

The 2003 Japanese General Election

The Japanese 43rd general election on November 9, 2003 resulted in the confirmation of current Japanese political structure change since the end of the Cold War in East Asia region in 1989. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) won 237 seats. The New Conservative Party (NCP) won only four seats, a decrease of five seats. On the day following the election, the NCP decided to dissolve the party and merge with the LDP. Consequently, with NCP's four seats and several recognized "independent" elected members (who could not obtain LDP's formal recognition during the election), the LDP regains a majority of seats in the House of Representatives. With LDP's governing alliance Komeito's 34 seats, Koizumi will run Japan for another term.

The biggest winner is the Democratic Party of Japan (DP), which increased its seats by 40, attaining 177 seats. In the proportional-representation constituencies, the DP even defeated the LDP by three seats and became Japan's biggest party with 22.1 million votes. The mainstream Japanese media (which participated to manipulating this election) welcomes the establishment of a so-called "two-party" system in Japan.

While, as shown in the American politics, two-party system is actually one-party system (and one-party system is actually no-party dictatorship), the case of Japan is particular in this time.

There is no need to point out that there is no politically significant difference between the LDP and the DP. In fact, the DP ruling circle are from both the left (Kan) and right (Ozawa) wings of the LDP. The purpose of the ruling class to create a "LDP vs. LDP Jr." bogus two-party system is to eliminate the opposition and they succeeded. It is not a surprise to watch the decline and collapse of the Socialist/Social Democratic Party (6 seats, from previous 18 seats) and the Communist Party (9 seats, from previous 20 seats) because they helped dig the grave to bury themselves. When Doi Takako was witnessing the Japanese Congress returning to its war-time politics, she herself sat in the chair of the Speaker of the Congress, and her socialist comrade Murayama sat in the chair of the Japanese Premiership! This time Doi lost her decades-long seat in her district and had to resign from her "Head" position of her party.

The Japanese people know this game well. More than 40% people did not waste their time to go to vote. In every prefecture, the voting rate is lower than in last election, and in 22 prefectures, the rate is the lowest since 1945. In general, the voting rate is the second lowest since the end of the war. The relatively democratic Japanese post-war multi-party politics, which guided Japan's economic success and helped to maintain a peaceful East Asia under its peace constitution, is dead.

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