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CABINET RESPONSIBILITY, THE SEPARATION-OF-POWERS  
AND THE MAKERS AND BREAKERS OF CABINETS  
IN JAPANESE POLITICS, 1890-1940

by

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## ABSTRACT

According to parliamentary theory, an executive that is made and unmade by the Lower House of the legislature alone is responsible to that House. But an executive whose existence is not solely dependent on the legislature is not responsible to the legislature. In such systems, usually the main branches of government have specific functions, possess limited rights of veto over one another, and have independent existences. They are known as separation-of-powers systems.

The purpose of the thesis is to discover whether the prewar Japanese polity approximated more closely to a parliamentary system or a separation-of-powers system. Its method is to identify all the political institutions which made and unmade the executive in 1890-1940. When institutions are not easily identifiable, for example, when a cabinet resigned because of public rioting, the influences responsible for Cabinet changes are translated into politico-institutional forces. Because there was always a struggle over the selection of Prime Ministers and then over Cabinet seats, the selection of Prime Ministers is examined separately from the formation of cabinets. A classification of the reasons for Cabinet composition and its rise and fall is used to determine whether institutional relationships are better understood in terms of parliamentary or separation-of-powers theory.

The results of the investigation reveal that:

- i) Each of the prewar political institutions had a separate identifiable

function and tried to have the executive pursue the policies it desired in matters related to its function.

ii) Each institution possessed a limited veto power over each of the others and used this power to ensure that the Cabinet included representatives from it. The Cabinet regularly consisted of representatives from most institutions: the two Houses of the Diet, the Army, the Navy, and the Civil Service.

iii) Each institution had an existence independent of each of the others, and only the Cabinet never had an independent power base. Usually at least three institutions had to support a new Prime Minister before he could assume office, and usually two had to conspire to force his resignation. Because only rarely could any single institution on its own raise or pull down an entire ministry, the existence of the Cabinet was separate from each individual institution and the Cabinet was not responsible to any. Separation-of-powers theory alone emphasises the lack of the executive's total dependence on the legislature, or on any other institution for that matter.

The need for at least three institutions to raise and two to pull down a ministry indicates that the Cabinet never had a completely independent existence. Not having its own separate power base, it was the joint creation of other institutions. Though its existence was separate from each individual institution, its rise and fall was not independent of combinations of other institutions. The prewar Japanese polity,



however, bore only a slight similarity to a parliamentary system, in which the executive is entirely dependent on the Lower House of the legislature. Because only very rarely could the Lower House of the legislature on its own pull down an entire ministry, only occasionally were parliamentary type forces present, and the polity functioned regularly as a separation-of-powers system.

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## INTRODUCTION

It has long been recognised that relationships among prewar Japanese political institutions were extremely complex, but both practitioners of and commentators on politics under the Meiji Constitution have, on the whole, been content to leave it at that. The drafters of the Constitution had only a vague idea of how they hoped to coordinate the activities of the Emperor, the Privy Council, the Cabinet, the Civil Service, the Army, the Navy, and the two Houses of the Diet. Making the Emperor theoretically sovereign, but at the same time denying him the right to interfere in politics, indicates that actual relationships among institutions was something to which they gave very little thought. Commentators on prewar Japanese politics have either been too preoccupied with relating the causes of the Second World War to the Meiji Constitutional order, or too keen to regard politics in Japan as unique and coordination as the result of cultural phenomena like personal networks, to give the problem serious consideration. No one has yet attempted to provide a comprehensive historical analysis of the actual ways in which the various institutions were related to one another, or to look at these relationships in the light of constitutional theory. The practitioners of politics, with a few exceptions,<sup>1</sup> have been reluctant to theorise, and too involved in day to day matters to be conscious of the politico-institutional forces constraining them, with the result that their actions have remained more revealing than their words.

Recent scholarship, however, particularly outside Japan, has become increasingly aware of the problem, and few writers fail to make some reference to it. Mayer-Oakes, in an introduction to his translation of part of the Saionji-Harada Memoirs, writes:<sup>2</sup>

The Meiji Constitution . . . had left to the definition of practice the precise relationships to obtain among the Cabinet, Privy Council, and the agencies of the Supreme Command, . . . but each could assert a wide autonomy if not independence of the others. In the unity provided by the collective counsel of the genrō, the fundamentally schismatic character of Japanese governmental institutions was disguised, and the system as a whole was given apparent and temporary coordination.

In a work on Minobe Tatsukichi, Miller writes:<sup>3</sup>

The cabinet in Japan . . . had always been the victim of conflicting pressures from the genrō, the military command, the imperial household offices, the privy council, the house of peers, and the political parties within the house of representatives, each of which was capable of obstructing policy.

A Japanese scholar, Itō Takashi, writes:<sup>4</sup>

Each of the governmental organs began to insist on its own power - the foreign ministry on its control over diplomacy, the ministry of justice on its control of the legal system, the army on its prerogative of supreme command, and the Privy Council and the House of Peers on their unique positions - so much so that political agreement became extremely difficult to maintain.

While many have come to recognise the difficulty, only Vere Redman, who wrote in 1932, attempted to look at it in the light of constitutional theory and to say something about what was actually happening. He began by asking the question, to whom is the Cabinet responsible? His answer was:<sup>5</sup>

Ministers are obviously responsible to whoever can appoint or dismiss them; and in Japan, nominally of course, this appointing and dismissing power is held by the Emperor. But according to the

theory that the Emperor can do no wrong, some person or body must assume responsibility for either of these Imperial acts. . . . (M)inisters are responsible to just those persons or bodies on whose responsibility the Emperor appoints or dismisses them.

Having provided a fairly detailed analysis of whose advice was being followed on the appointment and dismissal of ministers, Redman concluded that: "at present the Japanese executive is not entirely responsible to any single organ in the state: it is partly responsible to a number of different organs." But Redman was unable to go beyond describing Japanese government as "arbitrary action tempered by a number of ill-defined checks plus in the last analysis, popular clamour."<sup>6</sup> Although he was correct in ascribing the power of making and breaking cabinets to a variety of institutions, he failed to realise that the "ill-defined" relationship among them could be better understood in the light of a different constitutional theory from the one he was applying, namely, the theory of the separation-of-powers.

The understanding of separation-of-powers theory has made great advances since Redman's time, and a logical analysis of its main theoretical presuppositions is essential before one can show how it could have helped solve Redman's problem. In a recent book which brings together most of the literature of the subject, M.J.C. Vile says that the theory of the separation-of-powers in its purest and most extreme form implies that:

- i) "the government (is) divided into three branches or departments, the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary,"

- ii) "to each of these three branches there is a corresponding identifiable function of government,"
- iii) no one is "allowed to be at the same time a member of more than one branch." The avoidance of overlapping membership is supposed to prevent overlapping functions.<sup>7</sup>

This extreme form of the doctrine, Vile points out, has never been implemented in practice, and even separation-of-powers theorists like Montesquieu and Locke never expounded it. In practice as well as theory, modifications have been introduced, mainly in order to provide greater guarantees against the encroachment by one branch on the functions of another. The notion of checks-and-balances, which implies that one branch can check the actions of another, has become inseparably associated with the notion of a separation-of-powers. The term, "separation-of-powers," therefore refers to both what Vile regards as the pure form of the doctrine, and to the notion of checks-and-balances.

This accounts for the somewhat paradoxical state of affairs in the writings of thinkers on the subject and in the American Constitution, that although each branch should be confined to the exercise of its particular function alone, "each branch was given the power to exercise a degree of direct (Vile's italics) control over the others by authorizing it to play a part . . . in the exercise of the others' functions."<sup>8</sup> For Montesquieu as well as the writers of the American Constitution, an institution's right to veto the actions of any other institution was as important as its exclusive right to exercise its own particular function,

paradoxical as this may seem. It appears contradictory that one branch should be able to defend its exclusive right to exercise its function by being allowed to encroach on another branch's right to its particular function.

This is not necessarily a contradiction, Vile argues, because the power to interfere was limited: "the basic idea of a division of functions remained, modified by the view that each of the branches could exercise some (author's italics) authority in the field of all three functions."<sup>9</sup>

But Vile does not fully recognise that the theory of checks-and-balances was not merely intended to guarantee the right of each branch to the sole exercise of its function. A major preoccupation of Locke, Montesquieu, and the American Founding Fathers was to prevent any single branch from becoming too powerful. The division of powers among separate branches of government, each of which was to have a limited power over each of the others, was supposed to prevent tyrannical government. The possibility of any single branch becoming tyrannical had to be "checked" and "balanced".

Another weakness in Vile's treatment of the theoretical problems involved in the separation-of-powers concept concerns his third characteristic. The avoidance of overlapping membership among branches does not seem to be a sufficient guarantee of each branch's independence. The writers of the American Constitution wanted separate branches to have separate existences. One branch should not be able to dismiss the



members of another, and in the case of the President and the two Houses of Congress, there was to be no opportunity for one to control appointments to another. The position of the Supreme Court was ambiguous. Its members were appointed by the President, they required the ratification of the Senate, but they could not ordinarily be dismissed by any other branch.

A third problem area is the number of separate branches and functions. Vile is correct in noting that the number of powers and functions have always been confined to three, both by theorists and governments. But there does not seem to be anything sacrosanct about the number three, or about the three corresponding functions. In theory as well as practice, it seems possible to have additional branches for more specialised tasks without doing damage to the separation-of-powers concept.

A revised list of essential characteristics of a separation-of-powers system, a list which takes account of Vile's omissions, is therefore:

- i) The government is divided into separate branches, ranging from the executive, legislature, and judiciary alone, to a larger number which may include, for example, specific branches for ratifying foreign treaties and for the conduct of military affairs.
- ii) Each branch has a corresponding identifiable function, and greater or lesser veto power over each of the others, in order to prevent the others from usurping its function too greatly, and to prevent

each from becoming too powerful.

- iii) Each branch is occupied by different persons, whose appointment and dismissal is outside the control of any other branch, again the degree of separation being subject to variation.

One factor that is likely to determine the degree of separation is the extent to which a branch has a separate power base. The American President and two Houses of Congress are dependent on different groups of voters and, once elected, cannot affect one another's existence. A second factor is the extent to which a branch possesses a veto power over another branch. The greater the veto power, the less the latter branch's ability to retain complete control over its composition. This factor may often be overshadowed by others. For example, in spite of the mutual veto the American President and two Houses of Congress possess, the influence of the first factor predominates. The final factor is whether an institution possesses both the powers to appoint and dismiss members of another institution, or only one of these powers. The members of the American Supreme Court cannot, except by impeachment, be dismissed by other branches, although they owe their appointment to other branches. But had they not possessed security of office, their involvement as an independent force in institutional struggles over policy-making is likely to have been much less than it was. It may have been even greater had they also possessed the power to make their own appointments, assuming of course that they retained their right of judicial review.

Only when the occupants of one branch are entirely subject to appointment and dismissal by another branch does the idea of a separation-of-powers cease to apply. Between this extreme and the opposite one, in which the existence of a branch is entirely independent of the control of any other, there are many possible degrees of separation.

The importance of the three revised characteristics becomes clearer when the separation-of-powers type of system is contrasted with the parliamentary type. The first person to juxtapose the two was Walter Bagehot, who referred to the British parliamentary system as a "fusion" of powers. From Bagehot's writings, it is possible to list three characteristics of a parliamentary system that correspond to the three of a separation-of-powers system:

- i) and ii) Although it may be possible to distinguish more than one branch of government, it is not possible to identify corresponding exclusive functions.
- iii) Because the power to appoint and dismiss the executive is the exclusive preserve of the legislature. and because the members of the executive are at the same time also members of the legislature, the executive cannot be described as separate from the legislature. The electorate is the only power base involved, and both are ultimately dependent on it. In modern times, the electorate chooses the one in the very act of choosing the other, but this addition to what Bagehot said does not alter his central point.

Because Bagehot wrote his classic, The English Constitution, just before the introduction of manhood suffrage in 1867 and the development of mass parties in the country, it has been argued that the development of greater discipline among parliamentary parties was also the result of this change. Maurice Duverger, one of the most noted modern writers on political parties, argues that party discipline and the party system are the major determinants of relations between the executive and the legislature. He says that the party system determines how a constitution will function; the constitution does not determine how the party system will function.<sup>10</sup>

But Duverger fails to take sufficient account of the absence of party discipline in the House of Commons before Britain had achieved a real parliamentary system. One of Duverger's most cogent critics, Leon Epstein, denies the argument that disciplined parties can prevent a separation-of-powers, while undisciplined ones can cause it, regardless of the constitutional arrangement. Epstein correctly points out:<sup>11</sup>

In the . . . West European situation, parliaments, though originally sharing power with monarchs, gradually made executive government (the ministries) responsible to elected representatives. By reducing the monarchs to figureheads or by substituting weak presidents, there was a drift away from the separation of powers. . . . This often occurred, as it did in Britain, before the democratic age of modern parties. When the parties did develop--indeed, as (author's italics) they developed--they could foresee full executive and legislative control by obtaining a parliamentary majority.

The constitutional structures of Britain and America played a crucial part in the development of disciplined parties in Britain and parties

with a much looser organization and discipline in America.

Epstein's contention is:<sup>12</sup>

(I)t is safe to argue that Western democracies have maintained the general constitutional types with which they began. And, in each nation, the constitutional type existed in some form before the parties. The parties, in other words, grew in the conditioning environment of a given government structure. They had to adapt organizationally and electorally to it. What they could become was fixed, within certain limits, by the constitution as well as by the social conditions of the nation. . . . The American separation of executive and legislative powers give parties two electoral targets in the national arena. . . . Moreover, the executive power can be retained without continuous majority support in the legislative branch. Consequently, there is absent in the American system the strongly compelling force for legislative party unity that exists in a parliamentary system.

He concludes:<sup>13</sup>

(T)he argument must rest heavily on the fact that there is nothing about the United States, except the separation of powers, to distinguish its circumstances significantly from those of the nations with cohesive parties. . . . (T)he absence of parliamentary government is decisive. With it cohesive parties have regularly developed, except in France.

Duverger's failure to hold culture constant (as far as this is possible) and vary the constitutional arrangement, prevented him from being able to determine the influence which the constitutional arrangement can have on party discipline. Epstein, who did use this technique, therefore provides a much more convincing argument, and the conclusion that constitutional structure exerts a greater influence on party cohesion than vice versa is not easy to refute.

In recent years, another criticism has been made of Bagehot's analysis, but although this criticism is to the point, it does not affect Bagehot's central argument. In an excellent historical analysis of the

British Constitution, A.H. Birch argues that in modern times party discipline has made the legislature as dependent on the executive as vice versa, and that both are ultimately dependent on the electorate.<sup>14</sup> It must be granted that members of the House of Commons depend almost entirely for their reelection on their party leaders. The performance of the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet, which consist of the leaders of the two main parties, is the major factor determining the composition of the House. But this does not affect Bagehot's central point. No institution besides the legislature, whether or not it organises itself into disciplined hierarchical groupings under the control of their leaders, can make and unmake the executive. While the existence of the executive may depend entirely through a mass electorate on the majority party, if one remembers that this majority party is the majority party of the House of Commons, Bagehot's point remains. It must also be remembered that the major characteristic of the parties in Britain, their discipline, through which the executive is "fused" with the legislature, is a characteristic peculiar to parliamentary systems.

Bagehot's central point is that the extent to which one branch of government is dependent for its very existence on another alone, indicates the degree of "fusion" or separation of powers. Because this point is frequently lost sight of, many criticisms of Bagehot are wide of the mark. The possibility that members of the legislature may be more dependent on the party leaders in the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet than vice versa, and the ultimate dependence of both branches on the electorate, does not

affect the "fusion" of both branches in Britain. Bagehot correctly described the distinguishing characteristic of the parliamentary system as the total dependence of the executive on the legislature, and that of the separation-of-powers system as the lack of such dependence of the executive on the legislature.

The way to ascertain to which type a particular polity most closely approximates is to find out to whom the executive is responsible, or who has the power to make and break it. If the legislature alone possesses this power, the polity is of the parliamentary type. If no other branch possesses it, or if a variety of branches do and the executive is not entirely dependent on any one of them, the executive is separate from each and the polity is of the separation-of-powers type.

The consequence of either type which most interested Bagehot was the relationship between the executive and legislature, a relationship which determined whether the executive would be strong and efficient or weak and sluggish. In contemporary Britain, where the House of Commons alone could make and break cabinets, Bagehot discovered a harmonious relationship between the executive and legislative branches, and a strong cabinet. He wrote, "the efficient secret of the English Constitution may be described as the close union, the nearly complete fusion, of the executive and legislative powers," a union effected by means of the Cabinet, which is "the buckle which fastens the legislative part of the State to the executive part of the State." Because the Cabinet was "a board of control chosen by the legislature out of persons whom

it trusts and knows, to rule the nation," conflict between the executive and legislature was eliminated.<sup>15</sup> The legislature had an institutional incentive to support the executive which it, and only it, had appointed and could dismiss, while the executive had an institutional incentive to follow the advice of the legislature which alone had created it.

The separation-of-powers type of system, on the other hand, provided no incentives for inter-institutional harmony, but because each institution was occupied by different people, not entirely dependent on one another for their existence, inter-institutional deadlock was inherent. The American President and two Houses of Congress were chosen by different electorates, partly at different times, and were responsible to these electorates, not to one another. Notpossessing institutional incentives for mutual support, both the executive and legislature were weakened by the continual need to win mutual consent, even over the most minor issues. The great vice of this type of system, according to Bagehot, was the ever-present conflict and deadlock that existed between the executive and the legislature, making it very difficult for the business of government to be carried out at all. He wrote:<sup>16</sup>

After saying that the division of the legislature and the executive in Presidential governments weakens the legislative power, it may seem a contradiction to say that it also weakens the executive power. But it is not a contradiction. The division weakens the whole aggregate force of Government. . . . The American Government calls itself a Government of the supreme people; but at a quick crisis, the time when the sovereign power is most needed, you cannot find the supreme people. You have got a Congress elected for one fixed period, going out perhaps by fixed instalments, which cannot be accelerated or retarded--you have a



President chosen for a fixed period, and immovable during that period. . . . There is no elastic element, everything is rigid, specified, dated."

To summarise Bagehot's classification of systems and their consequences, parliamentary systems have strong executives, because of a concentration of power in the Cabinet-chosen-by-the-Commons, whereas separation-of-powers systems have weak ones, because of a fragmentation of power among as many institutions as possess a veto over the executive and on which the executive is not solely dependent for its existence. In the former, the Cabinet is responsible to the Commons, because only the Commons can make and unmake it, whereas in the latter, the executive is either not responsible to any other institution at all, or is concurrently responsible to a number of institutions, on each of which it is partly but never entirely dependent for its existence. The former is characterised by the legislature's possession of the entire power to raise and pull down a cabinet, whereas the distinguishing characteristic of the latter is the legislature's lack of this entire power.

One of Bagehot's major purposes in comparing the British and American systems of government was to show why the British executive was strong and efficient, and the American executive comparatively weak and sluggish. He concluded that the institutional incentive for the British executive and legislature to cooperate was the main reason for the efficiency of that country's government. The lack of this incentive was the reason for the continual deadlock between the American executive and legislature and the comparative weakness of American government.

The hundred years since Bagehot wrote have made it possible to discover additional typical consequences of either institutional arrangement. While each of them may in any given case be as much, if not more so, due to cultural and economic forces, the purpose here is to demonstrate that politico-institutional forces can also exert an influence which makes their occurrence likely. In each case, the possibility that socio-economic conditions may reinforce or contradict politico-institutional forces must be born in mind.

The purpose of this study is not to assess the relative importance of social, economic, and politico-institutional forces in the political development of Japan, but to reassert the importance of the latter, which in recent years have been almost entirely ignored in scholarly writing on political development. In order to redress the balance of emphasis, this study, while not minimising the importance of economics and culture, takes them for granted and concentrates solely on demonstrating the influence of political institutions, an influence which may have reinforced or worked against other influences. But no attempt has been made to weigh these influences against one another, because a consideration of all the factors for the period of more than half a century falls beyond the scope of this study. It is assumed, therefore, that the reader has a basic knowledge of Japanese social, economic, and political history, and is able to assess the relative importance of different forces.

The first typical consequence of a particular institutional arrangement, one that existed even before Bagehot's time, is the likelihood of

high levels of corruption in separation-of-powers systems, and the comparative unlikelihood of the same in parliamentary ones. The reason is that in the absence of institutional incentives for harmony between the executive and legislature, the flow of money from one to the other becomes the most easily effective deus ex machina for resolving inter-institutional deadlock. Corruption in eighteenth-century Britain, when institutional forces were of the separation-of-powers type, was as endemic as in America, and the name of Robert Walpole became synonymous with corruption itself.

It is not being claimed that a separation-of-powers system is either a necessary or sufficient condition for high levels of corruption, but that separation-of-powers systems do not contain institutional forces that mitigate corruption, while parliamentary systems do. The actual causes of corruption in particular cases may involve a variety of socio-economic factors, and their importance is not disputed.

