed by the House of Representatives and rejected by the House of Councillors will become law if passed again by the lower house by a two-thirds majority. The House of Councillors replaces the former House of Peers in the Diet. Consisting of two hundred fifty members, Councillors are elected for six-year terms. Members of the House of Representatives are popularly elected and serve for four years. Total membership of the House of Representatives is four hundred sixty six. Executive power is vested in a Cabinet, headed by a Prime Minister and collectively responsible to the Diet. The Prime Minister and a majority of the Cabinet members must be chosen from among members of the Diet. All Cabinet members must be civilians and will serve at the pleasure of the Prime Minister. On a vote of non-confidence by the Diet the Cabinet must resign. Judicial power is vested in a Supreme Court and in inferior courts. The appointment of Supreme Court judges will be reviewed by the people at ten-year intervals in the general elections. State finances are administered by the Diet, which has sole power to levy taxes and make appropriations; all property of the Imperial Household becomes the property of the State. Local self government is guaranteed. A bill of rights contains such basic guarantees as universal adult suffrage, secret ballot, freedom of thought, religion and assembly, right of peaceful petition, impartial public trials and due process of law; it also provides for compulsory education, the right to minimum standards of living, and nondiscrimination



on the basis of social status, sex, race, or religion. Amendments to the Constitution must be initiated by a two-thirds majority of all members of each House of the Diet and must be ratified by a majority vote of the people participating in a subsequent referendum.

#### THE ELECTIONS OF 1947

In anticipation of the entry into force of the new constitution on May 3, 1947, local and national elections, the second since the occupation, were held during April under modified legislation which permitted universal suffrage and the selection of more officials than had previously been possible in Japan. New election laws permitted the electorate to vote for members of the House of Councillors and for local executives. In the past the upper house consisted of appointed nobility while local executives were designated by the central government. Approximately seventy percent of the eligible voters participated at the polls. The elections were characterized by a general disregard for party lines and a tendency to vote for the candidate appearing most suitable to the individual voter.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES

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Masanori Ito  
(Ch. of Bd.)  
Yoshisaburo Matsukata  
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Masanori Ito  
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Memberships: Mr. William J. Sebald, Deputy for the Supreme Commander, Chairman, and Member for the United States; General Shang Chen, Member for China; Mr. Patrick Shaw, Member representing jointly the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and India; *Lieutenant General Kuzma Deravynko* ~~Major General N. P. Kislenko~~, representing the Member for the USSR.

Since its inauguration, the Allied Council for Japan has observed the implementation of Allied policy and its members have advised the Supreme Commander accordingly. The Council's discussions have included discussions of the progress in Japan of such matters as: rural land reform, demobilization of the Japanese officers corps, the liquidation of the zaibatsu, educational reform, police reform, fishing areas, repatriation, the control of Japanese imports and exports, the indemnification by the Japanese Government of war industries devastated by Allied bombing, the nationalization of coal mines, the purge of Japanese reactionaries and militarists, the stabilization of wages and prices, public health, the reopening of private trade with Japan.

#### Monarch EMPEROR HIROHITO

Born in 1901; ascended throne December 25, 1946.



JAPAN

Cabinet

Coalition

Installed March 11, 1948  
Resigned October 7, 1948

Premier

Hitoshi Ashida (Democrat)  
Parliament  
(KOKKAI)

House of Representatives  
(Shugi - in)

Speaker: Komakichi Hatsuoka  
(Social Democrat)

House of Councillors  
(Sangi - in)

President: Tsuneo Matsudaira  
(Independent)

Parties

Democratic Liberal (Former Liberal)-----	151
Social Democrat-----	112
Democrat-----	90
People's Cooperative-----	30
Social Renovation-----	20
New Liberal-----	11
1st Dist Members Club (Daiichi Giin Club)-----	10
Farmer-Labor-----	9
Japan Farmers-----	7
Communist-----	4
Neutral-----	4
Vacancies-----	18
Total	466

Parties

Green Breeze (Ryokufukai)-----	77
Democratic Liberal-----	47
Democrat-----	45
Social Democrat-----	40
Independent Club-----	19
New Government (Shinsei Club)-----	7
Neutrals-----	5
Communists-----	4
Vacancies-----	6
Total	250

