

Summary

1. Introduction

Introduces major transformations in Japanese politics over recent decades.

Focuses on changes in relationships between citizens and political elites, emphasizing representation and accountability.

2. Citizens and Elites in the Construction of the LDP System

Historical analysis of the **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) dominated system.

Explores the role of elites and citizens in shaping postwar political institutions.

3. Party and Voter Dealignment: The LDP System Disintegrates

Examines the decline of traditional voter loyalty to the LDP.

Factors include political scandals, corruption, and shifting voter values.

4. Changing Media, Changing Politics

Investigates the growing role of media (TV, newspapers) in politics.

Politicians increasingly rely on media to mobilize support, changing political styles and communication.

5. Citizens and the Prime Minister

Explores the relationship between citizens and the Prime Minister, highlighting the importance of leader popularity.

Discusses how politicians construct public images to gain legitimacy.

6. Representation and Policymaking under LDP Administrations

Examines how policymaking occurred under LDP dominance post-1955.

Looks at policy continuity and change, including “policy entrepreneurs” like Koizumi.

7. Voters and the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)

History and development of the **DPJ****, the main opposition party that later became a significant political force.**

Focus on DPJ strategies to attract voters and its ideological positioning.

8. Afterword: Where to Now?

Reflections on the future of Japanese politics.

Discusses challenges of representation and accountability in an era of active, informed citizens.

Appendices

Appendix A: The National Diet institutional overview.

Appendix B: ASSK Survey Questions and Coding methodological details.

Appendix C: Japan Election Study II data and coding of election studies.

References & Index