A second typical consequence of separation-of-powers systems, again other things being equal, is the greater importance personality politics is likely to have over policy politics. A legislature which is not the sole maker and breaker of the executive does not possess the ultimate sanction to compel the executive to do its bidding, and an executive, which is not entirely dependent on the legislature, has no overriding incentive to listen to that legislature. Moreover, the more institutions that share the power to make and unmake the executive or veto its actions, the less its need or ability to pursue the policy of any one of them.

When there is an Upper House, a Lower House, a Privy Council, an Army, a Navy, a Civil Service, and a group of Old Cronies, each of which can veto policy and unmake cabinets, the Cabinet is hardly likely to pursue exclusively the policy of any single one. They in turn, realizing that it is unrealistic to expect this, will try instead to enlist sympathetic individuals to represent them in the Cabinet. Politics becomes a problem of trying to get the most skilful and sympathetic personality to do his best in the competition among the various institutions, a world in which promises to implement policy can never be made. Prime Ministers or Presidents are chosen for their personal qualities, usually an ability to deal with as many of the competing institutions as possible, the classical example once again being Robert Walpole.

Related consequences are, firstly, that leaders capture parties, rather than that parties raise leaders. If a Prime Minister or President is always chosen for his personal ability to get the most out of a competitive inter-institutional struggle, parties are on the keen look out to have such individuals assume their leadership. This is the best way to get a party Premier or President. And because no one can become a Premier or President without among other things the support of a party, otherwise qualified individuals are keen to capture a party. Secondly, factionalism, frequently along personality lines, and a lack of discipline in all institutions is likely to develop. The reason is that if the executive's existence is entirely dependent on the will of a majority of only one institution, that majority has a greater incentive

for discipline and unity than do the members of institutions which are not in sole possession of the power to make and break the executive. The probability that parties have less discipline in separation-of-powers systems than in parliamentary systems also exists for groups in other institutions. If no single branch of government possesses the entire power to appoint and dismiss the executive, none receives politico-institutional incentives to increase its discipline. Although factionalism may often have basic causes unrelated to institutional forces, separation-of-powers systems do little to mitigate that factionalism. It is true that parliamentary systems provide only the Lower House of the legislature with incentives for discipline. But factionalism in powerless institutions is less serious than in ones that can affect the executive's existence or block its policies. In separation-of-powers systems institutional factionalism can be a great impediment to the smooth functioning of government.

Had Redman been able to benefit from recent studies of separation-of-powers and parliamentary theory, as well as recent comparative studies of political institutions and political parties, his conclusions may have been quite different. He may have realised that separation-of-powers theory is more conducive to an understanding of prewar Japanese institutional development than parliamentary theory.

The argument of this thesis is that not merely did the Meiji Constitution create in Japan an institutional arrangement that approximated very closely to the separation-of-powers type, but that in

practice institutional forces were of the kind that exist in America. Although the popular election of the American President on the one hand, and the more diverse makers and breakers of prewar Japanese Cabinets on the other, do indicate an important institutional difference between the two countries, it is not one which requires a reclassification of the Japanese system. Both America and prewar Japan possessed a separation-of-powers institutional framework and were susceptible to the same kinds of problems that occur readily in this type of system.

In so far as the separation-of-powers concept conveys an intention to prevent any single branch of government from becoming too powerful, the idea of checks-and-balances requires the major emphasis. But in so far as it also conveys an intention to have specific branches for specific tasks, the notion of a separation-of-powers itself should be emphasised. The two main ideas are inseparably bound up in the single concept, but one or the other may receive the greater emphasis in particular cases. In Japan, the idea of separate branches for separate tasks seems to have received greater attention, since branches besides the usual three were granted highly specialised functions. But the desire to prevent any single branch from assuming too much power was also consciously incorporated in the Constitution. Because the idea of checks-and-balances received less emphasis in theory as well as practice, the term "separation-of-powers" rather than "checks-and-balances" is particularly applicable to Japan. But it must be remembered

that part of what is meant by "separation-of-powers" is that checks-and-balances are involved.

The ideal of collectively responsible cabinets has been cherished by many Japanese champions of democracy, but few have seen it purely in terms of a relationship between the executive and the legislature. Usually, responsible government has come to mean simply government that can be called to account by the public for whatever it does. But because this type of government also exists in America, the central concern of Bagehot has been lost sight of. A number of Japanese scholars have made studies of the lives of particular cabinets. Some have even looked specifically at the Cabinet and its occupants over a considerable period of time, and attempted to analyse reasons for Cabinet changes.<sup>17</sup> But no one has examined the extent to which collective responsibility in Bagehot's sense existed in prewar Japan, or to relate the facts about the actual makers and breakers of cabinets in prewar Japan to theories of constitutionalism.

This study draws conclusions about the type of institutional arrangement under which politics in prewar Japan existed. The sole empirical evidence used is a classification of the apparent reasons for the rise and fall of successive ministries, as well as of the individual qualifications of cabinet ministers. Relying on Bagehot's insight, it is assumed throughout that the Cabinet is responsible to its makers and breakers as well as whoever is able to effect its

composition, and that from this information types of institutional forces can be inferred.

While the sources usually provide all the details of why ministries came and went, they do not always indicate which institutions played the major parts in effecting the changes. In cases when the institutional role is unclear, attempts have been made to classify the various pressures in institutional terms, because apart from the institutional context in which governments acted, governments could ignore these pressures with impunity. For example, public dissatisfaction with the Portsmouth Treaty in 1905 could not be ignored by the Katsura government, which had made a deal with the Lower House to hand over the premiership to the leader of the majority party in return for a promise not to take up the public cause against the government's foreign policy.

I have made similar assumptions about reasons for the appointment of particular ministers, about which the sources are also frequently silent. Because cabinets regularly consisted of one or more representatives of most institutions able to make and break it, excepting the Privy Council and the Genrō, I have assumed that the major reason for the appointment of ministers was membership in these institutions. There is less justification for the view that those who made the actual appointments to the Cabinet were always fully conscious of the reasons for their actions. Impersonal forces frequently constrain actions in



ways unnoticed by those directly involved. I assume the most important among them is institutional affiliation. Appendices II to V indicate the institutional background of all ministers in 1890-1940, which I have assumed is the major reason for their appointment. When ministers had only one institutional qualification, the conclusion that they were appointed primarily because of it is hard to resist. When they had more than one qualification, it is often impossible to single out any one as the most important, and judgement becomes more difficult. In many cases such ministers seem to have been valued precisely because of their relations with a variety of institutions, in the hope that they would be able to serve as bridges between them.

The attempt to cover a considerable period of time and to classify rather than to establish reasons for ministerial changes has required that sources be limited. I feel that a selected sample of the most reliable sources will minimise the possibility of errors in the reasons for particular cabinet changes. But because I have not attempted to verify these reasons when my sources are in agreement, the possibility of errors in particular cases remains. More detailed studies on the rise and fall of individual ministries can be carried out later. My reference to secondary sources reflects my concern to infer a certain type of polity from facts that are not generally disputed. The emphasis is on the interpretation rather than the verification of reasons for cabinet changes.

## CHAPTER 1

CABINET RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MEIJI CONSTITUTIONBackground

For almost the entire period after the expulsion from the inner circle of the Meiji political leadership of Itagaki Taisuke, until the government proclamation in 1881 that a national assembly would be established in 1890, there was a great deal of discussion in the country as well as among the government leaders about the kind of constitutional government Japan should adopt. Itagaki took up the cause in the country and organised a number of political groups which agitated for the establishment of a representative assembly. This agitation became what is known as "The Movement for Constitutional Government" (Jiyū minken undō), and at one time or another embraced members of the samurai, landowner and peasant classes. It culminated in the formation in 1881 of the Jiyūtō (Liberal Party), the first national political party in Japan.

Partly in response to this Movement, but mainly to prove to the Western Powers which held extra-territorial rights in Japan that Japan was a "civilized" country, the leaders of the government also showed an interest in constitutional government, particularly Kidō Takayoshi. After the death of the main first generation leaders of the Meiji Restoration, younger men, who had not played such important parts in the Restoration, became the most influential government officials, mainly Itō Hirobumi and Ōkuma Shigenobu. Both were strong advocates of constitutional government

even though they had their differences. In 1881 these differences led to Ōkuma's expulsion from the government because of his desire to introduce immediately a system modelled on the British parliamentary one. Itō was more cautious, and advocated a ten year delay in order to work out the details of the system that would be the most suitable for Japan. His preference was for something similar to the Prussian Constitution.

Ōkuma's purge in 1881 marked a new phase in the struggle over national assemblies. The government began to draft the Constitution, but not before Itō had spent some time in Europe, mainly Germany, studying European constitutionalism. The task was carried out in absolute secrecy, and no one knew exactly what the contents of the Constitution would be until it was formally promulgated in 1890. Ōkuma took up his cause in the country, much as Itagaki had done in the 1870's, and set up the second national party, the Kaishintō (Progressive Party). Its ideological inspiration came from British thinkers like Mill, Locke, and Spencer, while that of the Jiyūtō came mainly from Rousseau. The socio-economic base of the Kaishintō was the urban capitalist class, while that of the Jiyūtō was the rural classes.

The Jiyūtō was the more extreme of the two parties, and during the years 1883-1884, it was the instigator of many acts of violence against the government. Itagaki was in Europe at the time, and returned to find his party detested by the world of officialdom. In 1884, under pressure from the more conservative landowner-wing of the party, which had not

always gone along with the more extreme peasant-wing, the Jiyūtō was formally dissolved. The Kaishintō was dissolved in the same year, mainly because the urban capitalists were afraid of antagonising the government. The lack of a legitimate institutional base from which to carry out their operations is of the greatest importance in the development of political parties in Japan. Both parties were revived by the promulgation of the Constitution and the first general election in 1890, which gave them legitimacy, but at the same time put constraints on their tactics and ambitions.

The present chapter is not intended to demonstrate the influence of all the parties and leaders on the final Constitution as it emerged in 1890. It is limited to a discussion of the central problem with which this study is concerned, and analyses the extent to which the Meiji Constitution was of the separation-of-powers type. Most of what follows is therefore of a highly theoretical nature.

#### Cabinet Responsibility and Constitutional Theory

The intentions of the Meiji leaders on the question of Cabinet responsibility are more difficult to ascertain than on most other matters. The Constitution has little to say on the central problem: "The respective Ministers of State shall give their advice to the Emperor and be responsible for it."<sup>1</sup> By "Cabinet responsibility" the framers seem to have meant merely that the Cabinet take the blame or credit for whatever was done in the Emperor's name. The only way to maintain the

inviolability of an Emperor who could do no wrong was to avoid having him do anything politically controversial. Itō Hirobumi made this clear in his Commentaries on the Constitution: "They will not be able to release themselves from responsibility by pleading an Order of the Sovereign."<sup>2</sup> The task of governing was therefore to be a ministerial rather than an Imperial responsibility. But the intentions of the Meiji leaders are far from clear on the pertinent question. To whom was this responsibility to be born?

Legally, the Cabinet was supposed to be responsible to the Emperor alone. According to Itō:<sup>3</sup>

The power of deciding upon his [the Minister of State's] responsibility belongs to the Sovereign of the State: He alone can dismiss a Minister, who has appointed him. . . . It is only a legitimate consequence that the power of deciding as to the responsibility of Ministers, is withheld from the Diet.

Because in law the Emperor alone could appoint and dismiss Ministers, in law they were responsible to him alone. There is reason to believe, however, that the difference between legal theory and practical politics did not entirely elude the Meiji leaders. The legal theory of responsibility to the Emperor is qualified in Itō's Commentaries by the requirement that:<sup>4</sup>

(I)n making an appointment the susceptibilities of the public mind must also be taken into consideration. This may be regarded as an indirect method of controlling the responsibilities of Ministers. . . . Ministers are directly responsible to the Emperor and indirectly so to the people.

The Meiji leaders did not appreciate all the difficulties involved

in upholding legal theories that bear little relation to real politics. If they really intended the wishes of the public as expressed in the Diet to be a consideration in the appointment and dismissal of ministers, so that the Emperor's actions would be constrained by the wishes of the Diet, why did they not modify the legal theory accordingly? Although they were not adhering to a tradition that demanded an active political role for the Emperor--for centuries he had been politically passive<sup>5</sup>--there was something about the traditional way of life that did facilitate making him the nation's central political figure. The closely knit nature of Japanese society gave to Japanese life an essential unity that prevented the separation of ethics, religion, and politics into autonomous and competing walks of life, as well as the separation of ethical from religious or political authority. Because the nation's life was one, it was not possible to compartmentalise it, or fragment the authority to which it subscribed. As head of the family of the nation, the Emperor was regarded as the single symbol of the nation's authority in all walks of life. He was at the same time High Priest, Custodian of Morals, and Political Leader. Loyalty to him meant loyalty to the nation and submission to its value judgements.<sup>6</sup> When the country was politically divided during the feudal period, his authority in political matters was not fully recognised. Quite naturally, the great movement towards political unity in the nineteenth-century was accompanied by a growing recognition of the Emperor's political authority.

To recount this history of the Emperor's position in Japanese society still does not explain why the Meiji leaders gave the Emperor such extensive political prerogatives. The answer probably lies in the general confusion of contemporary constitutional theory on which the drafters of the Meiji Constitution relied so heavily. If they failed to understand the discrepancy between the legal theory of their constitution and the way it was likely to work in practice, this is largely because the actual working of constitutional government in contemporary Europe was so imperfectly understood by European theorists themselves. The dominant notion was still the Montesquieuan concept of separation-of-powers, which required that executives and legislatures not only have separate and clearly defined functions, but have separate existences. That this could in practice often result in deadlock between the executive and legislature was regarded as desirable by Americans, unavoidable by Frenchmen, capable of legal solution by Germans, and unimportant by Britishers.

The British could afford to ignore the problem only because they did not really have it. Their theory of a balanced constitution was in an important respect different from the Montesquieuan theory of a separation-of-powers.<sup>7</sup> It made harmony between the executive and legislature the essence of good government, and recognised that this was the result, not of the separation of powers, but of their inter-dependence through the selection of the executive by the legislature.

In Germany, however, where the legislature could not dismiss the executive, the problem of continual deadlock was as acute as in the United States. Unlike the Americans, however, the Germans disliked the resulting paralysis of government, even though no contemporary German theorist recognised the inadequacy of the proposed solution. While the executive was given legal sovereignty, this was insufficient to prevent the Diet from coming into continual conflict with it. Making the executive legally responsible to an even higher authority, the Emperor, to whom it could appeal for support against the Diet, merely altered the balance of power in the executive's favour. It also made of the Emperor a kind of deus ex machina to resolve deadlock between the two main branches of government, and therefore made him highly controversial.

The Meiji leaders gave to the Japanese Emperor political prerogatives that marked a sharp departure from tradition, because they believed this to be the only way to prevent the paralysis of government. They did not envisage him serving as a mere figurehead like the British monarch, because this would have meant either complete cabinet irresponsibility, or responsibility to the Diet. Nor did they intend him to be free to act contrary to the advice they gave him, or to take the side of the Diet in cases of conflict with the executive. On the contrary, they wanted the Emperor to be active in support of the policies they deemed to be in the national interest. Like the British Tories, they believed that they



were somehow less partisan than any one else. They therefore never appreciated, until after the opening of the first Diet, that there was an inherent contradiction in upholding the inviolability of the Emperor and wanting him to support the executive in its conflicts with the Diet. The Emperor could not at the same time interfere in politics and remain uncontroversial. No one in Germany or Japan seemed to realise that the only kind of executive that would in practice be able to gain the support of the Diet was one which the Diet alone elected.

This "efficient secret" to the harmonious functioning of executives and legislatures was fully understood only by a few British theorists. Actually, Walter Bagehot alone regarded the interdependence of executives and legislatures as the sole solution to the problem of conflict between them. The British theorists whose writings were read by the Meiji leaders, especially John Stuart Mill and Sir Alpheus Todd, supported the selection of cabinets by the Commons for other reasons, ones which did not make the British system particularly attractive: for the ease with which a cabinet could be dismissed by the Commons.<sup>8</sup>

The most probable reason for the Japanese rejection of British constitutionalism was that after 1867 it was imperfectly understood by British theorists. During the 1880's, the works of Mill, Bagehot, and Todd were still regarded as the most authoritative, even though all of them were written before the great constitutional change of 1867.

Even Bagehot did not foresee that what would really make the British Cabinet stronger than ever was the support of a disciplined majority in the House, something which came only after Bagehot's time. In fact, it was really only during the years 1832-67 that the House alone, as an independent body, made and unmade governments.<sup>9</sup> Before this, cabinets had been kept in office by monarchs, and their ability to purchase the support of a sufficient number of factions in Parliament. But from 1832-67, parliamentary groups had little if any cohesion, and members often changed sides over the most unimportant issues. Only during these years did the Commons have a corporate existence of its own and independently make and unmake cabinets. In no other period did the writings of Mill, Bagehot, and Todd bear all that much relation to reality. After 1867, cabinets were kept in office by disciplined majority parties, whose fortunes depended not on the ability of great parliamentary orators to win over individual members, but on the results of elections. Electorates therefore became the makers and breakers of governments, even though they only exercised the limited choice between leaders of the two great parties.

The efficient secret of British constitutionalism has since been that the leaders of the party that wins a majority of seats in the Commons are the very people who occupy the Cabinet positions, thereby ensuring harmony between the executive and legislature. Not until 1885, however, when Henry Maine expressed his horror at the way the Commons

was coming under the control of two disciplined phalanxes, was this even noticed by constitutional theorists. They failed to see that what Bagehot had regarded as the greatest virtue of British government, its strength, was even more present now that the House was less fickle. Without disciplined parties in the Commons, cabinets could on occasion be quite weak and fall with every change of mood in the House, as happened quite a few times between 1832-1867.

The Meiji leaders were aware that majority parties had become the foci of political responsibility in England. But because they were convinced of their own impartiality, they regarded this kind of government as sectional. Unfortunately, there was no British theorist to point out how strong and stable it was, and how it avoided inter-institutional deadlock. No one pointed out that it is far easier to win the support of a majority of voters in an election every four years, than of a majority of Diet members every time a budget or piece of legislation is presented. Winning an election guarantees loyal support from the legislature until the next election, whereas winning the support of the Diet for one budget guarantees nothing for future budgets.

It is hardly surprising that the Meiji leaders, who were fully aware of the need for strong stable government, especially during the years of rapid social and economic change, found little to attract them in a system that was supposed to provide for the ever present possibility of governments being made and unmade at the slightest change of mood in the Commons. The imperfect understanding of British

government by British theorists is possibly of greater importance than any other factor in explaining why the Meiji leaders rejected British constitutionalism. They turned to German theory, because the Germans were the only contemporary Europeans to stress the weaknesses of the prevailing separation-of-powers theory, and offer what seemed to be a practical alternative.<sup>10</sup>

The Meiji leaders believed that the theory of cabinet responsibility to the Emperor avoided the problems of Montesquieuan constitutionalism. They had no less an authority on European constitutionalism than Hermann Roesler assure them that it would prevent deadlock between the executive and the legislature.<sup>11</sup>

Consequently the sovereign powers are not in any way divided by the constitution between the Emperor and the people. The whole government power remains concentrated in the person of the Emperor. . . . That power must be united and undivided because division of powers produces discord and dissolution. Divided powers can turn out as tyrannical as undivided ones; and in the case of disharmony one power must assume the predominance over others, even unlawfully against the constitution; otherwise the course of government would be stopped. A remedy against tyranny cannot be found in the division of powers.

Itō agreed: "Because the imperial sovereignty is the cornerstone of our constitution, our system is not based on the European ideas of separation of powers or on the principle in force in some European countries of joint rule of the king and the people."<sup>12</sup> Both Roesler and Itō believed that it was possible to give the Diet the power to withhold its consent to laws and increased budgets, and at the same time

avoid Montesquieuan constitutionalism. While they explicitly deny that the Japanese Constitution embraces a separation-of-powers, what they describe is in fact a system of checks-and-balances. Roesler says that the sovereign's power is restricted in five ways:<sup>13</sup>

1) Every law, the annual budget and other important financial measures require the consent of the Diet; 2) every act of the executive power of the sovereign requires the advice and signature of a minister of state; 3) the judicature shall be exercised by independent courts of law according to law only; 4) the respective domains of the legislative, executive and judicial powers are to be constitutionally fixed as much as possible; 5) in all government affairs, the Diet can receive petitions, make addresses to the Emperor or representations to the government, and put questions to or demand explanations from the same.

The Meiji Constitution did not merely enable the Diet to obstruct the acts of the Emperor and his ministers. It gave the two Houses equal powers, making them equally capable of creating deadlock. In phrases reminiscent of Montesquieu, Roesler approved of the Upper House because:<sup>14</sup>

it forms a great check to hasty, one-sided, passionate and oppressive legislation . . . and secures more stable and harmonious relations between the Crown and removes the frequent occasions for the exercise of the sovereign prerogatives in cases of conflict, as of the right of veto, prorogation, dissolution, etc.

