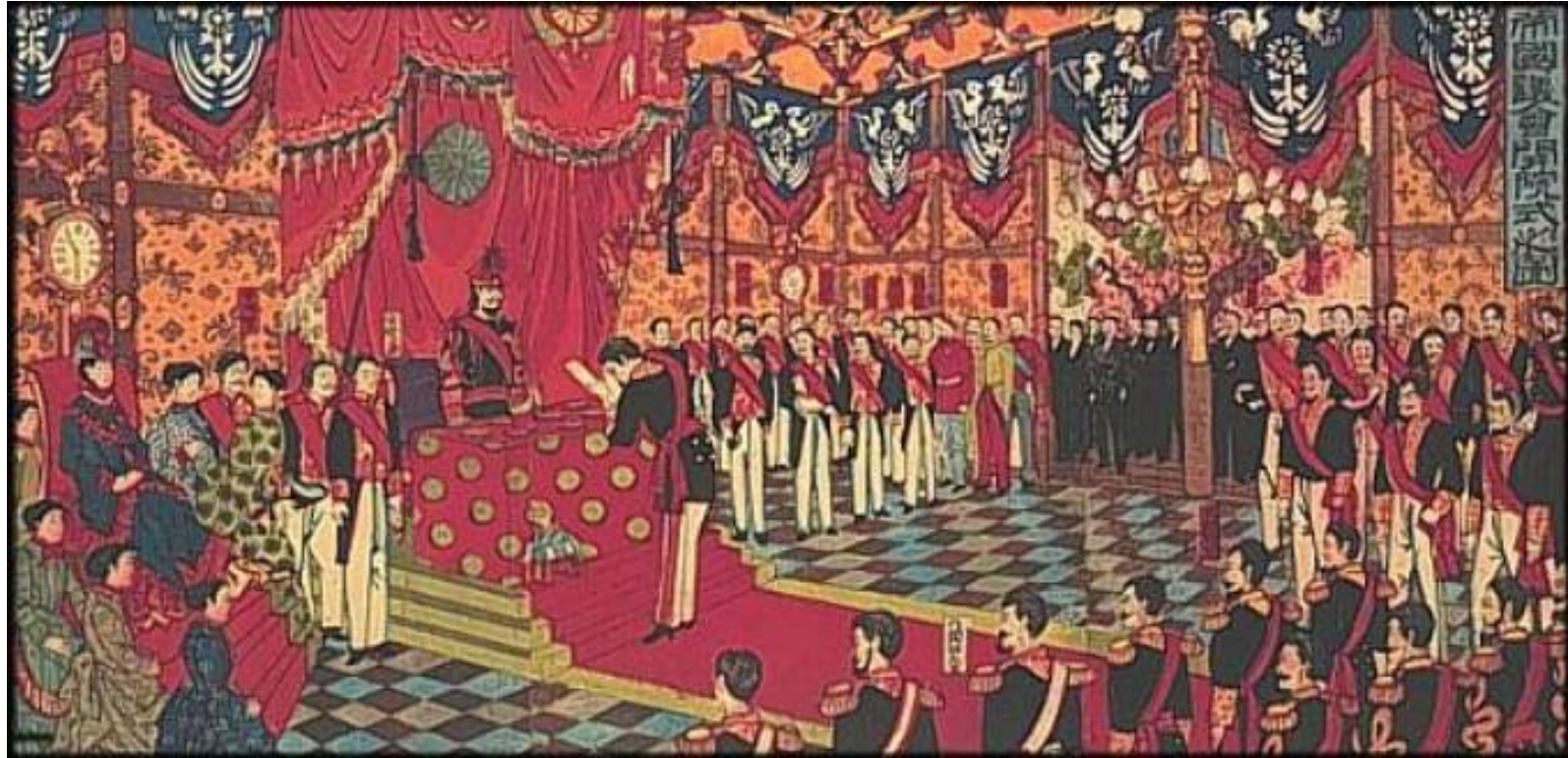


Week 10 – Japan's Politics and Int. Relations



Meiji Restoration



Meiji Restoration

- After the opening of Japan in 1853, Japan begins to re-access its place in the world
- New ideologies begin to reinterpret how Japan should shape its future
- The ideologies begin to create pro-Imperial positions that begin to call for the restoration of the Emperor to power
- Tokugawa Bakufu attempts to counter these groups using suppressive tactics

Iwakura Mission

- Lead by Iwakura Tomomi in 1871
- Was an educational expedition around the world in order to learn from varying civilizations
- Spanned from North America to Europe as the essential nations to learn from and continued on throughout parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia
- Subjects such as technology, philosophy, governing systems, cultural aspect, and other areas were primarily examined



Japanese Constitution - 1890

- Constitutional Monarchy
- Based off the Prusso-German model
- Emperor wields tremendous power based on this constitution
- American, British, French and other European Constitutions were dismissed for multiple reasons, but why did Germany's constitution fit Japan's needs?