The ASHIDA Cabinet  
(Coalition)

Members of the Cabinet: Hitoshi Ashida, Prime Minister (Democrat); Hitoshi Ashida, Minister of Foreign Affairs (concurrently); Tokitaro Kitamura, Minister of Finance (Democrat); Yoshio Suzuki, Attorney General (Social Democrat); Tatsuo Morito, Minister of Education (Social Democrat); Gichi Takeda, Minister of Welfare (Democrat); Kazuo Nagae, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (Social Democrat); Chosaburo Mizutani, Minister of Commerce and Industry (Social Democrat); Ryozo Kato, Minister of Labor (Social Democrat); Seiichi Okada, Minister of Transportation (Peoples' Cooperative); Eiji Tomiyoshi, Minister of Communications (Social Democrat); Takeo Kurusu, Minister without Portfolio (Democrat); Suehiro Nishio, Minister with



Portfolio (Social Democrat); Kyoji Funada, Minister without Portfolio (Peoples' Cooperative); Sadakichi Hitotsumatsu, Minister without Portfolio (Democrat); Masaru Homiso, Minister without Portfolio (Social Democrat); Giso Tomabechi, Minister without Portfolio (Democrat).

#### THE CONSTITUTION

A new constitution which became the supreme law of Japan on May 3, 1947, was promulgated on November 3, 1946. This instrument provides for drastic changes in Japan's political system. Sovereign power now resides in the people. The Emperor is deprived of his supreme authority and retains only ceremonial functions. War and the threat or use of force are forever renounced as sovereign rights of the nation. Peers and peerage are specifically abolished. The Diet, consisting of a House of Representatives and House of Councillors, becomes the sole law-making authority with ultimate power residing in the House of Representatives. The decision of the House of Representatives prevails in the election of the Prime Minister, the Budget and all matters pertaining to Diet sessions. A bill passed by the House of Representatives and rejected by the House of Councillors will become law if passed again by the lower house by a two-thirds majority. The House of Councillors replaces the former House of Peers in the Diet. Consisting of two hundred fifty members, Councillors are elected for six-year terms. Members of the House of Representatives are popularly elected and serve for four years. Total membership of the House of Representatives is four hundred sixty six. Executive power is vested in a Cabinet, headed by a Prime Minister and collectively responsible to the Diet. The Prime Minister and a majority of the Cabinet members must be chosen from among members of the Diet. All Cabinet members must be civilians and will serve at the pleasure of the Prime Minister. On a vote of non-confidence by the Diet the Cabinet must resign. Judicial power is vested in a Supreme Court and in inferior courts. The appointment of Supreme Court judges will be reviewed by the people at ten-year intervals in the general elections. State finances are administered by the Diet, which has sole power to levy taxes and make appropriations; all property of the Imperial Household becomes the property of the State. Local self government is guaranteed. A bill of rights contains such basic guarantees as universal adult suffrage, secret ballot, freedom of thought, religion and assembly, right of peaceful petition, impartial public trials and due process of law; it also provides for compulsory education, the right to minimum standards of living, and nondiscriminat



n the basis of social status, sex, race, or religion. Amendments to the Constitution must be initiated by a two-thirds majority of all members of each House of the Diet and must be ratified by a majority vote of the people participating in a subsequent referendum.

#### THE ELECTIONS OF 1947

In anticipation of the entry into force of the new constitution on May 3, 1947, local and national elections, the second since the occupation, were held during April under modified legislation which permitted universal suffrage and the selection of more officials than had previously been possible in Japan. New election laws permitted the electorate to vote for members of the House of Councillors and for local executives. In the past the upper house consisted of appointed nobility while local executives were designated by the central government. Approximately seventy percent of the eligible voters participated at the polls. The elections were characterized by a general disregard for party lines and a tendency to vote for the candidate appearing most suitable to the individual voter.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES

##### MAJOR

**Democratic Liberal Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives-151; Councillors - 47;  
Successor to Liberal party, renamed March 15, 1948. Major support from business and financial circles, regards suppression of Communism as major objective, advocates gradual return to free enterprise.

**Social Democrat Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives - 112; Councillors - 40;  
Dominated by pre-war farmer labor and post-war labor elements, advocates nationalization of key industries and taxation as basis for recovery; while advocating Socialism in its platforms the party has not adhered to these policies.