If he could say that the "Upper House should be able to hold the balance in the deliberations of the national body,"<sup>15</sup> it is strange that he could still believe that the Constitution did not embrace a separation-of-powers.

The legal position of each branch of government made it highly likely that the Meiji Constitution would function differently from the way its framers intended. Either responsibility to the Emperor would have to be

sacrificed in practice, in which case it was likely that a full-fledged separation-of-powers system would develop over time, or the Emperor would become highly controversial. If all branches were in practice responsible to him alone, his ruling in favour of some and against others in cases of inter-institutional conflict would make him a highly "political" figure. Because of the emphasis the Meiji leaders placed on the Emperor's inviolability, the second alternative was unlikely.

In the following section, the way the Constitution was likely to function in practice is analysed in the light of separation-of-powers and parliamentary theory. The discussion is of a logical and theoretical nature but is based on the legal provisions of the Meiji Constitution. Although largely a hypothetical argument, it takes as its premises the legal institutional structure set up in 1890.

#### How the Constitution was Likely to Work in Practice

A central point in this study is that channels of responsibility are impossible to trace in separation-of-powers systems, and that the theory of Cabinet responsibility is not an aid to understanding how they function. Sometimes, even Roesler seems to have realised that the Meiji Constitution incorporated a partial separation-of-powers, which could prevent the system from functioning as intended. The Privy Council, he said:<sup>16</sup>

has only consultative functions and no executive powers whatever; its opinion may be asked for or not . . . and it may be accepted or rejected as the government may think fit. Otherwise the ministers of state would be deprived of the liberty of their advice and would be reduced to mere executive agents of the Privy Council.

But Roesler failed to realise that although in theory all institutions were responsible to the Emperor, none would be in practice, because the Emperor was not to get involved in political controversies. The Cabinet, which was supposed to be his major source of assistance and advice, would constantly be confronted by a number of rival institutions, each claiming to be the legitimate adviser on issues related to its constitutional prerogatives: the Upper House, the Lower House, the Privy Council, and the Armed Services. Their ability to veto certain policies and support others would enable them to insist that their advice be heeded. The two Houses of the Diet could veto legislation and increased budgets; the Privy Council, which was to be the interpreter of the Constitution, could veto any policy but mainly Imperial Ordinances and treaties with foreign countries,<sup>17</sup> and the Armed Services could exercise a veto on foreign policy.<sup>18</sup>

Rather than be overruled by the others, however, the Cabinet was supposed to be the organ through which they attained access to the Throne to tender their advice. That the Armed Services also had direct access to the Throne was not unique. Both Houses of the Diet could address the Emperor directly, and the Privy Council and the Meiji leaders themselves, who later became known as the Genrō, or "elder statesmen," could also circumvent the Cabinet. Nevertheless, the Cabinet was supposed to be a unique adviser. The reason for its establishment in 1885 was precisely to bring unity to the government.<sup>19</sup>

Because the Cabinet was to be the major executive organ of government, other institutions, which were given specific functions of their own, were likely to make the Cabinet the organ through which they tried to guarantee their sole right to exercise these functions. For example, the Privy Council would try to have the Cabinet conclude only those treaties with which it was in agreement, the Diet would try to ensure the compilation of legislation and budgets of which it approved, and the Armed Services would try to win Cabinet approval of the wars they wanted waged. The most obvious way for any institution to gain Cabinet support for its policies, was for it to veto those of unsympathetic cabinets in the hope that the latter would either change their minds, or, because of the deadlock resulting from the veto, be forced out of office and replaced by more favourably-disposed cabinets.

In so far as an institution succeeded in raising or removing an entire ministry, parliamentary theory would describe the Cabinet as responsible to it. But should a number of institutions employ the same tactic simultaneously and the exercise of vetoes and counter-vetoes lead to a rapid succession of Cabinet changes, the situation would become highly confused and would not be clarified by the notion of "concurrent responsibility" to a variety of institutions, except in a negative sense.

If such a rapid succession of Cabinet changes resulting from the vetoes of the different branches did occur in Japan, a theory would be



required that takes account of each branch's use of its veto power to have the Cabinet pursue its line of policy in those matters which are its constitutional preserve. The theory of a separation-of-powers embraces both the idea of separate branches for separate tasks and the idea that each branch possesses a veto power to ensure the acceptance of its advice. But because the theory of a separation-of-powers also presupposes that each institution, including the executive, has an independent existence, it does not apply to the case in which the Cabinet can be dismissed as a result of any institution's veto power, as seemed possible in Japan. One should say that a Cabinet is "negatively" responsible to any institution that possesses the entire power to break it and that if each of a number of institutions can on its own dismiss an entire ministry, the Cabinet is best described as "concurrently responsible," in a negative sense, to all these institutions.

Cabinets which have no independent existence are also likely to have more than one institution responsible for their appointment. But whereas the uncompromising use by only one other institution of its veto power could possibly force the resignation of an entire ministry, it seems unlikely that any single institution could use its veto to raise an entire ministry. Other institutions, which also wanted cabinets of their choice, could simply exercise their vetoes. The only solution would be compromise: antagonistic institutions would have to agree to more neutral ones dominating the Cabinet or to a fair division of influence.

A Cabinet that is the compromise creation of a number of Cabinet-makers, as was likely under the Meiji Constitution, is not well described by the term "concurrently responsible," which is appropriate only for a Cabinet that can be dismissed solely by any one of a number of institutions. The term "separation-of-powers" is more applicable, because as far as each individual institution is concerned, the power to raise an entire cabinet independently of others does not exist. If no single institution can on its own raise an entire Cabinet, the existence of the Cabinet is best regarded as separate from it.

The power to appoint individual ministers, however, as opposed to the power to appoint an entire ministry, could be one Cabinet-makers shared. The compromise most likely to gain general acceptance would be each institution's control over appointments to those Cabinet seats that were most closely concerned with the exercise of its constitutionally determined function, although this would never be easy, because in practice the task of government is difficult to fragment into self-contained functions. Nevertheless, the Japanese Cabinet could be expected to consist of representatives of the veto-possessing institutions, because, like in eighteenth-century Britain, this was the most obvious compromise.

Such a compromise would not, however, enable the Japanese executive to escape the typical problems executives in separation-of-powers systems encounter. Because each of the veto-possessing institutions, except the Cabinet, had an independent existence, they had no institutional

incentive to cooperate. Each would tend to regard itself responsible to its own constituency alone: the Upper House to the aristocracy, the Lower House to the propertied class, the Armed Services to themselves and their recruiting ground, the peasantry, and the Privy Council to the old cronies who had sat in previous governments. The secret to the British solution of conflict among institutions was that all the politically important ones were dependent on the same power base, a single electorate. After 1867, cabinets and parliaments rose and fell together, because the existence of both was ultimately dependent on the verdict of the electorate. This institutional incentive for harmony was especially important when the acts of one institution were distasteful to another, because even then cooperation was more or less guaranteed. The Japanese constitution, however, only provided legal fictions for the resolution of disagreement between institutions. If no single branch would in practice be responsible to the Emperor, the Emperor would not be able to smooth over the conflicts that arose among them, and deadlock would be likely. And deadlock was likely to be even more complex than in the United States, because the Meiji Constitution gave each of a greater number of separate power bases its own legal foothold.

One of the first Japanese parliamentarians to realise that the main error the drafters of the constitution made was excessive reliance on European constitutional theory was Ueyhara Etsujiro. In 1910, he wrote:<sup>20</sup>

This indicates a complete separation between the executive and the legislature. . . . It seems that the constitutional framers of Japan were still under the delusion of the old theory that the goodness of a Constitution consists in the entire separation of the executive and legislative branches of government.

It is ironic that the Meiji leaders ended up with the very kind of constitution the weaknesses of which they fully understood and tried hard to avoid. While this did have a great deal to do with the state of contemporary political theory, it was also partly due to a situation which confronts all revolutionary leaders. As long as they felt that the revolution which they had initiated would be threatened if they were replaced by a government nominated by the newly created Diet, there could be no ultimate solution to conflict between the government and the Diet. In the early years, the folly of handing over control of the executive to the opportunistic leaders of undisciplined parties, which represented the propertied class alone, was clear to all who sought to serve the national interest. But although Itō foresaw that party cabinets might become normal practice once responsible national parties developed, no one foresaw that deadlock between the government and the Diet would persist until pure party cabinets replaced ones which were not completely dependent on the Diet.

One should remember that the English Parliament had existed for about six centuries before party cabinets became anything like normal practice. Almost throughout this period the king and his loyal servants had to gain the support of Members of Parliament in order to prevent

government from grinding to a halt. Gradually, as groups of loyal members came to band together to aid the king's measures through Parliament, the practice of choosing Cabinet ministers from among these groups became more common. Party did not have a connotation of opposition to government, but of loyal support for government, so that it finally became possible to have loyal party cabinets.

It was entirely unrealistic for Ōkuma and Itagaki to advocate immediate party cabinets in Japan, long before parties that could govern had emerged. The adoption of party cabinets in Japan was more complex than in Britain, because British parties had their origin in the House of Commons. They were groups of representatives who came together in order to support a certain kind of government. In Japan, however, parties had their origin in the country, where they agitated for support in order to oppose the government in the Diet. Immediate party cabinets were impractical, because it takes a long time for country-based opposition parties to become parliamentary-based governing ones.

#### Collective or Individual Responsibility?

Finally, one must consider the intentions of the Meiji leaders on whether cabinets were to be collectively or individually responsible. American historians tend to place a great deal of emphasis on the absence from the Constitution of an explicit statement that the Cabinet ministers were to be collectively responsible.<sup>21</sup> It is concluded that the intention was for each minister to be individually subject to appointment and

dismissal by the Emperor. This is unlikely. Since the Meiji leaders intended the Cabinet rather than the Emperor actually to govern the country, they must have realised that it would have to act as a unit. There is ample evidence that they did. It was precisely because the work of the government had not been well coordinated that the Cabinet was first set up in 1885. The change was made because, as Itō said:<sup>22</sup>

Ministers had no direct official relations with the Emperor and were under no responsibility for the great affairs of State. . . . By the said reorganisation, the Ministers of State were made each separately to bear his share of responsibility to the Emperor directly. Over them was placed the Minister President of State. The object of this change was, on the one hand, to give weight to the functions of Ministers of State and to press upon them a higher sense of their responsibility, and, on the other, to maintain the unity of the Cabinet and to avoid all complications therein.

The statement usually cited to support the theory of individual responsibility is ambiguous:<sup>23</sup>

There is no joint responsibility among them in regard to such matters [matters within their respective competency]. For, the Minister President and the other Ministers of State, being alike personally appointed by the Emperor, the proceedings of each of them are, in every respect, controlled by the will of the Emperor, and the Minister President himself has no power of control over the posts occupied by other Ministers, while the latter ought not to be dependent upon the former. In some countries the Cabinet is regarded as constituting a corporate body, the Ministers are not held to take part in the conduct of the government each one in an individual capacity, but joint responsibility is the rule. The evil of such a system is, that the power of party combination will ultimately overrule the supreme power of the Sovereign. Such a state of things can never be approved of according to our Constitution. But with regard to important internal and external matters of State, the whole Government is concerned, and no single Department can, therefore, be exclusively charged with the conduct of them. . . . All the Ministers of State shall take united counsel, and

none of them is allowed to leave his share of the business a burden upon his colleagues. In such matters, it would of course be proper for the Cabinet to assume joint responsibility.

The intention seems to have been that ministers are individually responsible for the internal matters of their own departments, but collectively so for more important internal and external matters that affect the nation as a whole. This is exactly what is supposed to be the case in Britain, although the Meiji leaders did not know it.

The possibility that any single institution could pull down an entire ministry may have made a kind of collective responsibility likely: concurrent collective responsibility in a negative sense. The unlikelihood that any single one could raise an entire ministry and the likelihood that each would gain control of as many Cabinet seats as it could made the collective rise of cabinets improbable. Although all ministers would be appointed at the same time, they would not all be appointed because of the influence of the same institution. Cabinets would rise neither as a homogeneous group, nor as a disparate collection of individuals, but as representatives of the institutions which effected their appointment and they would be neither individually nor collectively responsible.

### Conclusion

While it was not the intention of the Meiji leaders to give their country weak and sluggish government or to institutionalise the separation-of-powers ideology, they were unable to avoid doing so, because the sine qua non of constitutional government according to almost all

European theorists was that executives and legislatures should not only have separate and clearly defined functions, but separate existences. The Meiji Constitution did envisage separate functions and existences for each of its institutions, and the Meiji leaders also expected the Cabinet to have a separate existence. The Diet was granted the power to reject increased budgets and legislation, and because the two Houses were made equally capable of doing so, the executive could be in a doubly difficult position vis-a-vis the Diet. But the actual separation-of-powers in Japan was far greater than in America. Not merely was the Privy Council given powers similar to those of the American Supreme Court, but each of the Armed Services were given powers of veto in their respective domains. But unlike in America, while the judiciary was granted independence, it was not given the power of judicial review. Its lack of veto power prevented it from assuming the role of yet another of the separate institutions. The occupants of the Cabinet were to be trusted imperial advisers, initially the Meiji leaders themselves, and the function of this institution, though not mentioned in the Constitution, was to assist the Emperor in his executive capacity.

The belief seems to have been that deadlock between the various institutions could be avoided by making the Emperor sovereign in all matters, and having each institution, including the Cabinet, accountable to him alone. But because the Meiji leaders wanted to maintain the



inviolability of the Emperor, they did not want him personally involved in politics, but wanted him to act only on advice. Whose advice? Here the intentions of the drafters of the Constitution are unclear, but circularity seems to be involved. On budgets and laws the Emperor would act on the advice of the two Houses of the Diet (provided they could agree with each other); on the interpretation of the Constitution and the ratification of foreign treaties he would act on the advice of the Privy Council; on foreign policy he would be confronted by Army and Navy advisers, as well as the Cabinet and the Foreign Office; and on administration in general he would be advised by the Cabinet. But if the Emperor was to avoid taking sides in cases of political conflict and act only on advice, he would be unable to exercise his theoretical sovereignty to resolve inter-institutional deadlock, and the separation-of-powers would remain.

If the Cabinet became the Emperor's major adviser and other institutions worked through it, the power to make and break the Cabinet as well as affect its composition would indicate to whom the Japanese executive was in practice responsible. It would also tell us whether parliamentary theory or separation-of-powers theory promotes the best understanding of prewar Japanese politics. To know one must examine practice. If the Emperor appointed and dismissed cabinets solely because of actions and wishes expressed by the Lower House of the Diet, then in practice the Cabinet was responsible to the House alone and there was

no separation-of-powers. If, on each occasion, he considered the actions and wishes of a number of institutions, then the Cabinet was in practice responsible to no single one of them and there was a de facto separation-of-powers. If he appointed and dismissed entire ministries solely because any one institution used its veto power, then in practice there was "concurrent collective responsibility."

## CHAPTER 2

AN EMERGING SEPARATION-OF-POWERS, 1890-1900

By the end of the first decade of constitutional development it had become clear that relationships among the institutions established in 1890 were typical of separation-of-powers systems. The Cabinet regularly consisted of a fairly even spread of representatives of the new institutions, although most ministers still had contacts with more than one of them. It was not yet possible to link very many ministers with the influence of particular institutions, because only the Lower House of the Diet was really prepared to use its veto power. All cabinets were appointed by the Meiji leaders themselves, but their freedom to make these appointments gradually became constrained by the need to retain the support of institutions that could, and in the case of the House, did exercise their veto power. Because the Genrō found it difficult to appoint ministries of their choice, the Cabinet was not quite responsible to them in the positive sense. And because the Lower House of the Diet sometimes needed help to unseat ministries, the Cabinet was not quite responsible to it in the negative sense.

Background

By the early 1890's, the national mood of infatuation with things Western that began soon after the Meiji Restoration in 1868 had subsided, and a reaction had set in. The Meiji leaders had become disenchanted with Liberalism, if indeed they ever embraced it, and began to devote all

their efforts to economic development. The promulgation of the Constitution was intended both to demonstrate to the Western Powers that Japan was a "civilized" country and to prevent a re-occurrence of the samurai and peasant rebellions that had rocked the state in the two preceding decades. The latter consideration was perhaps less important, partly because the Army had attained sufficient strength to make the suppression of rebellion a much easier task than before. The leaders hoped to consolidate political authority, expand the economy, and use caution in their dealings with foreign powers.

The opposition to the government, which in the 1870's and early 1880's had included large sectors of the peasant and samurai classes, had subsided. From 1884 until the promulgation of the Constitution in 1890 there was a period of comparative calm. The parties, which had been active agitators in the country until the government promised in 1881 to establish a representative assembly by the end of the decade, decided to wait for the promulgation of the Constitution before reorganising the opposition. Although they were somewhat disappointed by the role the Constitution gave them, at least they had a legal way of expressing themselves, and would try to exploit it to the full. They rapidly reorganised, but largely without their more radical peasant members, whom the Constitution excluded from the franchise.

The two major party groupings, the Liberals and the Progressives, were loosely organised round their central figures, Itagaki Taisuke and

Ōkuma Shigenobu, both leading members of the Meiji oligarchy who had been excluded from the inner core. The Liberals were largely the party of the landowners, the Progressives of the financiers and urban capitalists as well as of the intelligensia.

Although the 1890's have usually been regarded as years of intense struggle between the landowner and capitalist classes on the one hand, and the feudal oligarchy which was in charge of the state, on the other, the institutional context in which this struggle took place has not always received sufficient emphasis. George Akita's recent study, Foundations of Constitutional Government in Modern Japan, 1868-1900, has done a great deal to redress the balance. Acquaintance with this important work will be assumed in this chapter, which concentrates almost entirely on the reasons for the Cabinet's composition as well as its rise and fall. I intend to provide a better theoretical understanding of early Meiji institutional development, whereas Akita emphasises the details of what actually happened.

The most important theoretical point to make about the years 1890-1900 is that because the Genrō were "almost" the sole creators of the Cabinet, the Japanese executive was "almost" responsible to the Genrō in the positive sense. And because the Lower House of the Diet was "almost" the sole breaker of the Cabinet, the executive was "almost" responsible to it in the negative sense. But because neither the Genrō nor the House can be regarded as the sole influence behind Cabinet-making

and-breaking, separation-of-powers theory explains what actually happened more accurately than parliamentary theory.

### Cabinet-Making

As was expected, the Meiji leaders did not sacrifice their insistence on the inviolability of the Emperor. They did not allow him to make political decisions and to become controversial. The Emperor appointed his ministers only after he had consulted the Meiji leaders themselves. The Genrō, rather than the Emperor, became the controversial "institution" responsible for the appointment of Ministers.

While in theory ministers remained solely Imperial appointments, in practice the Emperor only appointed men of whom the Genrō approved. Responsibility to the Emperor was a fiction, because, as a contemporary remarked:<sup>1</sup>

(T)here is not a single instance on record of the Emperor Mutsuhito taking any State matter into his own hands, independently of the Ministers of State. . . . But in practice it is generally understood that the outgoing Minister President advises the Emperor as to his successor, or else the Privy Council or an informal meeting of the so-called 'elder-statesmen' decide who shall take the responsibility of a new administration, and advise the Emperor accordingly.

The Emperor never appointed a Prime Minister until the Genrō had held a formal Genrō kaigi (Conference of elder statesmen), and agreed on a single nominee. Yamagata was unanimously, although rather informally, chosen in 1889, while Matsukata's selection in 1891 resulted from a formal Genrō kaigi (Conference of elder statesmen), the first to be

publicly recognisable. Those who attended these Conferences were usually Itō Hirobumi, Yamagata Aritomo, Inoue Kaoru, Saigō Tsugumichi, Kuroda Kiyotaka, Yamada Akimasa, Matsukata Masayoshi, and Ōyama Iwao.<sup>2</sup> All had occupied high positions in the government for years before 1890. All the Prime Ministers of the 1890's were chosen by a Genrō kaigi, and only in the case of the second Matsukata, second Itō, and first Ōkuma ministries did any institution other than the Genrō wield an important influence. In each case this institution was the Lower House of the Diet.