Taisho period and On

- Universal male suffrage was granted in 1925 during the Taisho Democracy Period
- However women were only given the right to vote after the war under the American established Japanese Constitution
- The voting age was also dropped from 25 to 20 which it remained until 2016. It is now 18
- The House of Representatives were not as powerful either until 1945

American-Japanese Constitution

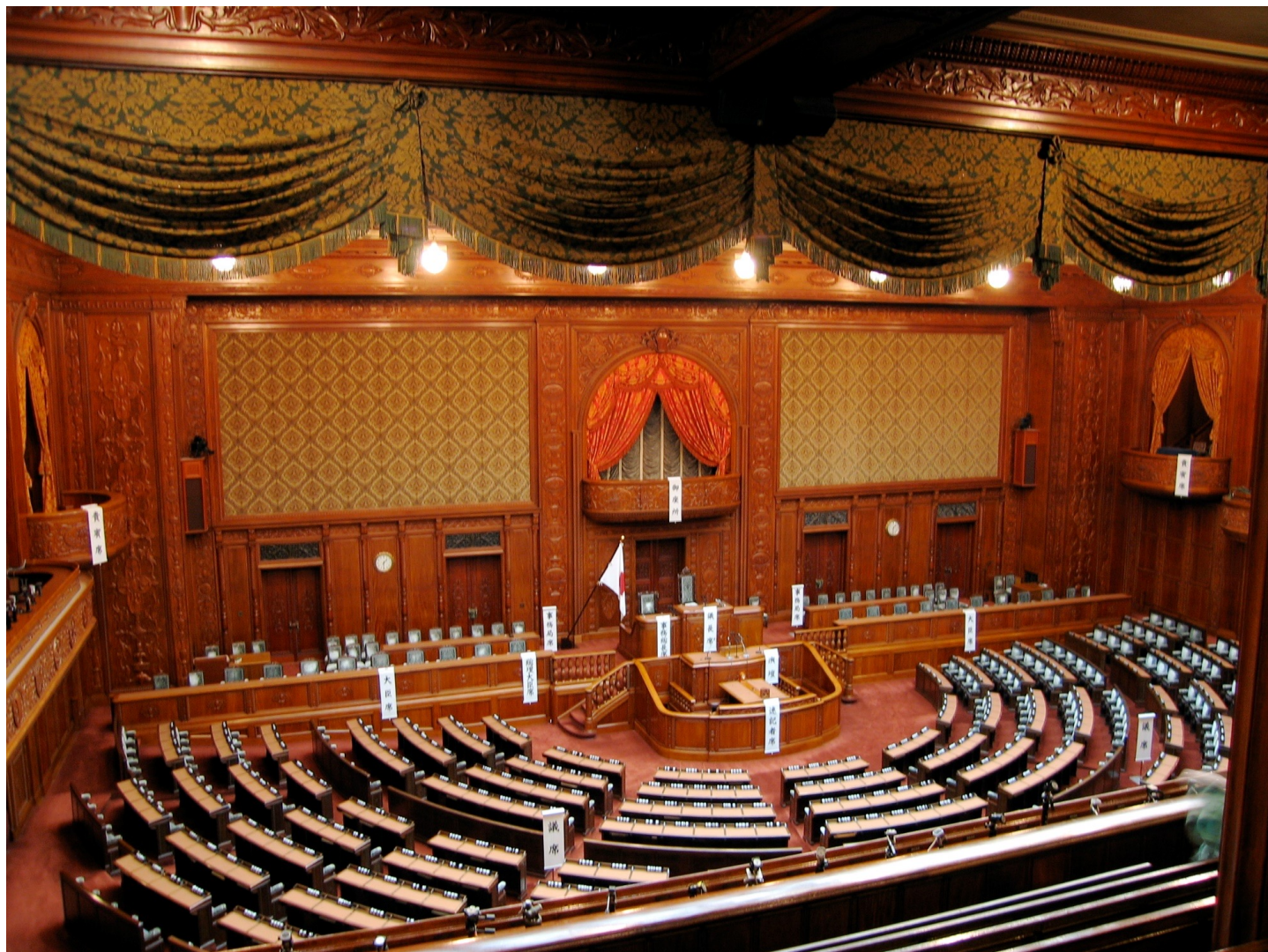
- Signed in 1947
- Written in English and primarily constructed by Americans that revised the proposed Japanese version
- Took power away from the Emperor and rested it within the elected officials of the Japanese Diet

