



EAJRS 2023: Adapting to Changing Trends in Japanese Studies

# Re-envisioning Constitutional Revision in Japan

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# Change is the Only Constant

- Changes in technology
- Changes within academia
- Changes within libraries
- Changes within Japan



# Constitutional Revision in Japan

2005-2023



# Harvard's Web Archive Collections Service - WAX



Harvard's Web Archive Collection Service (WAX) is part of the University Library's central infrastructure for the capture, management, storage, and display of web sites for long-term archiving. [More About WAX](#)



## BROWSE COLLECTIONS



H-Sites: Harvard Life and Learning  
Harvard University Archives, Harvard University Library



SL Sites: Archived Websites from Schlesinger Library Collections  
Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study



Capturing Women's Voices on the Web  
Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study



Constitutional Revision in Japan Research Project/憲法改正論議に関する研究  
Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University



A-Sites: Archived Harvard Web Sites  
Harvard University Archives, Harvard University Library



## SEARCH COLLECTIONS

Full text search of archived web sites:

- H-Sites: Harvard Life and Learning
- SL Sites: Archived Websites from Schlesinger Library Collections
- Capturing Women's Voices on the Web
- Constitutional Revision in Japan Research Project/憲法改正論議に関する研究
- A-Sites: Archived Harvard Web Sites

Search



# 3 Web Archiving Platforms

- Teleport: 2005 - 2007
- Harvard's WAX: 2007 - 2016
- Archive It: 2017 - 2019

# Scope of Web Archiving



- Business Groups
- Government Organizations
- Labor Groups
- Legal Organizations
- Mass Media
- National Citizens' Groups
- Political Parties and Individual Politicians
- Religious Groups
- Research Institutes and Intellectuals
- Student Groups
- Veterans Groups
- Women's Groups



# The Issues Included in the Debates

- Can a female be emperor?
- The emperor's abdication of the throne
- Various rights and duties of citizens
- The structure of government
- Gender equality in marriage
- Freedom of religion
- And more

# Challenges



- Increasing cost and scope of web archiving
- Loss of bilingual metadata with migration
- Poor search functionality for Japanese
- Teleport data was unusable





# Constitutional Revision in Japan

<https://www.crjapan.org>

# Fundamentals



- Technology

Built on Drupal and React

Sustainable and simple to scale

- User Needs

Bilingual Focus – Japanese with English translations

Array of Scholars

Student instruction

# Library Evolution



# Knowledge Collection



# Knowledge Curation

# Chapters



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The **Constitutional Revision Research Project** seeks to follow, analyze, and document constitutional discussion in Japan.

Mainichi Shimbun

**Nihon Koku Kenpō | The Constitution of Japan**

The Constitution of Japan (also known as the Postwar Constitution) went into effect in 1947, replacing the Meiji Constitution of 1890. It is recognized as the oldest unamended constitution in the world as of 2022, having never undergone revision in over 70 years since its promulgation. Throughout this time, constitutional revision has become an important subject of vigorous debate and discussion in Japan and around the world.\*

[Explore The Constitution Of Japan >](#)

FEATURED NEWS



← → ↻ [crjapan.org/voices/liberal-democratic-party-ldp](https://crjapan.org/voices/liberal-democratic-party-ldp) Update

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## Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

**Jiyū-Minshutō**

(1955-)

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is a conservative party formed in 1955, merging two parties which were then called the Liberal Party (自由党, since 1950) and the Japan Democratic Party (日本民主党, since 1954), in their efforts against the party then called the Japan Socialist Party (日本社会党, 1945-1996), which had recently overcome internal factional conflict. From 1955 to 1993-1994, a period known as the 1955 System, the LDP continuously held a majority in the Diet; the JSP kept at least one third of the Diet seats, with which they prevented the LDP from revising the constitution.

The LDP published a full constitutional draft in 2012, when it was out of power due to the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) gaining a majority of Diet seats in the general election of the House of Representatives in 2009. The LDP took control back at the end of 2012, and the second Abe Cabinet was established. This Abe administration (2012-2020) pushed constitutional revision under the political slogan, "escape from the postwar regime".

In 2018, the LDP narrowed down its full draft to four points: (1) specification of the Self-Defense Forces' status, (2) creation of an emergency powers clause, (3) cancellation of "combined districts" of the House of Councillors elections, and (4) enhancement of the education system. The LDP provides information to the public online about the party, its history, and its constitution, as well as news about their political activities, press conferences, and initiatives and projects.

**Liberal Democratic Constitutional Reform Promotion Headquarters, LDP (2009-)**

RELATED DRAFTS

- [View \(2012\) Full Draft](#)
- [View \(2005\) Full Draft](#)
- [View \(2005\) Full Draft](#)

EXTERNAL LINKS

- [Current Website](#)
- [Archived Website](#)
- [Reform Promotion Headquarters \(Current\)](#)
- [Reform Promotion Headquarters \(Archive\)](#)
- [Kenpō Chōsakai \(Archive\)](#)

RELATED VOICES

- [ABE Shinzō](#)
- [AICHI Kazuo](#)
- [FUNADA Hajime](#)
- [HATOYAMA Yukio](#)
- [ISHIHARA Hirotaka](#)
- [ISHIHARA Shintarō](#)
- [IWAI Kuniomi](#)
- [NAKAYAMA Tarō](#)

# Drafts



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# Compare Drafts



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# Interactive Constitution of Japan



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# Compare Articles



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# Meiji Constitution



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### 第1条

大日本帝國八萬世一系ノ天皇之ヲ統治ス

### 第2条

皇位ハ皇室典範ノ定ムル所ニ依リ皇男子孫之ヲ繼承ス

### 第3条

#### 関連する草案

[松本丞治 \(私案\)](#) : [松本丞治 \(甲案\)](#) (1946) [松本丞治 \(乙案\)](#) (1946)

### 第5条

天皇ハ帝國議會ノ協賛ヲ以テ立法權ヲ行フ

# Outcomes



- Better prepared for the future
- Greater awareness of capacity and limits
- Ready for the next challenge



# Thank You!

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