The one of their number the Genrō considered most able to lead the government in 1892 was the one among them most favourably disposed towards compromise with the Lower House. His predecessor's use of election interference to change the composition of the House had backfired, and the majority in the House was as hostile as ever. There was general agreement among the Genrō that the person mainly responsible for the drafting of the Constitution should have an opportunity to try his way of "making constitutional government work." The Lower House must therefore be seen as an important force behind Itō's appointment as Prime Minister in 1892.<sup>3</sup> But it was far from being the major force: "The Genrō made a united effort in organising the Cabinet," in an attempt to prevent the House from taking undue advantage of the new Prime Minister. In spite of their differences, both Itō and Yamagata served in the same government, so that a united Genrō could be in the strongest position

vis-a-vis the House.<sup>4</sup>

The success of this ministry in passing its budgets by means of an agreement with the Jiyūtō, the sole price of which had been to reward this party's leader, Itagaki Taisuke, with a seat in the Cabinet, completely vindicated Itō's strategy. Even before the fall of his government, an agreement between Matsukata Masayoshi and the leader of the other major party in the House, Ōkuma Shigenobu, had been formed. Matsukata's appointment in 1896 was not simply the result of his previous prime ministerial experience and favour with the Genrō, but of the likelihood that his agreement with a major party in the Lower House would make his government as great a success as its predecessor. The House's influence on Matsukata's selection is underlined by his consultation of Ōkuma over the composition of the Cabinet even before it had been formed. Itō had only admitted Itagaki into the Cabinet after a full three and a half years of office. Ōkuma was in the important position of Foreign Minister from the beginning.<sup>5</sup>

Of Itō's appointment following the fall of Matsukata's second ministry, a contemporary British observer wrote:<sup>6</sup>

Resistance to the parties combined resulted in a deadlock, alliance with either of them threatened to strand the ship of state owing to the incompetence of the crew. . . . In 1898, Marquis Ito made an attempt to win the country back to non-party government and efficiency by forming an independent Ministry in defiance of the Liberal [Jiyūtō] demands.

But the result was a dismal failure: the ministry lasted only five months.



The first Ōkuma government was mainly a Lower House creation.

The two main parties had formally united to form the Kenseitō (Constitutional Party) and had gained a massive victory in the election of 1898. It was impossible for Itō, or any non-party Prime Minister, to keep "the ship of state" afloat. Although the appointment of Ōkuma, the Kenseitō leader, was made at a formal Genrō kaigi, and Yamagata was particularly hostile to the idea, it was felt by all the Genrō that there was no alternative. None of them was prepared to take on the premiership in the face of a united opposition in the Lower House.<sup>7</sup>

Although the Ōkuma government was largely the creation of the Lower House, it did not result entirely from their influence. As Hackett correctly pointed out: "In reality the Cabinet represented three distinct forces: one, the old Jiyūtō members; another the old Shimpotō members, and the third, the service ministers."<sup>8</sup> Both Service Ministers were guardians of Genrō interests: the one was Genrō Saigō Tsugumichi, the other Yamagata's chief protege, Katsura Tarō. Ōyama Iwao and Kuroda Kiyotaka had insisted that Saigō and Katsura remain in the Cabinet.<sup>9</sup>

The second Yamagata ministry came to power without the influence of any institution besides the Genrō, although the Genrō were not united behind him. Itō was in China at the time, and the other Genrō held their meeting as soon as they could, because they knew that he would not agree to Yamagata's appointment, but would have to accept a fait accompli.<sup>10</sup>

Because the choice of a new Prime Minister was always the subject of the greatest controversy at the time of each Cabinet change, the

symbols in Appendix I, which refer to the major influences behind the rise of ministries, actually only indicate the influences determining the selection of Prime Ministers. Because Prime Ministers never had an absolutely free hand in forming their cabinets owing to the need to include institutional representatives, the Appendix is not strictly accurate. But it is more revealing to regard the influences responsible for the selection of Prime Ministers as the ones raising whole ministries. Not to do so would mean that almost all institutions would have to be listed each time, and the real institutional struggles that took place over the appointment of Prime Ministers would be concealed. The tussle between the Lower House and the Genrō over Cabinet-making in the 1890's would not receive sufficient emphasis.

Because the Genrō's freedom of appointment was on a number of occasions constrained by the need to nominate men who could win the support of the Lower House, none of the cabinets formed on these occasions can be regarded as strictly responsible to the Genrō. Neither the Genrō nor the House exercised the entire power of appointment, and the Cabinet was strictly speaking separate from both the Genrō and the House. The cabinets raised by both institutions in the 1890's were: the second Itō, the second Matsukata, and the first Ōkuma ministries. But the remaining cabinets were Genrō creations, and parliamentary theory correctly describes them as responsible to the Genrō in the positive sense.

Cabinet-breaking was a different matter. Although the Emperor remained theoretically responsible for dismissing ministers, and although

the Genrō also advised him on the use of this prerogative, the inability of a Prime Minister to continue in office in the face of any institution's uncompromising use of its veto power, made that institution the sole breaker of the Cabinet. But the fall of a few governments in the 1890's was due to the simultaneous use of their veto power by more than one institution. Because in almost every such case the Lower House was the sole necessary influence behind the government's demise, parliamentary theory describes Cabinet-breaking more accurately than separation-of-powers theory.

#### Cabinet-Breaking

Although contemporary observers did not say in so many words that the Lower House of the Diet was the major institutional force responsible for the fall of cabinets in the 1890's, the fact remains that each and every one of them resigned because of its inability to get what it wanted from the House. This was usually passage of the budget in an unamended form. The government's need for expanded budgets each year to further economic development made its right to enact the previous year's budget should the House fail to give its consent, worth very little. Throughout the 1890's, the passage of the budget remained the most hotly contested issue between the Cabinet and the Lower House. The next most important issue was foreign policy, the House calling for a more vigorous foreign programme, the Cabinet, under the influence of the Genrō, favouring moderation.

In 1891 the first Yamagata cabinet resigned because the House passed

an amended budget, which meant the "demolition of the government's financial plan."<sup>11</sup> Yamagata had tried to cudgel the House into compliance by issuing a new regulation which forbade the members of one party to communicate with members of another. But when this method failed, he resorted to corruption and was ultimately able to purchase sufficient support for a compromise.<sup>12</sup> He was so disgusted with the parties and the need to compromise with them, that he decided to step down because of the "extreme difficulty in making constitutional government function smoothly."<sup>13</sup>

Yamagata's successor, having unsuccessfully tried by means of wholesale election interference to obtain a Diet which would pass its budgets, finally resigned because of Cabinet disunity over the consequences of this interference. The Lower House had passed a resolution calling on the government to take responsibility for the election interference and resign.<sup>14</sup> Although Matsukata defied the House for a while, the members of his cabinet could not agree on the policy to be adopted towards the House. First, Shinagawa Yajirō, the Home Minister responsible for the election interference, was made to resign, because he was the main recipient of the House's criticism.<sup>15</sup> Then Mutsu Munemitsu, who had been a member of the House, resigned to dissociate himself from the government's policy.<sup>16</sup> They were replaced by men with close relations with the leaders of the two main parties: Soejima Taneomi and Kōno Togama, indicating, as Akita points out, that "the government was predisposed to revert to compromise."<sup>17</sup>

When Soejima worked out a compromise with the Jiyūtō to pass a supplementary budget, the other members of the Cabinet forced him out of office. Matsukata then indicated his intention to resign, but was persuaded by his colleagues not to. Kōnō Togama, Ōkuma's old friend, was made Home Minister to demonstrate to the House the government's good faith.

But the Cabinet was finally forced to resign when those ministers who opposed Matsukata's conciliatory policy towards the House, Takashima Tomonosuke and Kabayama Sukenori, refused to attend Cabinet meetings. Although the Army and Navy stepped in and indicated their refusal to find replacements for Takashima and Kabayama, who were the two Service Ministers, should Matsukata not go through with his intention to step down, the institutional pressures primarily responsible for Matsukata's predicament came from the Lower House. The policy of election interference was the direct cause of the Cabinet disunity that ultimately brought Matsukata to the point of despair. The action of the Army and Navy only added the final touch to a hopeless situation.<sup>18</sup> Uyehara also regarded the fall of the first Matsukata cabinet as the result of pressures from the Lower House: "Public confidence, owing to the interference in the election, was completely shaken, and it [the Cabinet] was forced to resign about two months after the end of the session."<sup>19</sup> Ōkuma's biographer wrote: "The Opposition had succeeded in throwing out two ministries in two years--a good record for the fighting strength of parties."<sup>20</sup>

The reasons behind the fall of the second Itō cabinet were equally complex, but the major institutional force involved was once again the Lower House. In the fifth session of the Diet (November 1893), the government was severely criticised by the House, under the leadership of the Progressives, for its weak foreign policy. Itō, fearing that this might jeopardise negotiations that were being conducted with Britain, decided to dissolve the House. The new House then passed a vote of no-confidence in the government for dissolving without proper cause, and Itō dissolved the House a second time.<sup>21</sup>

Although Itō was having considerable difficulty in retaining the House's confidence over foreign policy, he was able to pass all his financial legislation because of a working agreement with the Jiyūtō, which also refrained from taking part in the onslaught on the government's foreign policy.<sup>22</sup> The maintenance of the agreement with the Jiyūtō ultimately required Itō to reward that party by giving its leader, Itagaki Taisuke, the important seat of Home Minister. When vacancies at the Foreign and Finance Ministries occurred, Itō found himself in difficulties. The Genrō Inoue Kaoru and Yamagata Aritomo recommended that Ōkuma Shigenobu and Matsukata Masayoshi be brought in as Foreign and Finance Ministers, and Itō made no objection. But Itagaki flatly refused to accept the entrance into the Cabinet of the leader of the party which had spearheaded the attack on the government's foreign policy in the House, and threatened to resign. Matsukata, who had been

in close consultation with Ōkuma, refused to accept the position of Finance Minister unless Ōkuma became Foreign Minister.<sup>23</sup> Akita concludes: "Itō, unable to fill the positions of foreign minister and finance minister without incurring the loss of Jiyūtō support, resigned."<sup>24</sup>

The influence of the Lower House in the demise of the remaining governments in the 1890's, except the first Ōkuma one, was more direct and requires less detailed analysis. In each case, the resignation followed closely on some action or other taken by the House, and the causal link between them is easier to discern.

The second Matsukata cabinet, which it will be remembered came to power as a result of an agreement between Matsukata and the Shimpotō, fell with the rupture of that agreement. Matsukata had promised to further certain Shimpotō aims, for example, to extend freedom of speech and of the press, but because the party felt he was not sufficiently responsive to their wishes, dissatisfaction among party members appointed to high Civil Service offices increased. When Matsukata dismissed the people concerned, Ōkuma resigned, and the House introduced a motion of no-confidence in the government. Matsukata dissolved the House, and three days later resigned.<sup>25</sup>

Itō's third ministry, which attempted to make constitutional government work without reliance on a major party in the House, was one of the most short-lived in the entire prewar period. Financial problems resulting from high levels of government expenditure needed in part to support the Sino-Japanese war of 1895 made it necessary to find new

sources of revenue. Itō turned to the landowner class for assistance. But this class was the one most strongly represented in the Jiyūtō, which was in the forefront of the House's overwhelming rejection of Itō's Land Tax Bill. To the House this Bill was a matter of shikatsu (life and death). Itō replied by dissolving the House, and within only twelve days the two major parties had combined to form a new party whose major purpose was to secure party control of the Cabinet. It called itself the Kenseitō (Constitutional Party). Itō then requested permission from the other Genrō to form a new "loyal" political party, but when they refused, he resigned.<sup>26</sup>

The fall of the government that came to power because of the union between the two major parties was primarily due to the break up of that union. The immediate cause was a "Republican Speech" made by Ozaki Yukio, the Education Minister, who alluded to the hypothetical possibility that Japan might become a republic in millenia to come. Army Minister Katsura Tarō, one of the guardians of Genrō interests in the Cabinet, the House of Peers, and the Privy Council, seized on the issue in an attempt to pull down the government. Ultimately Ōkuma was forced to sacrifice Ozaki, but this led to a struggle between the two factions (the old Jiyūtō and old Shimpotō) of the Kenseitō over Ozaki's successor. Ōkuma was adamant about appointing a member of his old party, and the old Jiyūtō decided to revert to their former status as an independent party and retained the name of Kenseitō for themselves.



Ōkuma's own faction, which now called itself the Kenseihontō (Orthodox Constitutional Party), had more seats in the House than any other party, and Ōkuma tried to reconstitute his Cabinet. He intended to use a general resignation to rid his government of the opposition party members, but the Genrō stepped in and appointed Yamagata before he could come up with a new list of ministers.

The action of the Genrō was crucial, and was a necessary condition of the government's fall. But so was the break up of the Kenseitō, which gave the Genrō their chance, and the influence of the House must be placed above that of the Genrō. Ōkuma no longer commanded the strong position vis-a-vis the House that had brought him to power, and this fact enabled the Genrō to act as final executioners of an already condemned ministry.<sup>27</sup>

Yamagata's second cabinet, because of its working agreement with the Kenseitō (old Jiyūtō) and use of "gold pills" to win votes in the Diet, was at long last able to pass the Land Tax Bill. But the members of this party, once they saw that Yamagata had no intention to reward them with seats in his cabinet, terminated the agreement. Yamagata responded by tendering his resignation, although he agreed to remain in office until the suppression of the Boxer Rebellion in China. Hackett concluded: "Weary of governing, tired of the constant discontent expressed by the parties, and irked by the necessity of placating the opposition to get measures passed in the Diet, he withdrew for the last time from service in the Cabinet."<sup>28</sup>

The Lower House's ability to thwart the will of any government by denying it supply gave to the House the power to unmake cabinets. Although this was not enough to satisfy the parties in the House completely, it was much more than the Meiji leaders had envisaged at the time of drafting the Constitution. A British observer appreciated the problem better than most:<sup>28</sup>

(T)he Opposition, if it could not have its way, could at least prevent the government from following its own course, with the result that all progress was stayed, and a veritable deadlock ensued. . . . The clan oligarchy . . . had yielded the right of consent (author's italics) to the Representatives of the people and withheld substantive powers over the Administration. The old dualism of the Stuart period or of the reign of George III was repeated in Japan, in spite of the plain teachings of English history.

Unable to raise ministries of their choice, members of the Lower House united to bring down those raised largely by the Genrō, in the only way they could: through the exercise of their veto over increased budgets. Unfortunately for themselves, Dietmen assumed a consistently antagonistic attitude towards the government, and did not know how to govern when given the chance, as they demonstrated in the case of the first Ōkuma ministry. This habit of opposition to governments rather than cooperation with them persists to this very day among certain opposition members. It was succinctly described by Uyebara:<sup>29</sup>

Most politicians . . . in Japan do not come down to the House intending to support the government and to pass certain government measures, like the majority in the House of Commons in England, except when the leading party or parties have been included for some reason or other to co-operate with the government; but they attend in order to ply the government with questions,

to ferret out faults . . . and so to shake public confidence. This is one of the most effective methods of demonstrating the power of the representative body of the people that can be adopted under the present Constitution.

Using methods like these, the Lower House managed between Cabinet changes to effect a number of ministerial changes, although not all of their influence in this respect resulted from the employment of negative tactics. The replacement of Shinagawa in March 1892 was, however, a classic case. He received, more than any other Cabinet minister, the House's most vigorous criticism of the government's policy of election interference in 1892.<sup>30</sup> Mutsu Munemitsu's resignation at the same time was an expression of his dissociation from that policy. The Cabinet could not include a man who was sympathetic to the House and at the same time expect to attack that institution with impunity.<sup>31</sup> Yamagata's decision to leave Itō's second cabinet resulted from his dislike of the compromises with the parties, without which government would have ground to a halt.<sup>32</sup> Gotō Shōjirō resigned from the same cabinet when charges of corruption, originally directed at and resulting in the impeachment of Hoshi Tōru, spread to include him.<sup>33</sup> Nomura Yasushi was edged out of his seat of Home Minister to make way for Itagaki, this being the only way Itō could reward the Jiyūtō adequately for its cooperation. Finally, Agriculture and Commerce Minister Enomoto Takeaki was made to resign from the second Matsukata cabinet, after he was heavily criticised in the House as the Minister responsible for the Kōdoku jiken, an incident in which many people died of copper pollution, caused by tailings from a mine which poisoned irrigation water.<sup>34</sup>

Although the House was not yet able to have whomsoever it wanted appointed to the Cabinet, it was able to remove from office anyone who incurred its wrath, as these and many other examples indicate.

In addition to the House's ability to remove undesirable Cabinet ministers, it could remove entire ministries. The House's entire responsibility for the dismissal of a number of cabinets made these cabinets negatively responsible to it. All governments except the first Matsukata and first Ōkuma ones were dismissed solely because of the House's influence. The fall of the two exceptions also resulted from the predominant pressure of the House, but in both cases another institution was the final executioner. The Army prevented the Matsukata government and the Genrō prevented the Ōkuma government from saving the situation. But because the Army and the Genrō only added the final touch, the Cabinet in the 1890's should be seen as negatively responsible to the Lower House of the Diet.

The difference between Cabinet-making and -breaking also affected the development of collective responsibility. Ministers could be appointed individually but particularly towards the end of the decade cabinets usually resigned en bloc, and ministers were dismissed as members of teams.

#### From Individual Responsibility to Institutional Representation

During the 1880's, the Meiji leadership had been able to control government appointments without any legitimate interference from the opposition. Ministries usually consisted of members of the inner core,

and when changes took place, usually only changes of portfolios were involved, and these were not too frequent. It is not surprising that during the first years under the Constitution, the practice of ministers coming and going only one or two at a time was continued. In the language of parliamentary theory, individual responsibility of ministers was the rule, although it was not yet possible to decide to whom they were responsible. For example, the first Yamagata cabinet was, more than any other, simply a collection of individuals whose fortunes were only to a slight degree inter-dependent. Only two of its members never had seats in the preceding Kuroda cabinet, and when it was succeeded by the first Matsukata cabinet, only the occupant of the Prime Minister's Office changed.<sup>35</sup>

It is of course true that the number of ministerial changes per ministry cannot alone indicate the extent to which ministers come and go as individuals, because men who are more able to prolong the life of the team may continually be brought in for this reason. Nevertheless, the unusually large number of changes that took place during the lives of the first Matsukata and second Itō ministries, largely for reasons unrelated to prolonging the life of the whole,<sup>36</sup> confirms that ministers were not yet dependent on one another for their existence, but on themselves as individuals. The second Itō cabinet saw more than a score of ministerial changes, and only the appointment of Itagaki Taisuke, the leader of the Jiyūtō had anything to do with keeping the team in office for a while longer.<sup>37</sup> The number of ministerial changes per cabinet

declined sharply after the fall of this government. Seven of the original ten members of the second Matsukata cabinet remained in office throughout its life. Nine of them did if one considers that his government fell soon after the resignation of Ōkuma Shigenobu, the leader of the Shimpotō, and Hachisuka Mochiaki, which ended the government's alliance with that party. All but two of the original members of the third Itō ministry, all of those of the first Ōkuma one, which fell only two weeks after the resignation of Ozaki Yukio, and the entire second Yamagata ministry, saw their full term of office.

Although the first two Prime Ministers of the period merely assumed the leadership of cabinets formed by their predecessors, the fate of the first Matsukata cabinet provided the first instance of what would become standard practice by the end of the decade. When the Prime Minister resigned, all his colleagues followed suit, and only one of them accepted a seat in the next cabinet. It took a few years for a fixed pattern to develop. Three members of the second Itō cabinet served in its successor, and so did two members of the first Ōkuma cabinet. But when the third Itō cabinet resigned, for the first time, the two ministers who remained in office were those of the Army and Navy. This refusal of the Service Ministers to move with the times marked the beginning of a new trend: the Service Ministers became first and foremost, not members of the team, but representatives of the Army and Navy, who regarded themselves responsible to the Army and Navy alone. Both of Ōkuma's Service Ministers as well as Yamagata's Navy Minister in his

second cabinet were the sole members of their ministries to serve under their successors.

Separation-of-powers institutional forces had begun to affect the composition of the Cabinet and prevent the development of its members into a tightly-knit team. If some members were being appointed primarily because of their ties with the Armed Services, others owed their appointment to ties with yet other institutions. A Cabinet consisting of representatives of the various institutions could not be expected to hold together in times of inter-institutional conflict. Nor could its members regard their existence as mutually dependent, because the existence of each ultimately depended on the institution he represented. If complete collective responsibility was therefore unlikely to develop, individual responsibility could never become the rule either, because ministers were appointed not merely for their individual qualities, but because of their membership in one or other of the veto-possessing institutions, whose cooperation the Cabinet required.

After the first decade of constitutional government, cabinets continued to rise and fall more or less as teams. The number of reshuffles was never large, and rarely indicated more than do reshuffles in Britain, that when the Prime Minister feels that accepting collective responsibility for the actions of a colleague will endanger the life of the whole, it is better to replace the offending minister.

The tendency for changes in Service Ministers to coincide only occasionally with Cabinet changes continued throughout the prewar period and revealed that these ministers never came to think of themselves primarily as members of a governing team. Although non-service ministers also remained primarily representatives of one or other of the separate institutions, few of them remained in office after the fall of a cabinet. When one did, like the representative of the Kenkyūkai, the largest faction in the Upper House, Ōki Enkichi, who remained in office after the fall of the Takahashi cabinet in 1922, it was quite exceptional.