**Democrat Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives - 90; Councillors - 45;  
Successor to Progressive party of 1946 elections, renamed March 31, 1947, advocates strict economic controls but not nationalization, seeks early peace treaty and intensified foreign trade as basis for recovery; advocates middle-of-the-road policies.

**People's Cooperative Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives - 30; Councillors - 7;  
Claims major support from farmers and agriculture produce



marketing elements, advocates expansion of cooperative principle to major industries and equalization of profits.

MINOR

- Green Breeze Society:** Diet Membership-Councillors - 77; organized as a society following the April 1947 elections, recently registered as a political party; no specific platforms announced.
- Social Renovation Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives - 20; Formed by seceders from Social Democrat party right wing.
- New Liberal Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives - 11; Formed by seceders from Democratic Liberal party (then Liberal).
- 1st Diet Members Club:** Diet Membership-Representatives - 10; Bargaining group; no specific platforms announced.
- Farmer-Labor Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives - 9; Formed by seceders from Social Democrat party left wing.
- Japan Farmers Party:** Diet Membership-Representatives - 7; offshoot of People's Cooperative party; advocates farmers' benefits.
- New Government Party:** Diet Membership - Councillors - 7; Formed by seceders from Green Breeze Society; members formerly elected as cooperatives.
- Communist Party:** Diet Membership - Representatives - 4; Councillors - 4; Advocates and follows Kremlin-like doctrines although not a member of the Cominform; strongly opposes continuation of the Emperor system in Japan.

PRESS

During the war the government enforced newspaper amalgamations in the interests of thought control and newsprint conservation, but since the surrender the number of newspapers has risen from 55 to about 200, with a total circulation of approximately 17,705,000. The leading newspapers listed below are published in Tokyo unless otherwise noted:

<u>NAME OF PAPER</u>	<u>CIRCULATION</u>	<u>CHARACTER</u>	<u>PROPRIETOR, EDITOR, ETC.</u>
ASAHI SHIMBUN -	3,519,127	Japan's leading paper; independent; published in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyushu	Seiji Tobata (Ed.)
MAINICHI SHIMBUN -	3,428,088	Asahi's closest competitor; independent; published in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyushu	Toshio Kanda (Ed.)
YOMIURI SHIMBUN -	1,740,732	Independent	Tsunao Baba (Ed.)
TOKYO SHIMBUN -	502,573	Independent; leading evening paper.	Nobuo Koyi



<u>NAME OF PAPER</u>	<u>CIRCULATION</u>	<u>CHARACTER</u>	<u>PROPRIETOR, EDITOR, ETC.</u>
NIPPON KINZAI SHIMBUN -	344,671	Leading economic journal	Sadakichi Odajima (Ed.)
JIJI SHIMPO -	266,129	Conservative	Takuzo Itakura (Ed.)
TOKYO NIMPO -	60,300	Leftist	Tooru Shodara (Ed.)
AKAHATA -	115,000	Communist Party organ (Daily except Monday)	Yoshio Shiga (Ed.)
CHUBU NIPPON (Nagoya)	795,082	Independent	Teranosuke Shiboyama (Ed.)
NISHI NIPPON SHIMBUN - (Fukuoka)	524,864	Independent	Saburo Tomiyasu (Ed.)
OSAKA SHIMBUN -	310,060	Independent	Nobuharu Zentoku (Ed.)
HOKKAIDO SHIMBUN - (Sapporo and other Hokkaido editions)	602,599	Independent	Keno Abe (Ed.)

#### NEWS AGENCY

<b>KYODO NEWS AGENCY</b> (118 Dailies - members of Japan Newspaper Assoc.) (Total - 143 sub- scribers; circula- tion over 17,000,000)	Cooperative Press Association. Founded Nov. 1945 to replace Domei News Agency, official organ since 1936.	Masanori Ito (Ch. of Bd.) Yoshisaburo Matsukata (Ed.)
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#### PRESS ASSOCIATION

<b>JAPAN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION</b> (134 members; includes 118 Dailies, 11 B-Class news- papers and 5 News Services)	Corperation of Japanese papers founded Oct 1945	Masanori Ito (Ch. of Bd.)
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