



Political System of Japan

Geography of Japan

- Location: Eastern Asia, an island chain between the North Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan, east of the Korean Peninsula
- Area - includes Bonin Islands (Ogasawara-gunto), Daito-shoto, Minami-jima, Okino-tori-shima, Ryukyu Islands (Nansei-shoto), and Volcano Islands (Kazan-retto):
 - Total: 377,915 sq km
 - Country comparison to the world: 62
 - Land: 364,485 sq km



Japan: Physical map and Tokyo



Introducing Japan's political system

- The Japanese political system is carried out in a structure of a parliamentary representative democratic monarchy in which the PM heads the government and the head of the Cabinet that supervises the executive branch.
- Legislative power is vested in the Diet, which comprises the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors.
- Japan's politics encompasses the system of multiple parties.
- The judicial authority is vested in the Supreme Court and lower courts.
- In scholarly reviews, Japan is by and large regarded as a constitutional monarchy with a structure of civil law.
- Japan's constitution identifies the emperor as "the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people."
- He/she exercises official responsibilities and does not hold real power, much less reserve powers.
- Political power is held largely by the PM and other elected officials of the Diet.
- The Imperial Throne is succeeded by an official of the Imperial House of Japan as designated by the law.



Introducing Japan's political system – cont.

- The PM, who is the executive branch's leader, is nominated by the Emperor as directed by the Diet.
- He/she must be an affiliate of either house of the Diet and a resident.
- The Cabinet members are appointed by the PM; they must likewise be residents.
- Since the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has ruled Japan, it has been tradition that the leader of that party serves as PM.
- The Cabinet is grouped of the PM and ministers of state, and is liable to the Diet.
- The PM has the authority to nominate and dismiss the ministers, of whom a majority must be affiliates of the Diet.

Government of Japan

- Capital (and largest city): Tokyo
- Official languages: None
- National language: Japanese
- Demonym: Japanese
- Government: Unitary parliamentary democracy under constitutional monarchy
- Emperor: Akihito
- Prime Minister: Shinzō Abe
- Legislature: National Diet



Japan's political system: Emperor

- The **Emperor of Japan** is the formal monarch in the Japanese constitutional monarchy and leads the Japanese Imperial Family.
- According to the 1947 constitution, which suspended the Empire of Japan, he/she is “the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people.”
- Emperor Akihito is the current emperor.
- According to the constitution's articles 6 and 7, the emperor has the following nominal powers:
 - to nominate PM as chosen by the Diet.
 - to nominate the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as chosen by the Cabinet.
 - to promulgate constitution, regulations, government orders, and treaties with the guidance and consent of the Cabinet.
 - to convoke the Diet with the guidance and consent of the Cabinet.
 - to dissolve the House of Representatives with the guidance and consent of the Cabinet.



Japan's political system: Legislative Branch

- In Japan's political system, the House of Councillors is the upper house of the Japanese Diet, which comprises 242 affiliates.
- The term of office for the elected officials to the upper house is six years.
- The House of Representatives, the lower house, is the more powerful house in the Diet with 480 affiliates; the term of office for this house is restricted to four years.
- Japanese citizens, who have attained the age of 20, may partake in the election procedure on account of widespread adult franchise.
- The minimum age of election to the House of Representatives is 25; the minimum age of election to the House of Councillors is 30.

Japan's political system: Executive Branch

- As head of the Cabinet, PMs lead the executive branch.
- The PM is named by the Emperor of Japan after he/she is elected by the Diet affiliates.
- In order to remain in this post, the PM is required to have the confidence from the House of Representatives.
- He/she names and discharge the Ministers of State; the exact translation of the Japanese name for the post of PM is the **Minister for the General Affairs**



Japan's political system: Judicial Branch

- In Japan, the judiciary is independent.
- With the consent of the PM and the cabinet, the Emperor names the higher judicial affiliates.
- The judicial system of Japan – based on customary law, civil law, and Anglo-American common law – comprises numerous levels of courts; the Supreme Court is the absolute judicial power.
- The Constitution of Japan, which was approved on 3 May 1947, includes a bill of rights resembling the United States Bill of Rights; the Supreme Court has the right of judicial review.
- Courts in Japan use a modified jury structure where there is neither administrative nor claims courts.
- Because of the judicial structure's basis, the court's decisions are made in line

Japan's political system: Major parties

- Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)
Jiyū Minshu-tō 自由民主党,
or *Jimin-tō* 自民党
- Democratic Party of Japan
(DPJ) *Minshu-tō* 民主党
("Democratic Party")
- Japan Restoration Party (JRP)
Nippon Ishin no Kai 日本維新の
会
- New Komeito (NKP) *Kōmeitō* 公
明党



Liberal Democratic Party

- Commonly abbreviated to **LDP**, **Jimintō** (自民党) or **Lib Dems**; right of centre conservative political party in Japan.
- Is one of the most consistently successful political parties in the world.
- Has governed Japan since its founding in 1955, with the exception of a short period from 1993-1994, and between 2009-2012; reclaimed control of government in the 2012 general election.
- Has 294/480 seats in the House of Representatives and 82/212 seats in



自民党

Democratic Party of Japan

- Centre-left political party in Japan; founded on 8 January 1998 with the merger of various opposition parties.
- Became the governing party in the House of Representatives after the 2009 general election; defeated the long ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and took the biggest number of seats in both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors.
- After winning a landslide victory in 2009, it was expelled from government by the LDP in the 2012 general election, but it kept 57 seats in the House of Representatives; still had 88 seats in the House of Councillors.
- Implemented numerous progressive measures including the provision of free public education through high school and



The Democratic Party of Japan

民主党