Two contradictory forces were responsible for this. The one, because ministers were appointed primarily as representatives of one of the separate institutions, worked against the development of solidarity among the Cabinet members and of complete collective responsibility. The other, because the business of government requires coordination and unity among government programmes, tended to cement Cabinet members into teams, which came to have corporate identities of their own. The end product of these two antagonistic forces was not so much that ministers came and went individually, as in the case of the Service Ministers and the occasional non-service minister, but that whole cabinets had only very brief existences. Ministers were appointed as representatives of institutions, and then came to acquire corporate identities. When inter-institutional conflict became severe, the only solution was to resign



en bloc, because their newly acquired corporate identities prevented each from simply reverting to his role of representative of one of the institutions. Because this pattern showed little variation under the Meiji Constitution, no more will be said about the relationship between collective responsibility on the one hand, and the timing of a minister's appointment and the length of his term of office, on the other.

#### The Qualifications of Ministers and the Sharing of Cabinet-Making Power

That these new forces had come to exert the influences described is revealed in the composition of cabinets. Even if the historical evidence does not always indicate specifically that a member was appointed because he possessed a particular qualification, the assumption will be made that, even though he may not have been appointed primarily for this reason, an unintended consequence of his membership in an institution is that he will to some extent regard himself under constraints from it and be partly responsible to it. A classification of the qualifications of Cabinet members can therefore be used as evidence for the extent to which new institutional forces were operative. This reveals an incipient separation-of-powers.

Appendices I and II show that in the 1890's the Genrō and their proteges all but monopolised Cabinet seats. Only the first Ōkuma cabinet never included a majority of them, but this cabinet was not typical of the period. The only change that seemed to take place was that whereas in the early years representatives of the Genrō were mainly

Genrō themselves, in later years these representatives tended to be mainly proteges of the Genrō. For example, the second Itō cabinet, popularly known as a genkun naikaku (cabinet of veteran statesmen), at one time or another included all the Genrō except Yamada Akimasa, whereas Itō's third cabinet included only three actual Genrō, but four of Itō's proteges and two of Yamagata's. The same was true of the two Yamagata ministries, the first including five Genrō and two of Yamagata's proteges, the second only three Genrō but four of Yamagata's proteges. The extent of Genrō Cabinet-making power is also revealed by the fact that Ōkuma was the only non-Genrō to serve as Prime Minister in this period.

The steady increase in the number of Cabinet members who had contacts in the Lower House or who were actually party members shows that this institution was rapidly coming to acquire a share of Cabinet-making power. Akita concludes that "within a decade no government could be formed without at least their covert cooperation."<sup>38</sup> The first Yamagata cabinet, for example, included Iwamura Michitoshi, the brother of Hayashi Yūzō, a prominent Jiyūtō leader, and Gotō Shōjirō, a founder of the earlier Jiyūtō of the 1880's and leader of the Daidō Danketsu, an organization of the late 1880's composed of ex-party members. It had urged the government to resist the Western powers and to increase freedom of speech and assembly. Gotō entered the Kuroda cabinet to placate the party politicians whom the government had to face in the first Diet.

Just before the opening of the Diet, Iwamura was replaced by Mutsu Munemitsu, who had closer relations with more party members and was subsequently elected to the House. The next cabinet not only retained the services of Gotō and Mutsu, but soon added Soejima Taneomi, who was close to both Ōkuma and Itagaki, and Kōno Togama, an old friend of Ōkuma. One should not exaggerate the influence of the House in effecting these appointments, all of whom were only acquaintances of party members, not party members themselves, but, had the government not been having difficulty in obtaining the House's cooperation, few of them would have been considered suitable for Cabinet office.

The second Itō cabinet, however, not only included men with contacts in the House such as Gotō, Mutsu, Kōno, and Saionji Kimmochi, but specifically brought in the leader of the Jiyūtō, Itagaki, in order to reward that party for the cooperation it had given the government.<sup>39</sup> Then, even before the formation of the second Matsukata cabinet, Ōkuma was approached and consulted over the cabinet's composition, in order to cement an agreement for his party to cooperate with the new ministry. Finally, the first Ōkuma ministry represented the climax of the House's efforts to gain control over Cabinet seats, and all its civilian members came from the majority party.

In reaction to this disproportionate share of seats for the House--if one remembers that the House was only one of the various institutions--the second Yamagata cabinet included only Sone Arasuke, who had taken a

leading part in setting up the Kokumin Kyōkai (a pro-government party in the House) in 1892, and had been elected to the House once. Yamagata had been able to negotiate an agreement with the Kenseitō without having to pay the price of including any of its members.<sup>40</sup> Nevertheless, the gradual acceptance of the practice, usually indicated by the presence of major party leaders in the Cabinet, that government without the support of the House was impossible, confirms the development of the House into one of the separate veto-possessing institutions.

Other institutions were also in the process of acquiring a share of Cabinet-making power, particularly the Armed Services, although the dominant contenders in the 1890's remained the Genrō and the Lower House of the Diet. The Armed Services had always possessed a good deal of influence, because, in the early years at least, it was not easy to distinguish their leading members from the Genrō, all of whom, except Itō Hirobumi and Inoue Kaoru, who were members of the Civil Service, were high ranking military officers. Nevertheless, once younger men, who were frequently at odds with the Genrō, obtained Cabinet positions, it became possible to distinguish the Genrō and the various Services as separate institutions with which the Cabinet would have to contend. For example, non-Genrō military men in the first Yamagata cabinet were Enomoto Takeaki and Kabayama Sukenori, both of whom, together with Takashima Tomonosuke, served in the next cabinet.

All the other cabinets of this period, except the third Itō and first Ōkuma ones, contained one or two non-Genrō military men, indicating

the development of a gradual if almost imperceptible separation between the Genrō and the Armed Services. This is confirmed by developments over the passage of time. In the early years non-Genrō military men did not serve exclusively as Service Ministers. For example, Enomoto Takeaki and Takashima Tomonosuke were at one time Education and Colonies Minister respectively. By the end of the decade, however, non-Genrō military men could only be found in the portfolios of Army and Navy Minister, and only Army men could be found in the former, and Navy men in the latter.

The very large number of ministers whose qualifications included service in the upper levels of the Civil Service indicates that this institution also came to have an identity of its own as one which would take part in the struggles over Cabinet seats. Both the members of the first Yamagata cabinet who did not sit in its predecessor had been Vice Ministers in the departments they were appointed to head, and Yoshikawa Kensei, although a Yamagata protege, had been Vice Minister in another department. All the men who became Cabinet ministers for the first time during the first Matsukata ministry, except Takashima, had been ministers in the pre-cabinet period. All were members of the Privy Council, the implications of which are spelt out below.

Of those whose first Cabinet experience occurred during Itō's second ministry, Watanabe Kunitake had been Vice Minister of his department, and Itō's and Yamagata's proteges were all civil servants of long

standing. The same pattern is revealed by the newcomers in the next cabinet. Nishi Tokujirō, Hamao Arata, and Kiyoura Keigo, came to head the departments in which they had held high positions, while Hachisuka Mochiaki and Yamada Nobumichi were also in government service. While these qualifications were crucial, that Kiyoura was also a Yamagata protege and a Peer, and Hamao and Hachisuka were also Peers, was not unimportant. Although the first Ōkuma cabinet also included men with experience in the Civil Service, for example, Ōkuma himself, its civilian members were there primarily because of their party membership. The second Yamagata cabinet included no one, except the Navy Minister, who had not served in some previous cabinet.

The fact that many of these Civil Service Cabinet members were also Genrō proteges parallels the lack of complete separation between the Genrō and the Armed Services. But many of them were not Genrō proteges and had been Vice Ministers: it seems that a career in the Civil Service would on its own become a sufficient qualification for Cabinet membership.

It must be emphasised that because there was so little inter-institutional conflict during the 1890's other than that between the House and the Genrō, the changes that were suggesting the acquisition of separate purposes and existences by different institutions were almost imperceptible. In the next period these changes were to become more obvious, but they had their origins in the 1890's and were revealed by a gradually more even distribution of Cabinet seats among each of the

institutions established in 1890. The increasing tendency for ministers to be appointed largely because of their ties with certain institutions could be expected to lead these institutions to impose gradual constraints on their representatives. The latter would be required to look after their institution's interests. Inter-institutional conflict became acute not only because the Genrō lost control of other institutions, but because of the growing tendency for Cabinet members to belong to only one institution and to be officially regarded as its representative, as was the case with Genrō-House conflict in the 1890's.

Because the Cabinet members of this decade who were members of the Privy Council frequently had some other qualifications as well, it is not easy to tell which particular one won them their seats. It seems that the great preference shown for people with previous Cabinet experience was legitimised by making these people Privy Councillors, and then alleging that they were chosen as members of the Privy Council. Many were chosen perhaps not simply because of past experience, but because of the original qualification that won them a seat in the Cabinet in the first place, usually a career in the Civil Service. Although many Privy Councillors resigned from the Council when they entered the Cabinet, past membership is not distinguished from full membership in this period, in order to illustrate the kinds of qualifications that were becoming necessary for Cabinet office.

The first Yamagata cabinet contained only one Privy Councillor, Aoki Shūzō, but Aoki was also one of Yamagata's proteges.

As noted above, all the men whose first Cabinet experience was in the ensuing Matsukata government, except Takashima Tomonosuke, were Privy Councillors with ministerial experience before 1885. But only Ōki Kyōnin, who had been the Council's President, Tanaka Fujimarō, and Sano Tsunetami can possibly have been appointed for this reason. The second Itō ministry contained five Privy Councillors, all of whom had previous Cabinet experience, but in no case did their Privy Council membership make much difference. Of the Privy Councillors appointed in subsequent reshuffles, Inoue Kowashi and Saionji Kimmochi probably owed a bit to the Council. All the original members except Matsukata of his second cabinet who had served in previous cabinets had at one time or another been members of the Privy Council, but all would probably have been appointed anyway. Nishi Tokujirō was the only other member of the Council to enter the Cabinet in reshuffles, and also the only one who was probably appointed partly because of this membership.

Itō's third ministry also had considerable overlapping membership with the Privy Council. Itō himself, Saigō Tsugumichi, Nishi Tokujirō, and Saionji Kimmochi had all been Privy Councillors, but only the latter two seemed to have owed anything to the Privy Council. The Ōkuma government included only the Premier and Saigō, but both would have served anyway. The same applies to the Councillors in the second Yamagata cabinet: the Premier, Saigō, Kabayama Sukenori, and Aoki Shūzō.



It seems therefore that the Privy Council also had some share of independent Cabinet-making power in this period, because although many Privy Councillors were Genrō or Genrō proteges, or even possessed other qualifications, not a few were Privy Councillors in the first instance and owed their Cabinet positions to this more than to anything else. Examples are: Oki Kyōnin, Tanaka Fujimaro, Sano Tsunetami, Nishi Tokujirō, and Saionji Kimmochi. Moreover, many of the Privy Councillors who never served in the Cabinet could hardly be described as lackeys of the Genrō.

One should not be surprised that the process by which each institution freed itself from Genrō control and acquired a separate existence and purpose was far from complete in ten years. Even in 1910 Uyehara observed that:<sup>41</sup>

(U)p to now there has been no serious conflict between the Cabinet and the Privy Council, as both have been and still are occupied by men of the same mode of thinking . . . and both are responsible to the Emperor and not to the Diet. . . . When the Cabinet Ministers in the course of time become responsible to the Diet, the friendly relations now existing between the Cabinet and the Privy Council may not continue.

The final institution to acquire a share of Cabinet-making power was the House of Peers, although Uyehara's remark on the Privy Council is equally applicable to the Peers in this period. While many members of this institution served in cabinets, very few did so primarily or even partly because of this membership. The first Yamagata cabinet included three members of the Upper House, but for none of them could

this have made much of a difference. The same applies to the three Peers in the next cabinet. But of the three in the second Itō ministry, Saionji Kimmochi probably found his Peerage as useful as his other qualifications. The second Matsukata cabinet included five Peers, of whom Hamao Arata and Hachisuka Mochiaki were appointed partly, possibly even mainly, because of their Upper House membership. Of the seven Peers in the third Itō cabinet, Saionji, Kaneko Kentarō, Suematsu Kenchō, and Itō Miyoji may have owed something to this fact, although all were Itō proteges. For Toyama Masakazu, membership of the Upper House was probably more crucial. The Ōkuma cabinet included only Saigō Tsugumichi, who would have served anyway, while none of the Peers in the second Yamagata ministry could have been appointed because of their Peerage.

In all, only Hachisuka, Hamao, and Toyama provide evidence for any real Upper House influence on the composition of the Cabinet, or for the acquisition of an independent identity by the Peers. The Peers' Cabinet-making and -breaking power would become more evident as conflict with the Lower House increased, a development which was inevitable, because, as Uyehara pointed out:<sup>42</sup>

(T)he House of Peers and the House of Representatives have an entirely different composition and represent different communities and interests. Therefore conflict is more likely than harmony; and conflict must end in deadlock, or the supremacy of one party over the other.

The influence usually cited as the one to which the Cabinet was in practice responsible, the two han (clans) of Satsuma and Chōshū, has not been mentioned yet. Because all the Premiers of the decade, except Ōkuma, were from these han, Quigley wrote, "responsibility to the Emperor has, until very recently, meant essentially responsibility to such prominent clan statesmen as Yamagata, Itō, Katsura, and others."<sup>43</sup> It is true that the majority of Cabinet members in the 1890's were from the two main han, but this majority was not as great as is sometimes made out. Table 1, which is compiled from information in Appendices II and III, reveals a steady decrease in the number of ministers from the main han.

Table 1. Proportion of Cabinet Members from the two main han, 1890-1918.

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>No. of Sat-Chō. Ministers</u>	<u>Total No. of Ministers</u>
Yamagata I	7	13
Matsukata I	8	17
Itō II	11	20
Matsukata II	7	13
Itō III	7	12
Ōkuma I	2	10
Yamagata II	7	9
Itō IV	3	13
Katsura I	6	14
Saionji I	3	12
Katsura II	3	9
Saionji II	2	11
Katsura III	4	10
Yamamoto I	3	12
Ōkuma II	2	15
Terauchi	2	11

Moreover, it is very difficult to say that anyone was appointed primarily because of his Sat-Chō background. People from these han seem to have been appointed mainly because they were able to acquire the other requisite qualifications sooner than people from other han, an advantage they gradually lost. So while the Chōshū clique may have proved to be dominant in the Army and the Satsuma clique in the Navy, this was not necessarily because the major forces creating conflict were feudal, but partly because the dominant han were initially more able to capture control of the new institutions, which were really to set the Japanese ruling class at loggerheads with itself.

For the same reason, the major conflicts among the Genrō were not between Satsuma and Chōshū men, but, because Itō was sympathetic to the Lower House, between Itō and Yamagata, the two leading Chōshū Genrō. This reflected the institutional conflict between the Genrō as a whole and the Lower House of the Diet. Although the forces dividing the ruling class were as much politico-institutional as feudal, it is true that the rivalry felt between men from Satsuma and Chōshū did on occasion make a difference. For example, Matsukata, who was not unsympathetic to the Lower House, would have been wiser to support Itō against Yamagata, rather than allow his Satsuma lineage prevent him from allying with a man from Chōshū. The fact remains, however, that cabinets can hardly be said to have been responsible to these two han. Very few Sat-Chō men who were not Genrō, proteges of Genrō, or military

men became Cabinet ministers. The only two who did were Nishi Tokujirō from Satsuma and Sone Arasuke from Chōshū. While the association with the main han was an important qualification for both, it was by no means alone.

Although each of the newly created institutions had begun to exert an independent influence more important than feudal ties, the major conflicts of the 1890's were between the Genrō and the Lower House, because the former managed almost to monopolise Cabinet-making power, the latter Cabinet-breaking power. Only men who had the confidence of the Genrō were made ministers by Genrō Premiers in the first place, and those who could not subsequently win the confidence of the House were compelled to resign. The kinds of qualifications possessed by ministers, membership in one or more of the various institutions, did indicate, however, that the Genrō never had a completely free hand in making their appointments. Their choices were constrained by the need to find representatives of the institutions without whose consent no cabinet could govern. Because these institutions, except the Lower House, were largely under Genrō control in the 1890's, the Genrō's discretion was much greater than it would be once they lost this control.

### Conclusion

After only one decade of constitutional development, there were clear indications that separation-of-powers forces were becoming more important than parliamentary ones. The Lower House of the Diet, over

which the Genrō had no control, was in constant deadlock with the Cabinet, which in turn was far from sole dependence on the House. The Genrō were never really in possession of the entire power to raise ministries, not merely because they frequently had to appoint Prime Ministers who could come to terms with the House, but because there were signs of the need for Prime Ministers to include in their cabinets a broad spectrum of institutional representatives. The power to appoint cabinets was becoming something which no single institution possessed, and the Cabinet was becoming separate from each. Although the power of breaking cabinets was largely in the hands of the Lower House in the 1890's and cabinets were mainly responsible to the House in the negative sense, there were also indications that no single institution could on its own always pull down an entire ministry. Even negatively, the Cabinet was not strictly speaking responsible to the House.

Deadlock in the 1890's was not as serious as predicted: only the Genrō and the Lower House of the Diet were in serious conflict with each other. But this was because the Genrō had almost complete control of institutions besides the House. Once the Genrō lost their ability to dominate even these institutions, deadlock between the Cabinet and all institutions became the rule. A full-fledged separation-of-powers developed and imparted to prewar Japanese politics one of its most distinctive characteristics.

## CHAPTER 3

A FULL-FLEDGED SEPARATION-OF-POWERS, 1900-1918

The most pertinent characteristics of Japanese institutional development during the years 1900-1918 were the development of a Genrō-Lower House compromise and the gradual decline of Genrō power within that compromise. Both developments reflected an increasing separation-of-powers. Cabinet-making and -breaking power were both consistently wielded by more than one institution, and the Cabinet was more fully separate from each than ever before. The increasing separation-of-powers must be held at least in part responsible for the prevalence during these years of phenomena like high levels of corruption and personality politics. In the 1890's the Genrō had been the Constitution's main deus ex machina and had mitigated inter-institutional conflict through their proteges, who worked from within the various institutions for a coherent set of policies which they, the Genrō, had determined. Directly, or indirectly, they had been able to control the Upper House, the Privy Council, the Army, the Navy, and the Civil Service, and were therefore prevented from completely controlling the Cabinet only by the Lower House. But once they began to lose control of their proteges, or once the latter were no longer able to dominate the particular institutions to which they belonged, institutional autonomy increased. By 1918, the Genrō had lost control of the Navy and the Civil Service and partial control of the House of Peers and the Army, although they retained their grip on the Privy Council.

Examination of the part played by each institution in the appointment and dismissal of ministries reveals the development of an increasing separation-of-powers. Also revealed are the typical consequences that occur readily in an institutional arrangement in which the executive is not solely dependent on any single institution, but on a number of separate institutions occupied by people with different power bases.

### Background

The Meiji leaders' three dominant concerns of the 1890's—to consolidate political authority, promote economic development, and abolish extra-territorial rights held by foreigners—ceased to command such overriding importance in the first two decades of the twentieth-century. Their political authority had been institutionalised: the Genrō were generally accepted as the men with the most experience to act as the Emperor's closest advisers on matters such as the appointment and dismissal of ministers, even though the Lower House felt their views should be given greater consideration by the Genrō in carrying out this task. Moreover, although the Genrō had come to realise that compromises with the Lower House were necessary, none of these compromises threatened the existence of the new state or the main paths which it had chosen to follow. The industrial revolution had reached an irreversible stage, although Japan was still heavily dependent on foreign imports for her manufactures and heavy machines. No real industrial proletariat emerged until after the First World War, which gave the Japanese economy the



boost it had been waiting for. Revision of extra-territorial rights had been making progress, particularly after Japan's defeat of China in 1895 brought her recognition as a Great Power. The conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese alliance in 1902, the victory over Russia in 1905, and the successful but limited Japanese role in the First World War all represented the culmination of Japan's drive for recognition as an equal among the world Powers. Although there remained some resentment over the Versailles Treaty, foreign affairs was far from occupying a central position in the years 1900-1918, either in the minds of the Meiji leaders or the public at large.

The absence of any single overriding national problem is perhaps the most important characteristic of this period. The Genrō merely sought to keep the country on its present course, while the parties representing the capitalist and wealthy landed classes sought solely to increase their share of influence by gradualist legitimate means. Consensus and compromise was the national mood, and social and economic conditions were sufficiently constant to make Japan in the years 1900-1918 resemble in many respects Britain in the first half of the eighteenth-century. The two major parties confined themselves to competing with each other as well as with other branches of government for the control of the Cabinet. Moderation being the order of the day, the parties refrained from identifying themselves too openly with the occasional mass agitation that occurred over foreign policy and the price of rice.