Japan as a Constitutional Monarchy

- Power rests in the hands of the Diet
- Emperor becomes the symbol of the state, but has no power
- The Emperor is relegated primarily to ceremonial purposes and opening parliament sessions

Government Body

- Comprised of 3 branches: Legislative, Administrative, and Judiciary
- Legislative deals with legislation, Administrative deals with running daily bureaucratic affairs and civil services, and the Judiciary branch deals with law



Legislative

- Power of legislative authority within the Japanese parliament
- Proposes legislation that is expected to pass through both houses and the cabinet
- Comprised of multiple parties with single seat representation and regional representation

House of Representatives

衆議院, *Shūgiin*

- There are 465 elected members of the House of Representatives
- Generally elected for a 4-year term
- Have to be over 25 years of age
- House of Representatives holds authority over the House of Councillors

House of Councillors

参議院, *Sangiin*

- There are 245 elected members of the House of Councillors
- Each member is elected for a 6-year term
- Have to be 30 years of age or older to run for office
- House of Councillors cannot be dissolved by the PM

Cabinet/Administrative Branch

- Holds administrative power over the Japanese government
- Body of ministers brought on by the prime minister and his elected party
- Are ultimately responsible to the Diet, however, cabinet ministers are supported by a strong bureaucracy of civil servants and administrators

Prime Minister

- Japanese Diet ultimately elects the Prime Minister to power, not the people
- Japanese citizenry openly elect the party to power, then the Diet assumes responsibility over who is best suited to run the country
- Prime Minister holds ultimate signing power over legislation and government actions
- Average turnover rate is about 2 years

Judiciary



Judiciary Branch

- Judiciary action is authorized and run through the Japanese Supreme Court
- Any legal action that surrounds constitutionality of Japan's laws has to go through the Supreme Court
- At the same time, the Supreme Court will act on undecided cases where Japan's laws or constitutionality blur the case
- Judiciary is independent from the Legislative and Administrative branches of government

Japan's Parties and campaigning

- Candidates are prohibited from giving house calls, leaflets, and massive sign advertisements
- Why might this be?
- Many politicians run off name recognition rather than platforms
- Big Trucks and megaphones
- Local elections can sometimes generate more support than federal

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

- One of the longest standing parties of Japan and has primarily run Japan since the end of World War II
- Combined parties of the Japanese Liberal Party and the Japanese Democratic Party to form the LDP
- Seen traditionally as the conservative party, however, it is highly factionalized

Nakasone, Hashimoto, Koizumi, Abe



Suga Yoshihide



Kishida Fumio



LDP Con't

- Currently, Suga Yoshihide succeeded Abe Shinzo as the Prime Minister of the LDP and holds the majority of seats in the House of Representatives
- Abe a very controversial figure as he is a staunch conservative and a descendent of Kishii Nobusuke
- The reason for the LDP's conservatism stems from the 1955 System when the Liberal Party fused with the Democratic Party solidifying a party majority over politics

(Former) Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)

- Generally was seen as the progressive party of Japan
- Generally has been unsuccessful in attaining long terms in office
- Saw success in 2009 when it won majority in both Houses
- This was the only time the LDP lost the most amount of seats in the Houses
- Only other time the LDP lost a stronghold over politics was in 1993 when the Japanese Socialist Party created a majority coalition that overtook the LDP's majority

Hatoyama, Kan, Noda



DPJ Con't

- Fell out of power in 2011
- Primarily lost support based on a continuing weak economy, political scandals, and mostly the handling of the Fukushima and Tsunami disasters
- Have not been able to get their support back
- Party was disbanded in 2016

Political Candidates

- Factions is a serious problem in Japanese politics
- It is better for up and coming politicians to make friends with older more established politicians with interest groups than to stand for something
- This creates a strong loyalty behind the interest groups and the politicians that side with a strong politic

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_Vt2DTzN6M

Who votes for Who

- Rural?
- Urban?
- Interest groups?