The only time the parties sought mass support was when the Genrō shattered the consensus and broke the unspoken agreement to compromise with them in making the Constitution work. More than in any other period, the operation of constitutional government was the most important issue over which the influential sectors of Japanese society were prepared to take a strong stand. More than in any other period therefore, socio-economic conditions in the country can be safely abstracted from politico-institutional problems without a loss of understanding. This does not mean, however, that socio-economic conditions were unimportant, but that the study of constitutional history can be carried out without reference to them more easily during the years 1900-1918 than at other times.

Recent scholarship in America has contributed a great deal to the understanding of the political and institutional development of late Meiji and early Taishō Japan. Two studies in particular, by Tetsuo Najita, Hara Kei in the Politics of Compromise, 1905-1915, and Peter Duus, Party Rivalry and Political Change in Taishō Japan, are indispensable reading, and acquaintance with them is essential for the reader to understand the emphasis of this chapter. Like Akita, Duus and Najita provide a wealth of information about what actually happened but also fail to put this information into an appropriate theoretical framework. The purpose of the present chapter is to show how a classification of the reasons for Cabinet composition, as well as its rise and fall, can make the institutional history of the period more comprehensible in terms of general theory.

The rise and fall of cabinets during the entire period resulted, with one or two exceptions, from the influence of a variety of institutions. The Cabinet consisted of representatives of all institutions except the Privy Council, and the sources are much more explicit than before in linking the influence of particular institutions with the appointment of particular ministers. Neither positively nor negatively was the Cabinet responsible to any single branch of government, because there was none on which the Cabinet's existence solely depended. The Cabinet was more independent of any single institution's control than ever before, and separation-of-powers theory alone sheds light on institutional relationships. Formation of a cabinet always resulted from a compromise, and at least two institutions had to conspire to cause a cabinet fall. Frequently the members of these institutions consciously cooperated.

The major inter-institutional agreement was between the Genrō and the Lower House of the Diet. Every government, with the exception of the first Yamamoto government, owed its appointment to this agreement in some form, and many governments owed their demise to it as well. The following section describes the various forms the agreement took. The Genrō-House Compromise in Cabinet-Making and -Breaking, 1900-1912

As in the 1890's, the Genrō and the Lower House were the most influential institutions in the years 1900-1912. But now it was no longer simply a matter of Genrō dominance in the making of cabinets and

Lower House dominance in their unmaking. It became more and more common for compromises to be struck between the Genrō and the House, and for them to share the responsibility for both the rise and fall of cabinets. By the end of the period, Hara Kei, the President of the Seiyūkai since 1914 and its master strategist since 1903, was able to say: "Yamagata and I are the makers of the cabinet."<sup>1</sup> A contemporary western scholar, who was keenly aware of institutional forces, spoke of a "cabinet in part responsible to the House of Representatives."<sup>2</sup> Unable to control the Lower House, the Genrō had learnt to surrender to it a part of their influence over the Cabinet, while the House, unable to wish away the existence of the Genrō, had to be satisfied with a Cabinet that was only partly "responsible" to it.

This modus vivendi at which the House and the Genrō arrived is revealed in a variety of ways throughout the period. The first was when one of the Genrō became a party leader. The second involved an agreement between the Genrō and the majority party to take turns in forming ministries. The third and final compromise was an unspoken agreement to hand over the premiership to a third party, who was either neutral, or was on good terms with both the Genrō and the Lower House.

Just before the fall of the second Yamagata government, Genrō Itō Hirobumi finally decided that the only way to make constitutional government work was to have a government party in the House that commanded a majority. He decided to defy Yamagata and to organise such a party. The old Jiyutō accepted his overtures, because they saw in a Genrō as their

President a way to obtain regular seats in the Cabinet. The result was the formation of the Seiyūkai (The Association of Political Friends) in 1900, with Itō as President and the old Jiyūtō providing the main body of members. Although Itō was not nearly as acute as Yamagata in drawing to himself powerful adherents from a number of institutions, he did bring a few influential bureaucrats into the party. Examples are: Suematsu Kenchō, Watanabe Kunitake, Kaneko Kentarō, and Saionji Kimmochi.

The organisation of the Seiyūkai made Itō's appointment as Prime Minister in 1900 quite natural, even though Itō felt that his new party was not yet ready to assume office and that Yamagata wanted this lack of preparedness to discredit it. The failure of the Kenseitō to hold together in 1898 was probably uppermost in the minds of both Genrō. As in 1898, however, there was really no alternative: after a decade of intense conflict between the House and the Genrō, Itō, as a Genrō and the President of the largest party in the House, was the only person seriously considered.<sup>3</sup>

The forces behind the rise of Itō's government contained the seeds of its fall. The Seiyūkai represented two antagonistic groups of people, and a struggle between them was the first sign of the trouble to come. Itō had wanted Genrō Inoue Kaoru as his Finance Minister, but because his party objected, he gave the position to his associate, Watanabe Kunitake, who joined the party. This angered the old Jiyūtō members, particularly Hoshi Tōru, who opposed all Watanabe's financial policies from the

beginning. Although the budget passed the Lower House, it was rejected by the Peers, who were angry because Itō had organised a party and included Hoshi, whose reputation for corrupt dealings was well known. Hoshi was forced to resign, but Itō issued an Imperial Rescript to bring the Peers round on the budget. Itō then resigned, taking responsibility for involving the Emperor in the whole affair.

The Genrō held a Conference and decided that because Itō still had a majority in the Lower House his resignation should not be accepted. Six weeks later Itō resigned again, allegedly because of Cabinet disunity. Hara Kei, Kaneko Kentarō, Hayashi Yūzō, and Matsuda Masahisa were united in opposition to Watanabe's financial plans: Watanabe had wanted to cease the practice of selling bonds to pay for nationalised industries and to turn the industries over to private hands. The Cabinet agreed to postpone the idea, but Watanabe wanted his policy reflected in the next budget. The other ministers opposed, and Watanabe privately expressed to Itō his intention to resign. Itō, without consulting his colleagues, tendered his own resignation.

It is difficult to decide whether the controversy with the Peers or Cabinet disunity was the main reason behind Itō's final resignation. It is true that he did not have the political skill to deal very well with intra-party squabbles, but it would have been an easy matter to replace Watanabe, who was out on a limb from the very beginning. The main institutional pressures behind Itō's decision seem to have come, not from the Lower House, but from the Upper House, which had not merely

rejected Watanabe's budget and deepened the gap between him and the other Cabinet members, but had been demonstrating its disapproval of the use of the Imperial Rescript by passing all government measures without debate. Itō could not have remained in office for long in the face of an Upper House which so openly demonstrated its lack of confidence in him.<sup>4</sup>

Ito's difficulty in keeping his party united foreshadowed the collapse of the first form of the Genrō-House compromise. He found himself unable to mitigate conflict between the House and the government of his successor, Katsura Tarō, and abandoned his role as party leader. The details of how this happened belong to the following section.

Yamagata, with the concurrence of the other Genrō, chose Katsura Tarō as Itō's successor. A number of Genrō kaigi were held before the Genrō came to this decision. Their first choice was Genrō Inoue Kaoru, but Inoue could not form the Cabinet he wanted: Shibusawa Eiichi, an important leader of the finance world, refused the offer of Finance Minister, and Katō Kōmei, Yamamoto Gombei, and Katsura, all of whom had served under Itō, refused to remain in office. Katsura initially refused the premiership as well, and recommended Itō, whom he knew would not accept. He did this to solicit Seiyūkai concurrence in his appointment, because Itō was forced to come out openly in his favour. Although Itō reluctantly supported Yamagata's protege, Katsura's selection resulted almost entirely from Genrō influence.<sup>5</sup>

The form the Genrō-House compromise took under Katsura's government only emerged after the collapse of the first form of the compromise. In the 17th Diet (December 1902), Katsura's Increased Taxation Bill was

rejected by both the Seiyūkai and the Kenseihontō (Orthodox Constitutional Party), and Katsura dissolved the House. Itō was then asked to negotiate a compromise with his party: Katsura agreed to drop the idea of increased taxes in return for an agreement to expand the Navy with money intended for railway construction.<sup>6</sup> Itō agreed to the proposal, but his party did not want to sacrifice railway construction, which was one of the few ways members of the House could reward their constituents. Many left the Seiyūkai under Ozaki Yukio and Hayashi Yūzō in dissatisfaction with Itō's dictatorial methods, and the party's strength in the House declined from 193 to 128.<sup>7</sup> Because Itō did feel constrained to get as much as he could for his party, Katsura resigned in protest in July 1903. Katsura felt that his government could not survive with Itō in opposition, and he called on Itō to abandon his role of party leader.<sup>8</sup>

Yamagata then stepped in and engineered Itō's appointment as President of the Privy Council. He presented the Emperor with a document advising this appointment because:<sup>9</sup>

The present situation does not require a change in the cabinet but a strong united nation to solve our problems with Russia. Itō, however, as President of the Seiyūkai, frequently obstructs the cabinet's action.

Three factors were mainly responsible for a rapprochement between Katsura and the Seiyūkai. The first was the dwindling strength of the party in the House. Party members like Hara Kei began to feel that cooperation with the government could bring concrete rewards in terms of legislation and Cabinet seats and could help revive party fortunes.



This tendency for parties in times of low party morale and dwindling representation in the House to compromise with the other institutions was revealed again and again throughout the prewar period.

The second factor was the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war in 1904, which led the House for patriotic reasons to support the government so long as the nation was threatened. During the Sino-Japanese war of 1895 the House had also suspended all onslaughts on the government. But in both cases, the Prime Minister was obliged to reward the House, particularly its major party, for this cooperation, which he knew would not be forthcoming once hostilities ceased.

The third factor that promoted a rapprochement between Katsura and the Seiyūkai was therefore Katsura's recognition that in the long run it was impossible to govern without the concurrence of the House. None of his predecessors had been able to do so, and he must have realised that some modus vivendi had to be found.

In the spring of 1905, the Seiyūkai's main strategist since Itō's departure from the party in 1903, Hara Kei, came to an agreement with Katsura: Katsura would hand over the premiership to the new Seiyūkai President, Saionji Kimmochi, in return for Lower House support for the peace terms the government was concluding with Russia, which were not expected to be well received by the public. When riots leading to martial law flared up in early September over the Portsmouth Treaty, the Seiyūkai remained passive, while members of the other parties took up the public

cause in the next session of the Diet. Hara was in a strong position to hold Katsura to his promise to step down and, as Najita tells us, to "prevent interference in cabinet affairs by the Genrō, the Privy Council, and the House of Peers."<sup>10</sup>

The first Katsura government resigned by mutual agreement: both the House and the Prime Minister consented to its replacement by a government under the Seiyūkai President. Although the Genrō never held a kaigi to select Saionji in 1906 and Katsura himself recommended his successor directly to the Emperor, Yamagata and the other Genrō raised no objections, on condition that the Saionji government pursue the policies of its predecessor. Because Katsura did not inform Yamagata of his intentions until it was too late, the influence of the House in the dismissal of the one government and the appointment of the next must be placed above all others. Nevertheless, the Genrō's perhaps reluctant acceptance of the need to compromise requires that they also be seen as a force responsible for the rise of the first Saionji cabinet.

Because the compromise between Katsura and Hara Kei persisted until 1912 in the form of an agreement for Katsura and Saionji to take turns in forming a ministry, less detailed documentation of the events which determined the timing of Cabinet changes until 1912 is required. As long as the consensus on policy continued, the Seiyūkai supported Katsura governments in the belief that this would guarantee Genrō approval of Saionji governments. In each case the change took place because of growing impatience by the party to the agreement whose turn

to govern was coming up. Throughout this period no Genrō kaigi was held, indicating the Genrō's submission to the best bargain their representative Katsura could strike with the Seiyūkai, although Hara Kei remained in constant touch with Yamagata and assured him that the Genrō were receiving stable government in return.

From 1906 until just before the collapse of the compromise in 1912, each Cabinet change revealed an almost identical pattern: a growing impatience by the inferior force behind the government stepped up the pressure for it to become the major force behind that government's successor.

After two and a half years of Seiyūkai-led government in 1908, the Genrō began to get restless. Matsukata and Inoue, their two financial experts, expressed dissatisfaction with the government's budgeting and called for higher taxes and a postponement of the "pork barrel" policy of railway construction. The Finance Minister, Sakatani Yoshirō, who was a protege of Inoue, gave in to the Genro's demands, and the Communications Minister, Yamagata Isaburō (the Genrō's nephew), resigned in protest because of the cuts made in the appropriations for his department. The split in the Cabinet led to a general resignation, but when the Emperor asked Itō what to do, he was advised to accept only the resignations of Sakatani and Yamagata.<sup>11</sup> Although the immediate crisis was solved, it became more and more difficult for the government to weather the general dissatisfaction of the Genrō. Yamagata Aritomo was dissatisfied with the Cabinet's foreign policy, as well as its handling

of the incipient socialist movement, and in vain tried to persuade the Army Minister, Terauchi Masatake, to resign and bring down the government.

The final destruction of the Saionji ministry came when the Upper House, largely under the influence of the Yamagata-controlled Kenkyūkai, rejected Hara Kei's plan to abolish the gun, or "districts." The councils of these gun were controlled by Yamagata through his appointment of the gun chiefs, and they formed his main power base in the country. Najita describes the Peer's action as "a breakdown of the compromise relationship between Hara and Katsura," because Katsura failed to work in the Peers for the bill's passage.<sup>12</sup>

To regard the Upper House's rejection of the gun Bill as a "breakdown of the compromise" is not strictly accurate. The Seiyūkai had overstepped the limits of the agreement by attacking Yamagata's power base and by remaining in office longer than the Genrō regarded appropriate. It is better to regard the fall of the first Saionji cabinet as resulting from the terms of the agreement. While the Genrō and the Peers were the major forces occasioning the fall of the government, Saionji's resignation was not contrary to what had been agreed on in 1905, and the Lower House must be assigned a minor role. Saionji explained to his colleagues that regardless of the party's victory in the election of May 1908, it was time to hand over the premiership to Katsura.<sup>13</sup>

Again the Genrō did not meet to appoint a successor. Saionji nominated Katsura directly to the Emperor, who consulted Itō. Itō supported

Katsura's nomination and the other Genrō concurred. Najita is not quite correct in saying that the compromise was restored because Katsura needed support for his budget. The compromise had not really broken down, as indicated by the President of the Seiyūkai's nomination of Katsura as his successor.<sup>14</sup>

Katsura's resignation in August 1911 was not preceded by any particular conflict with the House, but by a growing dissatisfaction among party members that he should give way to Saionji. McLaren wrote: "By 1911 the inevitable tendency in Japanese political parties towards obstruction had developed to such an extent that Katsura did not think it worth his while to continue any longer in office." He described the fall of Katsura's government as "voluntary."<sup>15</sup> The government had lost the support of the finance world and of the lower classes, and Katsura stepped down before the House was really prepared to take up their cause. The Kōtoku jiken, an incident involving the execution of a group of anarchists, had contributed to the government's unpopularity in the country at large, and in January 1911 Katsura resigned because of its repercussions, even though his resignation was not accepted.<sup>16</sup>

When Katsura finally resigned in August, he recommended Saionji as his successor directly to the Emperor, saying that he would return to office when Saionji resigned.<sup>17</sup> Katsura conspicuously by-passed the Genrō, who were neither consulted over the appointment of the Prime Minister nor the composition of the Cabinet. But Hara did take pains to elicit the support of Yamagata. His efforts in this regard, as well

as the Genrō's failure to veto the fait accompli, indicate that once again the Cabinet was a joint Genrō-House creation, this time with the Genrō as the junior partner.<sup>18</sup>

The Cabinet changes that took place under the Hara-Katsura agreement of 1905 were made with the joint concurrence of the Lower House and the Genrō. Neither institution was either the sole maker or breaker of any of the governments concerned. In the rise and fall of the fourth Itō cabinet and the rise of the first Katsura cabinet, the House and Genrō were also critically involved, even though in these cases there was a different sort of agreement. Until 1912 therefore, if the role of the Upper House in unseating Itō in 1901 and Saionji in 1908 is set aside, the Cabinet's appointment and dismissal resulted solely from the combined forces of the Genrō and the Lower House. Neither institution could on its own either raise or pull down the Cabinet, which in these years was therefore separate from each institution individually, although it was dependent on both collectively. But after 1913, the dependence of the Cabinet on new combinations of institutions, which included hitherto passive ones, made the Cabinet even more separate from any single one of them, and the description of the period as one of a full-fledged separation-of-powers became appropriate.

#### Cabinet-Making and -Breaking, 1912-1918

The agreement to alternate the premiership between representatives of the Genrō and the House collapsed when the consensus over policy broke down. This happened when the leading Genrō, Yamagata Aritomo, took the

side of the Army in a dispute between this institution and the Lower House over the plan to create two new army divisions at a time of across-the-board retrenchment. The importance of this incident lies partly in its revelation of the growing independence of the Army from the Genrō, because the plan was initiated by the Army and among the Genrō only Yamagata supported it. But because he, the most influential of the Genrō, did support it, the House came into conflict with the Genrō as a whole as well as with the Army. Yamagata encouraged the Army Minister to resign in full knowledge of the agreement by eligible officers not to nominate a successor.

In the election of May 1912 the Seiyūkai won an absolute majority pledged to economic retrenchment, and soon afterwards the government ordered a 10-15% cut in each department's expenditure. The Army insisted that the savings resulting from its 1.95-million-yen cut be devoted to the creation of two new army divisions, and the Navy insisted on a 9-million-yen expansion programme. While Saionji agreed to the Navy's demand, he refused to sanction that of the Army.<sup>19</sup>

The resulting crisis led to a regrouping of institutional alliances. The financial experts of the Genrō, Inoue and Matsukata, were ambivalent but tended to support the government's policy of across-the-board cuts, and together with General Ōyama Iwao, favoured postponement of the Army's plan. Katsura, the mediator between the Genrō and the House up to now, was not in a position to perform his former role, because he had lost favour with Yamagata. He had been "retired" to the palace as Imperial

Household Minister. Yamagata took the side of the Army from the outset, and soon Tanaka Giichi, Yamagata's protege and the Chief of the Army General Staff, won Inoue over to their side. Inoue led the bankers' opposition to the Navy's plan, and had some success in his attempt to win the support of the Finance Minister, Yamamoto Tatsuo. The result was a clash between the Navy Minister, Saitō Makoto, and the Finance Minister. Admiral Yamamoto Gombei acted as the "string puller" behind Saitō and ensured that the Navy's position would not be sacrificed. The Genrō Ōyama, Inoue, and Matsukata held a meeting and tried to persuade the Army to compromise, but to no avail.<sup>20</sup>

On December 2 1912 the crisis broke. After consulting Yamagata, Army Minister Uehara Yūsaku resigned and all eligible Army officers agreed not to serve as a successor. On December 5 the second Saionji cabinet resigned. This time the compromise was shattered because Saionji was not prepared to nominate Katsura as his successor. This was the first government since the establishment of the Constitution that fell without any assistance from the Lower House. Because Yamagata still had sufficient influence in the Army to have succeeded in dissuading it from its strong course of action, if he had so chosen, the fall of the government resulted firstly from the Army's use of its veto power, and secondly from the support Yamagata gave the Army.<sup>21</sup>

The rise of the third Katsura government reveals the attempt to restore the Genrō-House compromise: for nearly two weeks the Genrō, who had not met to select a Prime Minister since 1901 and whose number



now included Katsura, met almost solidly in an attempt to find someone who could break the impasse. Admiral Yamamoto Gombei, who had opposed the Army, was nominated but refused. Saionji would not remain in office, and the Genrō Inoue, Ōyama and Matsukata, who had also shown sympathy for the previous government, further refused to try to win over a hostile House. Finally, Yamagata decided that only Katsura would be able to restore some sort of compromise, and the Genrō nominated him. The rise of this the third Katsura government was therefore almost entirely due to an assertion of Genrō authority over the appointment of the Prime Minister. Katsura was the Genrō's choice and the House had given little indication that Katsura would be acceptable, although the Genrō must have believed that he would be. The Genrō are assigned the major role in Appendix I, and the House and the Army, whom the Genrō must have also considered, are each assigned a minor role.<sup>22</sup>

Katsura's appointment was badly received by the public, particularly by the Seiyūkai. Hara was still prepared to bargain with Katsura, but this time at a higher price. Before long, in spite of and partly because of Katsura's success in bringing together a new party grouping in the House, he was forced to resign. The Seiyūkai was so provoked by the formation of a new party that could threaten its hegemony in the House, that all willingness to deal with Katsura ceased. It was no longer possible for a Genrō, as Katsura now was, to use the expedient which had brought Itō brief success a decade before. He not merely lost the

confidence of the Genrō, but provoked the majority party into the strongest stand it took on any issue throughout the period.

The Movement for Constitutional Government was the response of most members of both major parties to Katsura's appointment. Its purpose was to restore predominant party influence over the Cabinet; its activities involved nationwide agitation. Because the details of the events during the next month or so are complex and not relevant to this study, only the main institutional forces that came together to force Katsura out of office need be discussed here.

From the outset, the Navy was hostile towards the Katsura government. Katsura had used an Imperial Rescript to force Saitō Makoto into service as Navy Minister, and Admiral Yamamoto Gombei, in his intrigues to topple the government, well represented the position of the Navy.<sup>23</sup> Katsura's response to the Movement for Constitutional Government and to the rumours that the Seiyūkai intended to present a vote of no-confidence, was to sever relations with Yamagata and to organise a new party in the House. He was not aware that this course of action would translate the rumours into reality. Hara Kei was actually still prepared to come to terms with him. A brief digression will be made to describe the origins of his party.

In December 1912 Katsura organised the Dōshikai (The Association of Friends) by bringing together a number of his and Yamagata's proteges as well as many young bureaucrats on the one hand, and the Chūō Kurabu

(The Centre Club) and the "reform" faction of the Kokumintō (The People's Party), on the other. The Kokumintō had inherited the position of the main opposition party when the Kenseihontō reorganised in 1910. The Kokumintō's reform faction, under Ōishi Masami, like the Jiyūtō in 1900, believed that a Genrō as its President was the best way to build up a party that could rival the Seiyūkai in the House. The Kokumintō split into two almost equal parts, and 44 of its Dietmen joined Katsura's Dōshikai. The others, who had been among the main instigators of the Movement for Constitutional Government, remained in the party under the leadership of Inukai Tsuyoshi. The 30 members of the Chūō Kurabu, under Ōura Kanetake and Adachi Kenzō, had been a party "loyal" to the Genrō-dominated governments. In all, Katsura held the allegiance of 120 Dietmen.<sup>24</sup>

In anticipation of a dissolution and a Katsura-managed election, the Seiyūkai prepared itself for a confrontation with the government in the Diet. When the session opened, Katsura prorogued the Lower House for five days, and as soon as the House reassembled a motion of no-confidence was presented. It criticised Katsura for troubling the Sovereign for Imperial Rescripts and for suspending the session. Katsura responded by issuing an Imperial Rescript which commanded the House to withdraw the motion. Then the Navy stepped in and took up the cause of the Seiyūkai.<sup>25</sup>

Najita argues that Yamamoto Gombei used the incident to restore Satsuma influence over the government, which for years had been dominated

by men from Chōshū. But to see Yamamoto acting merely on behalf of Satsuma interests is to forget that a struggle between the Army and the Navy had been taking place over very concrete matters like the size of their respective share of national expenditure. Yamamoto supported the Seiyūkai and gave that party the courage it needed to defy the Imperial Rescript. He also advised Katsura to resign because he hoped, it seems, that a Seiyūkai-dominated government would be more generous to the Navy than a Dōshikai-dominated one.<sup>26</sup>

The fall of Katsura's government finally took place amid scenes of public rioting outside the Diet building. The House and the Navy, in that order, were the institutional forces that unseated Katsura, although his loss of favour with the Genrō prevented them from coming to his rescue and requires that the Genrō be assigned a minor role.<sup>27</sup>

The selection of Katsura's successor was made at a formal Genrō kaigi, attended by Yamagata, Ōyama, Katsura, and Saionji Kimmochi, who retired from the Seiyūkai and was admitted into the ranks of the Genrō. Under the circumstances, the only kind of compromise that could satisfy both the Genrō and the Lower House, was the summoning to the premiership of someone who represented a third force, and whom both sides could claim was as sympathetic to it as to its rival. This was the third form the Genrō-House compromise took in the years 1900-1918 and the one which characterised the latter part of the period. In these cases the Genrō kaigi was as much a barometer which assessed the

institutional balance of power as an assertion of the influence of the Genrō themselves, who represented one of the institutions that affected the overall balance. The Genrō not merely tried to find the person most able to make the Constitution work, but the person representing a force most likely to serve their own institutional interests. The Genrō were not the only institution to play others off against one another. Hara Kei, according to Najita, used third parties "because they could be exploited to help the Seiyūkai deal with the House of Peers, the military services, and the Privy Council. This was principally why Hara chose to work with Yamamoto."<sup>28</sup>

Yamamoto Gombei was a fairly obvious choice in 1913. After consulting Hara, Saionji nominated him at the Genrō kaigi. Yamagata, who really wanted to nominate Terauchi Masatake, one of his proteges in the Army, made no objection to Yamamoto, probably because in spite of the House's overwhelming victory over Katsura, this choice prevented the appointment of a party Prime Minister, something Yamagata wanted at all costs to avoid. The House, the Navy, and the Genrō were therefore the institutional forces behind Yamamoto's selection. The order of their importance is more difficult to determine, but it seems that the Genrō got the worst of the compromise, because both the other institutions had been responsible for Katsura's fall.<sup>29</sup>

The fall of the Yamamoto government resulted almost entirely from the use by the Upper House of its veto power. Although the Genrō were also partly responsible, the Peers were the major force. The details of

what happened are discussed below in the section on the House of Peers. It is sufficient to note here that because of Yamamoto's success in acting as an acceptable third force between the Lower House on the one hand, and the Genrō and the Army, on the other, the Genrō were on the keen look out for a successor in as similar a middle position as he. In one respect the Genrō felt the situation in February 1913 was different from the one in March 1914: because the Seiyūkai had got the better bargain in Yamamoto's selection, someone who could act as a counter force to the Seiyūkai without losing the support of the House was needed, but this person was not to be a party man. Now that there was a second potential majority party in the House, the Genrō's task was easier than it might have been. They found in Ōkuma Shigenobu, who had resigned from the Kenseihontō in 1907, the ideal person.

At a formal Genrō kaigi in March 1914, the Genrō decided to recall Ōkuma from his retirement from active politics. Although he never attended any Genrō kaigi, he was really a Genrō himself, and could also command the sympathies of the champions of party cabinets. He represented the ideal third force. Because of his past association with the men who were now in the Dōshikai, a government based on the Dōshikai could be used to put an end to the Seiyūkai's drive for complete control of the Cabinet. When Ōkuma dissolved the House, the Genrō at long last witnessed the end of the Seiyūkai's majority in the House.<sup>30</sup> The election of 1915 raises some interesting theoretical points.

One of the general characteristics of separation-of-powers systems is that the greater the number of institutions among which power is

fragmented, the greater the opportunity for those near the executive to play off against one another those with less access to the executive. The American President's ability to use the two Houses of Congress against each other is facilitated by the control of the power to initiate legislation and compile the budget.

For the same reason, even though Genrō control of particular institutions diminished during the years 1900-1918, the Genrō were able to use the increasing separation-of-powers to play other institutions off against one another. This ability increased after the development in the Lower House of a second party capable of mustering a majority. As long as there was only one such party, a government which had its support need not fear that the defection of a few members would mean a loss of the House's confidence. The fall of the Yamamoto government and the rise of its successor under Ōkuma clearly illustrated the new leverage the Genrō possessed. They could destroy a government with greater ease and less public outcry than ever before, simply by collaborating with the opposition party. One carefully managed election could then convert the new government's minority in the House into a majority.

The increased manoeuvrability of the Genrō had its counterpart in the decline of the House's influence. Before the appearance of the Dōshikai, the Seiyūkai could threaten total obstruction of the government in order to win influence over the Cabinet. Now such threats were less persuasive, because the Genrō could with virtual impunity replace

a Navy-Seiyūkai government with one that was hostile to the Seiyūkai and sympathetic to the Genrō themselves.

The new situation did not, however, mean that the Genrō could reign supreme. After the Dōshikai's massive victory in the election of 1915, partly because of Ōkuma's popularity in the country, but largely because of Dōshikai control of the Home Ministry and its ability to "manage" the election, the Genrō found themselves in almost the same position as before. Instead of a hostile House under the direction of the Seiyūkai, they had to face a hostile House under the direction of the Dōshikai. Nevertheless, the Genrō could repeat the tactic of collaborating with the opposition party to unseat a government of which they disapproved. They could then appoint a premier who was neutral between the two parties and rely on their mutual hostility to ensure the new Prime Minister's ability to win at least the neutrality of one of them. Events over the next two years reveal that the Genrō used their new manoeuvrability in this very way.

Soon after the 1915 election the Genrō began to work for Ōkuma's fall. The policy of the Foreign Minister in particular, who failed to keep Yamagata informed and to show him important diplomatic documents, was something the Genrō could not tolerate. Yamagata ultimately insisted that Katō Kōmei resign.<sup>31</sup> All that prevented the Genrō from the immediate replacement of Ōkuma himself was the lack of a suitable successor. Ōkuma realised that he could not remain in office for much longer and began preparations to have Katō Kōmei succeed him. The Genrō's ability to



prevent the appointment of the Dōshikai leader resulted alone from the existence in the Lower House of an opposition party which could be used against the Dōshikai.

The institutional forces behind the rise of the Terauchi government were almost identical to those behind the rise of the Ōkuma government. The Genrō played off one party against the other and could remove any party-supported government they liked. Although the Peers did the dirty work for them in 1914, they found that Ōkuma's departure in 1916 brought them little public criticism, because the Seiyūkai was ready to defend Ōkuma's dismissal.<sup>32</sup>

Terauchi Masatake was chosen at a formal Genrō kaigi, which involved as great an assertion of Genrō power as in 1912 when Katsura was chosen for the third time. But now that there were two parties in the House, either of which could win an election if supported by the government, a person independent of both parties could be appointed without the public hostility that had met Katsura.<sup>33</sup>

Although Terauchi had some initial difficulties with the Diet, he proclaimed his cabinet a chūsei fuhen naikaku or "a strictly impartial cabinet," and found that he could win Seiyūkai support in the House in return for government support in the next election. While the Genrō could use the Seiyūkai to keep their protege in power, the Seiyūkai could use Terauchi to transform them from the minority party to the majority one, and at last bring about the appointment of the first commoner party Prime Minister following Terauchi's resignation. To

describe the rise of the Hara cabinet would be to anticipate what belongs to the next chapter. The fall of the Terauchi cabinet, however, reveals that while Cabinet-making may have been far from the sole preserve of the House in 1900-1918, Cabinet-breaking was something the House could on occasion accomplish on its own.<sup>34</sup>

The sources are almost unanimous in ascribing the fall of the Terauchi cabinet to the rice riots of late 1918, which broke out after a 130% rise in the price of rice in 1914-1918. But only Peter Duus mentions the institutional forces into which the riots were transformed: the Seiyūkai refrained from identifying itself with the rioters and supported the government in the Diet.<sup>35</sup> But Duus fails to draw the appropriate conclusion. The Kenseikai, which was a reorganised version of the Dōshikai formed in September 1916, actively took up the public cause, and it is tempting to regard the mob and the Kenseikai as the breakers of the government, and the Seiyūkai's caution as the reason for the rise of the Hara cabinet. Such an interpretation, however, would be incorrect. By refraining from taking up the rioters' cause, the Seiyūkai took over the entire power to remove Terauchi, because it could hold over him the threat to obstruct his policy and bring him down whenever it chose. Had the Seiyūkai joined the Kenseikai, not merely would it have made Yamagata less likely to agree on Hara as a successor, but both parties would have been jointly responsible for the cabinet's demise. Instead, the Seiyūkai cleverly translated the mob agitation not into the influence of the House as a whole, but into its own influence.

The period 1900-1918 began and ended with the Seiyūkai as the predominant influence on the Cabinet's existence, although the rise of the party which challenged its hegemony in the House did not make it the sole expression of the House's predominant influence.

Appendix I reveals that the House, through one of its parties or other, played at least a minor role in the rise of every single government of the period. It also helped unseat every government except the second Saionji and first Yamamoto governments. The rise of five out of nine ministries and the fall of five also resulted from a major part played by the House. The House was therefore in possession of the greatest Cabinet-making and -breaking power of all institutions.

The second most influential institution was the Genrō, who also exerted at least a minor influence in the rise of all cabinets, and also a major role in the rise of five or them. But the Genrō were only largely responsible for the fall of three ministries, although they were partly responsible for the fall of five. Table 2 indicates the breakdown of Appendix I into the major and minor roles played by each institution in Cabinet-making and -breaking in 1900-1918.

Table 2. Major and Minor Roles in Cabinet-Making and -Breaking, 1900-1918.

	Cabinet-Making					Cabinet-Breaking				
	House	<u>Genrō</u>	Peers	Army	Navy	House	<u>Genrō</u>	Peers	Army	Navy
Major	5	5	0	0	1	5	3	3	1	1
Minor	4	4	0	1	0	2	5	0	0	0

The Genrō and the House were clearly the most important institutions of the period. It was inevitable that the functioning of constitutional government, which the national consensus on policy among the classes occupying these two institutions made easier, would force a compromise of some sort on how the Constitution was to work. These compromises were not merely revealed in the three main ways described, but in the composition of cabinets throughout the period.

#### Cabinet Composition and the Genrō-House Compromise

The major qualifications of Cabinet members in this period reflect quite accurately the different compromises between the House and the Genrō. The Fourth Itō cabinet included three veterans of the old Jiyūtō and four personal followers of Itō, revealing his attempt to build bridges between the House and the Genrō by means of overlapping membership.<sup>36</sup> Of the sixteen different people who served in the first Katsura ministry, only six were not proteges of Yamagata, and not one had any relationship with the House. Yet the cabinet survived longer than any other under the Meiji Constitution, because a working agreement with the Seiyūkai obtained its support in exchange for control over the next cabinet. For the same reason, Katsura's second ministry, which included only two men who were not Genrō proteges and no one from the House, lasted for three years. But the first Saionji cabinet failed to exploit the agreement to the full, giving two non-Service seats to Yamagata men, and only three besides the premiership to the Seiyūkai. Saionji's second ministry made better use of the compromise, and included no one from the

Yamagata clique, three Seiyūkai members besides himself, and one pro-Seiyūkai financier. Without some compromise or other with the House, the third Katsura government, which consisted almost entirely of Katsura's personal followers so that one writer described it as a Katsura-batsu naikaku (a Katsura clique cabinet), was bound to die early.<sup>37</sup> But when the compromise came, it was of the wrong kind and too late. The sudden influx of Katsura's followers into the Dōshikai was the kind of compromise Itō had unsuccessfully attempted a decade earlier.

The first Yamamoto cabinet, born of Genrō submission to a Navy-Seiyūkai alliance, included two Admirals, seven Seiyūkai members, and one Seiyūkai sympathiser. The second Ōkuma cabinet, which was the result of a Genrō-Dōshikai offensive against the Seiyūkai, included two of Yamagata's followers, a couple of Katsura's, and seven members of the Dōshikai. Finally, Terauchi was able to exploit to the full the hostility between the two main parties and could obtain Seiyūkai support without initially including a single member of it in his cabinet. The party was prepared to support the government in exchange for support in the next election. In each case, the cabinet's composition reflected the institutional compromise.

The predominance of Lower House and Genrō representatives in cabinets throughout the period parallels their predominance in Cabinet-making and -breaking. Although Appendix I shows that the total number of Peers and Civil Servants or ex-Civil Servants exceeded the total

number of Lower House party members, Appendix III shows that many of these Peers and bureaucrats were also Lower House party members. If one considers that party members who were Peers or ex-officials could be expected to support the Lower House in times of inter-institutional conflict and that the first two Katsura cabinets included no party members, the predominance of the Lower House in Cabinet composition in the period as a whole becomes clearer. It also becomes clearer if one recognises that the number of ministers who were solely Peers or solely bureaucrats fell far short of the total number of party members. The period was one of compromise between the two main institutions, a compromise revealed not merely in their Cabinet-making and -breaking power, but in their ability to have representatives included in the Cabinet.

During the years 1900-1918, the Genrō also gradually lost control of institutions which they had dominated in the 1890's. Genrō inability to ensure inter-institutional harmony owing to their at least partial loss of control of all institutions, except the Privy Council, became the second main characteristic of institutional development in the years 1900-1918.

#### The Decline of Genrō Power and the Rise of Institutional Autonomy

The following section deals with each institution's growing separation from the Genrō. I assume that the ability to act independently of the Genrō in Cabinet-making and -breaking as well as the ability to have

representatives who were not Genrō proteges included in cabinets indicates autonomous influence. I indicate when representatives of the Civil Service and the Upper House were not associated with any other institution as well, and can be regarded purely as Civil Service and Upper House representatives. This procedure will indicate not merely the independence of institutions from the Genrō, but their autonomy and ability to act as completely independent forces. I discuss fully each institution's Cabinet-making and -breaking power as well as its power over Cabinet composition before moving on to the next institution.

The first institution to show signs of a break away from the iron grip of the Genrō was the House of Peers. Although the development of greater institutional autonomy took place mainly after 1912, the Peers showed a willingness to thwart Genrō purposes much earlier than this. Their first assertion of autonomous influence took place when they opposed the Seiyūkai's budget in 1901. Because the leaders of the opposition in the Peers included Yamagata supporters, who were, on Itō's request, instructed by their patron to pass the budget, some writers have concluded that the Peers' failure to do so was proof that Yamagata must have only half-heartedly urged them to cooperate with the government.<sup>38</sup> This interpretation does not accord with a number of facts. Firstly, six Upper House factions, not merely those controlled by Yamagata, opposed the government. Secondly, of the fifteen Peers who sat on the special Cabinet committee that tried to work out a compromise, few were Yamagata supporters. Thirdly, the Genrō held a number of meetings and

agreed that the Peers would have to be brought to their senses. All of them were reported to have been enraged by the Peers' intransigence.<sup>39</sup> It is therefore more accurate to say that in this instance the Genrō had lost control of the Peers. And although the fall of the Itō government finally came after intense conflict between the staunch party members of the Cabinet and Watanabe Kunitake, a personal follower of Itō, it would have been unable to continue in office for long in any case, because it had lost the confidence of the Peers by using an Imperial Rescript against them to pass the budget. The Cabinet fell not merely because of the contradiction in having one man and his personal followers represent both sides of an antagonistic power relationship, but because a third force added intolerable complications to an already delicate balance of forces. As Fahs wrote, "A Japanese cabinet may be forced out in so many different ways that the result can seldom be attributed to any one organ."<sup>40</sup>

The fall of the first Saionji cabinet, which has already been ascribed largely to the Upper House, and the fall of the first Yamamoto cabinet were more clear-cut cases of the Peers' cabinet-breaking power. Only the fall of the Yamamoto cabinet will be described.

When it became known in 1914 that high-ranking naval officers had accepted up to 5% commission from German and British firms for the orders they placed, the Peers demanded Yamamoto's resignation. Although the attack was spearheaded by Yamagata protege Hirata Tōsuke,



the initiative in the move to have the cabinet resign came from the Peers as a whole. Fahs described this as "the only clear-cut case of the downfall of a Cabinet as a result of adverse action by the House of Peers."<sup>41</sup>

It may be incorrect to speak of actual loss of Genrō control over the Upper House before the death of Yamagata. But because the Upper House had opposed the Genrō to the bitter end on one occasion, and initiated strong action against two cabinets which still had the confidence of the Genrō on another, it is not too much to say that the Upper House was gradually coming to acquire an institutional independence and interest of its own. Once Yamagata left the stage, this earlier tendency to initiate autonomous action increased. It should not be considered a sudden change coinciding with Yamagata's departure.

The large number of Peers, many of whom were Genrō proteges, who sat in the cabinets which were on the whole Genrō creations, reveals the close ties between the Upper House and the Genrō. Few of the Peers in this category were at the same time members of Lower House parties, indicating that the Genrō seem to have abandoned the attempt to prevent deadlock between the two Houses by means of cabinet ministers who were members of both. Although cabinets that were largely Lower House creations did include Peers who were also members of Lower House parties, this practice became less common. Lower House-dominated cabinets also came to recognise that the avoidance of deadlock with the Upper House would require at the very least the inclusion of Peers who were not too

closely identified with it, or with the Genrō for that matter, but represented the Upper House alone. The extent to which the Upper House was acquiring an institutional interest of its own and was becoming independent of the Genrō therefore, is indicated by the growing tendency for Peers who had ties with neither the Genrō nor the House to be included in the Cabinet.

Until 1922, when Yamagata died, even though the Upper House was prepared to act independently of the Genrō, it was fairly closely allied to them. After 1913, however, the alliance was much looser, and the influence of the Dōshikai began to make itself felt on Cabinet composition.

The first Katsura cabinet included eight Peers, five of whom were Genrō proteges, and none of whom had any ties with the Lower House. But five of the six Peers in Katsura's third ministry, which was born of an alliance between the Dōshikai and dissidents of the Yamagata clique, were also members of the Dōshikai, and all of them were personally tied to Katsura, some of them temporarily ex-members of the Yamagata clique.

The Dōshikai, more than the Seiyūkai, had to learn that overlapping membership was no longer able to preserve inter-institutional harmony, a lesson it did not seem to have learnt by the time Ōkuma's second cabinet was appointed, the result of another Genrō-Dōshikai alliance. Three of this cabinet's four Peers were also members of the Dōshikai, and three were Genrō proteges. Of the five Peers in the

Terauchi cabinet, the last to be raised largely by the Genrō in this period, three were Genrō proteges, and only one was a member of the Seiyūkai, revealing Terauchi's apparent recognition that the expedient of overlapping membership could not preserve the peace between the two Houses.

The cabinets which were mainly Lower House creations show a slightly different tendency, fewer of their representatives of the Upper House being also Lower House party members. The fourth Itō cabinet's four Peers were all Seiyūkai members, it is true, but because of that government's difficulties with the Upper House, three of the four Peers in the first Saionji cabinet had no ties with the Lower House, although the single Peer, besides Saionji, in his next cabinet, was regarded as sympathetic to the Seiyūkai, and all three Peers in the first Yamamoto ministry were Seiyūkai members.

Although most Peers who served between 1900-1918 had ties with either the Genrō or the Lower House, there were a few who represented solely the Upper House, some of whom were included specifically in order to obtain the cooperation of that institution. Katsura's first ministry included three unaligned Peers, and the Terauchi ministry one, while both the unaligned Peers in the first Saionji cabinet were specifically brought in in an attempt to woo the Upper House.<sup>42</sup> So although the House of Peers was not yet fully recognised as an institution which could act independently and cause deadlock, a beginning had been made. In the next period, however, no cabinet failed to include Peers

who were primarily if not solely representatives of the Upper House, partly because it was only in the next period that the Peers really came into their own, but partly because those involved did not at once understand the forces under which they were operating. The Peers, having been given an institutional base by the Meiji Constitution, were bound sooner or later to use their influence in their own interests, particularly after the death of those Genrō like Yamagata, whose influence was more personal because of their prestige as creators of the Meiji state. Saionji, a later Genrō, did not have the prestige of Yamagata and became a mere arbiter in the inter-institutional struggle. Because the Peers had a permanent institutional base from which they could exercise enormous influence, their actual influence would increase as they discovered they had interests the Genrō did not share.

After the first decade of constitutional development, the practice of giving as of right both the Army and the Navy a seat in the Cabinet was firmly established. When it was legalised in 1900 by Yamagata, the potential of either institution to veto Cabinet composition and policy was abundantly clear, but as long as the Genrō could control them, they had little chance to work at cross purposes with each other or with other institutions. When Fleet Admiral and Genrō, Saigō Tsugumichi, died in 1902, however, there was no longer any compelling reason for the Navy to neglect its own institutional interests in cases of conflict with other institutions. By 1918 the Navy had begun to pursue its interests with vigour.

The actual break took place in late 1912, when the Saionji government, which had pledged itself to cut each department's estimates by 10-15%,

refused to allow the Army the use of the savings it had made to acquire two new divisions, but agreed instead to the Navy's 9-million-yen expansion programme. While Hirota Naoye, one of the few contemporary observers to examine the problem of Cabinet changes, does recognise the conflict between Navy Minister Saitō Makoto and the Army as well as Yamamoto Gomei's role as "wirepuller" behind the scenes, he insists on seeing it in terms of Satsuma-Chōshū rivalry rather than institutional rivalry.<sup>43</sup> Having gained what it wanted from the Saionji cabinet, the Navy refused to cooperate in forming a cabinet under Katsura, who in order to placate the Army only felt able to offer the Navy the compromise of a 6-million-yen expansion programme.<sup>44</sup> So Katsura had to obtain a Navy Minister by means of an Imperial Rescript, which ordered Saitō "to contribute towards the betterment of the Navy's role in politics."<sup>45</sup>

It is hardly surprising that the Navy actively plotted the downfall of the government. Yamamoto Gomei, at the height of the public uproar against Katsura, told the Prime Minister in so many words to resign, and took seriously Katsura's suggestion that he be the next Prime Minister.<sup>46</sup> Yamamoto then informed the Seiyūkai that he was prepared to succeed Katsura, and the party, encouraged by the Navy's determination to bring down the government, resolved, in defiance of an Imperial Order, to proceed with its no-confidence motion in the government. Najita sees in Yamamoto's move a motive which is related to his Satsuma origins, rather than his role as defender of the Navy in a constitutional arrangement in which those who did not fend for

themselves went under.

The culmination of the Navy's drive for independence from the Genrō came with the establishment of the Yamamoto cabinet, which was formed at a time of nationwide anti-Genrō sentiment and activity. It would have been impossible to find the Navy keeping such company ten years earlier when the Genrō had sufficient power to coordinate policy and see to each institution's interests. Few American scholars, whose own experience with politics under a separation-of-powers constitution has possibly made them less sensitive to the different strategies necessary for survival in separation-of-powers and parliamentary systems, appreciate the institutional forces which brought the Navy to this point. One who came fairly close to doing so wrote:<sup>47</sup>

Each of the major functional groupings in Japan did in fact have an institutional locus of power which generally enabled it to exercise this kind of veto power. . . . Once the genrō lost their grip on the government the system was left without a dominant coordinating elite. Thereafter coordination was not a matter of centralised policy planning, but one of defining jurisdictions and negotiating differences among the major institutional contenders.

The Navy had become one of these contenders.

Diminishing Genrō control of the Army was not as apparent in this period. There were no cases of bitter Army resistance to the Genrō, nor even of minor conflicts between the two, although there was one occasion when the Army had the whole-hearted support of Yamagata alone among the Genrō. The main reason for this seems to be that the Army's strategy for gaining its ends was through Genrō influence, a strategy

which seemed obvious in view of the large number of Genrō with close ties to the Army. The Navy on the other hand, always poorly represented among the Genrō and not at all since 1902, was forced much earlier to find an alternative to reliance on the Genrō. The Satsuma-Chōshū rivalry hypothesis is unable to shed any light on this problem, because Ōyama and Matsukata could have been used more effectively by the Navy to find Satsuma allies. The consequence of the Army's choice to ally itself with the Genrō was, however, a loss of influence in this period, which paralleled the Genrō's loss of influence. It would be some time before the Army would learn to use its power independently, although its bitter defeat in 1913 together with that of the Genrō marked the beginning of its drift away from the alliance with the Genrō towards the acquisition of the more Machiavellian skills required for survival in a separation-of-powers system.

The Army learnt two lessons in 1913. Firstly, it discovered that refusal to provide an Army Minister on terms disagreeable to it could bring down any cabinet it liked, provided this tactic was not used too frequently. That the Army insisted to the bitter end on obtaining two new divisions in spite of initial opposition from Inoue and Katsura, the urging of postponement by Ōyama, an ambivalent attitude by Matsukata, and the support only of Yamagata,<sup>48</sup> indicated a remarkable change from the practice of passive obedience to Genrō instructions to assertion of its own interests and then the attempt to win allies. Even though there

was no real conflict with the Genrō, the Army discovered that Yamagata was to no small degree dependent on its institutional legitimacy, and that it could have independent Cabinet-making and -breaking power if it so chose. Secondly, the Army must have realised that it lost in 1913 precisely because it had allied itself to an unpopular institution whose power was rapidly declining. The slogans shouted by the mobs indicted clan government and the Genrō, not the Army. Indeed, the Navy's victory and the means by which it was obtained could not have been lost on the Army leaders. So although Yamagata seemed to retain control of the Army, that institution's apparently sudden assertion of its autonomy in the 1930's should be seen in the light of the lessons it began to learn in 1913.

Because the civil bureaucracy had no way to pull down a cabinet or to force its representatives into cabinets, the loss of Genrō control over it was less dramatic. In the early years, the Genrō had exercised control over appointments to its higher levels, from among whose number they had selected many Cabinet members. Political control over the Civil Service had therefore been maintained by means of the power of patronage. But during the 1890's impersonal civil service examinations removed from Genrō patronage first the lower- and middle-level positions, those of hannin and sōnin rank, and then the top-level positions which had been subject only to the laws of patronage, the 150 or so officials of chokunin rank. Although examination screening was intended to remove from party control those top positions whose occupants



did most to draft legislation and make policy, its effect was also to reduce Genrō influence over the bureaucracy and promote the development of a separate bureaucratic interest. By 1920, 82% of all bureau chiefs had passed the Higher Civil Service Examinations, and by 1923 three-quarters of the Vice Ministers had. But the removal in 1913-14 of a few of the top positions, those of Vice Minister and a few others, from examination screening, did make it a bit easier for a while to control the bureaucracy by means of patronage.<sup>49</sup> Hara Kei, the acute Seiyūkai Home Minister in a number of cabinets, used this limited appointive power more successfully than anyone else, and brought about a certain degree of "party-ization of the bureaucracy."<sup>50</sup> To understand this "party-ization" a theoretical perspective is required.

In separation-of-powers systems, because of party control of high bureaucratic positions, lower members of the service who seek promotion have an incentive to identify with one or other of the parties controlling appointments. Before the American Civil Service was brought under competitive examination, the "party-ization" of that country's bureaucracy was enormous. But even today a change in Administrations is accompanied by an extensive change of bureaucrats in comparison with the almost imperceptible shuffle of officials that accompanies a new government in Britain.<sup>51</sup> From the parties' point of view, there is a greater need in a separation-of-powers system for a new government that wants to ensure bureaucratic compliance to replace large number of officials than there is in a parliamentary system.

The reason is that in a separation-of-powers system, in which the government is weakened by its need to placate a variety of institutions each wanting something different and each possessing a negative veto power, the task of introducing new positive policies and of carrying out the business of government falls on the bureaucracy, which tends to benefit more than any other institution from the general competition because of its proximity to the executive. The only way for any of the other competing institutions to exert influence over such a bureaucracy is to have persons sympathetic to it appointed to key posts.<sup>52</sup>

In prewar Japan, although most key Civil Service positions were under the Higher Civil Service Examinations, some were not, and these were the ones ambitious bureaucrats needed to occupy if they were to become members of the Cabinet, over which the parties were exercising considerable control by the Taishō era. By this time therefore, many more party men than Genrō proteges were receiving high office in the Civil Service, and many more high officials were becoming party members than were joining the Yamagata clique. With the formation of the Dōshikai in 1913 ambitious bureaucrats no longer chose between the Seiyūkai and the Genrō as vehicles of upward mobility, but between the Seiyūkai and the Dōshikai. Najita wrote, "It [opening the vice ministership to party patronage] meant that their positions no longer depended on the patronage of the Yamagata faction, but on the parties."<sup>53</sup> Within three months, seven officials of vice minister rank joined the

Seiyūkai, and this resulted in further pressure on officials at lower levels, particularly bureau chiefs, to join the party.

The way these forces were reflected in the composition of cabinets was in the change from ministries including a large number of ex-officials who had advanced under Genrō patronage and a few who had advanced under party patronage to the opposite situation. Five out of the six ex-officials, excluding the Prime Minister, in the fourth Itō cabinet, had been dependent on Genrō patronage, and the sixth, Hara Kei, owed a great deal to Mutsu Munemitsu. The first Katsura cabinet contained ten ex-officials, half of whom were Yamagata proteges. Of the nine ex-officials who served in Saionji's first ministry, five had advanced under the patronage of some or other Genrō, three were more or less neutral between the Genrō and the parties, and one was a member of the Seiyūkai. All except one of the ex-officials in the second Katsura ministry had risen in the world on Yamagata's coattails.

The new trend began with the formation of Saionji's second government, which, apart from the premier, contained three ex-officials who were independent of the Genrō and the parties, and one who was a member of the Seiyūkai. After the formation of the Dōshikai, pressure on bureaucrats to identify with a party became stronger, and five of the seven ex-officials in Katsura's third ministry joined his party. The Yamamoto cabinet contained four ex-officials, three of whom were Seiyūkai members and the fourth had become friendly to the Seiyūkai. Reflecting the Genrō-Dōshikai alliance, the Ōkuma cabinet reversed the trend slightly,

and included in addition to Ōkuma, one ex-official who was purely a Yamagata protege, and four who were members of the Dōshikai, three of whom were also Genrō proteges. Finally, of the eight ex-officials who served under Terauchi, one was a Seiyūkai member, one a Seiyūkai supporter, one an ex-member of the Seiyūkai, and one an ex-member of the Dōshikai. Only three were simply high officials, and none were Genrō proteges.

Even though in the Ōkuma and Terauchi ministries there was a temporary reassertion of Genrō influence on the composition of cabinets, it remains certain that the Genrō by 1913 had become unable to promote to the highest levels of the bureaucracy large numbers of proteges. The parties had supplanted the Genrō in control over the bureaucracy. But party influence over the Civil Service can never be extensive in a separation-of-powers system, and in Japan the Justice and Foreign Ministries remained beyond the control of the parties, preventing the party-ization of the officials of these ministries. Throughout the prewar period, these officials remained loyal to their ministry alone. The same is partly true even of the officials in ministries over which the parties did exercise control. The autonomy and esprit de corps of the Civil Service was manifested less in the number of Cabinet seats officials occupied or in the number of officials who joined parties than in each ministry's day-to-day influence on policy.

Unlike the other institutions, the Civil Service possesses an

influence which is not accurately indicated by its ability to affect the composition of the Cabinet. This is because it is more able to initiate policy than other institutions, which possess only a negative veto power. Moreover, in Japan the Civil Service has been powerful because cabinets have been too weak under the system of a separation-of-powers to appropriate for themselves the important task of governing the country. In France, where cabinets, although for different reasons, have also been weak until very recently, the bureaucracy has seemed equally invincible. Weak cabinets tend to be more responsible to the bureaucracy than vice versa.

The Privy Council had no power as an independent force in this period, because Yamagata was its President from 1905-1922, except for five months in 1909 when Itō took the job. The Council was so completely under Yamagata's control that there was no need for a cabinet to deal separately with it, or to include representatives from it. Most of the Privy Councillors who served in cabinets during this period did so primarily for reasons other than their membership of the Council. The sole exception was Saionji who, as President of the Privy Council, became temporary Prime Minister after Itō's resignation in May 1901.<sup>54</sup>

What was still true of the Privy Council in 1918 had in earlier years also been true of all institutions besides the Lower House: domination by the Genrō, who in fact gradually became synonymous with Yamagata. No other Genrō took so much trouble to cultivate the skilful use of political influence. Ōyama and Saigō had been the least politically

involved, while Matsukata and Inoue had been influential in the financial rather than the political world.<sup>55</sup> When Itō's power base became the Seiyūkai, which soon sought to act independently of the Genrō, he suddenly found himself without a legitimate institutional base from which to operate.

Yamagata seemed to have understood the actual workings of the Constitution much better than Itō, and as Najita wrote, had his followers "firmly entrenched in the major bodies of the Meiji constitutional order—the House of Peers, the Privy Council, the Imperial Household, the bureaucracy, the army."<sup>56</sup> While in the early years it would have been more accurate to speak of "the emergence of the Yamagata faction as the dominant group in the Meiji political structure,"<sup>57</sup> Yamagata came to lose control of one after another of the various institutions and in 1918 ended up in a position not unlike that of Itō. Institutional forces gradually overshadowed the remnants of feudal ones, as well as the prestige of the leaders of the Restoration, and with the formation of the Dōshikai, caused an irreparable split along institutional lines in the Yamagata faction. As Duus wrote:<sup>58</sup>

The strength of the oligarchic generation lay in their enormous prestige and extensive connections as makers of the Meiji state, but they were powerful as individuals, not as an institution. The very personal nature of their power meant they could not bequeath it to their proteges.

The decline of Genrō power and the growth of a virtually complete

separation-of-powers had typical consequences, all centring on the difficulty of forming a cabinet that would be able to avoid constitutional crises and deadlock. Ōtsu wrote, "The decline of hambatsu power is quite evident if one considers that the difficulty of organising a cabinet has increased with every cabinet change."<sup>59</sup> To prevent deadlock, cabinets resorted to a variety of expedients, the most common of which was to create a sense of national emergency and purpose. According to Richard Neustadt, American Presidents are able to get more cooperation from other institutions on matters of foreign policy because of the greater ease in obtaining a general agreement that there is a crisis which necessitates compromises. He refers to this as "crisis consensus."<sup>60</sup> In Fourth Republican France, the technique of creating crises as means of obtaining compromises was developed into a fine art.<sup>61</sup> In Japan in 1916, Yamagata called for national unity to deal with the crises he saw in domestic and international politics. Duus wrote, "Under the facade of national unity (kyokoku itchi), the military services, the House of Peers, and the political parties might be induced to bury their differences and cooperate to support the cabinet."<sup>62</sup>

Inter-institutional deadlock, a characteristic of separation-of-powers systems, had consequences in Japan that cannot be ascribed entirely to socio-economic forces. The cultures and economies of Japan and America were too different for the occurrence of similar phenomena not to be at least partly due to the existence of similar institutional forces.

### Typical Consequences of the Separation-of-Powers

No attempt is made in the present section to assess the role of socio-economic forces in bringing about the occurrence of phenomena like corruption and personality politics. These forces may have been their major cause in particular cases as well as a general cause throughout the period. I simply intend to demonstrate that politico-institutional forces were at least also partly, possibly even predominantly, responsible for the great emphasis politicians placed on personality and their free use of corruption, as well as for the gradual growth of public apathy towards constitutional government.

The prevalence of these phenomena in Japan in 1900-1918 in particular is noted by most scholars, but almost all of them either ascribe their occurrence to social forces, or regard them as normal in democratic societies. I intend to show that they are at least in part the result, not necessarily of democratic politics, but of politics in a separation-of-powers system.

The first typical consequence of a separation-of-powers system is the growth of personality as opposed to policy politics. Because each of the institutions can exercise a negative veto over policy, it is most unlikely that any particular institution will be able to have its policy preferences agreed on by the rest. The promise to implement certain policies is not something any institution will make in its attempts to win public support. Ueyehara saw this very clearly:<sup>63</sup>



No political party in Japan, therefore, has a specific concrete political programme. It is useless for it to draw up one, for it could not put it into practice, even if it had a majority in the House. In the same way the Ministry never puts its own political programme definitely before the public. For it is also uncertain whether the Ministry can carry out its measures to the extent it desires, as it largely depends upon its opportunity of controlling the majority in the House.

In the absence of a policy programme on the basis of which to seek support, personality becomes the central way candidates in elections distinguish themselves from one another. It is not fortuitous that personality plays such a large role in Congressional and Presidential elections in the United States, although the law requiring the local residence of candidates in Congressional elections does introduce an additional factor. In Britain, someone almost entirely unknown to a local community can be elected purely on the basis of a promise to support a government of a certain kind. Members of the House of Commons owe their election to their party allegiance, not to their personal qualities. The separation-of-powers makes it necessary for anyone seeking election to have the electors well acquainted with him and to convince them that he has the personality and skill to do as much as possible for them in the actual inter-institutional struggles over policy.

Personality politics in Japan is not necessarily a feudal remnant that has stubbornly refused to disappear, but partly the result of new forces which were most pronounced during the years 1900-1918. One of the best examples of the influence of personality was the victory of the Dōshikai in 1915 because of its association with an enormously popular

Ōkuma. Yamagata could not have been as influential in a parliamentary system as he was in the Meiji separation-of-powers system. Equally important were the thousands of electoral candidates whose personal appeal was considerably enhanced through their ability to dispense favours immediately in the form of cash.

Corruption is the most characteristic consequence of a separation-of-powers constitution, and the most widely used of all dei ex machina for resolving institutional deadlock. The flow of money from one institution to another, as well as from candidates in elections to electors, whether of the Upper House or Lower House, had become quite common already in the 1890's. On more than one occasion governments had given Dietmen money to gain support for budgets, as well as candidates in elections whom it hoped would be "loyal." The practice was so widespread and notorious that it requires little documentation, but it does need more adequate explanation than has hitherto been offered.

Part of the problem is that electoral corruption is regarded by western scholars, most of whom are American, and who in recent years have not paid much attention to institutional forces, as quite normal. Duus refers to it as "the increasing cost of politics," and in his frequent attempts to compare Japan to Anglo-Saxon countries, never distinguishes between Britain and the United States. The quantitative difference in the "cost of politics" between Britain on the one hand, and Japan and the United States on the other, is so great as to be a

qualitative difference. Duus himself shows that whereas it cost a typical Dietman ¥2,500 to win a seat in 1890, it cost ¥16,000 in 1924, and he admits that "much of the increased election expenditure went into the direct buying of votes," a practice which was widespread in Britain only in the eighteenth-century. In 1908 there were 2,338 reported cases of bribery in Japan, in 1924 there were 13,986.<sup>64</sup>

Not all contemporaries were unaware of the institutional forces promoting corruption. Uyebara compared it to the "methods of Walpole," the master of resolving deadlock between the King and Parliament in eighteenth-century Britain by means of money flows, and the "American political 'Bosses,'" and asked rhetorically, "For, how else can a Ministry independent of the House of Representatives get a parliamentary majority to pass its necessary legislation?"<sup>65</sup> McLaren was another contemporary to understand the consequences of a separation-of-powers constitution. He wrote, "Frequent elections meant financial ruin to members of the Lower House, and an unyielding opposition to the Government destroyed all hope of profit,"<sup>66</sup> something which can never be said of elections in a parliamentary system. Money rather than programmes win elections under a separation-of-powers, and one of the few ways to get sufficient money is to make the government pay a high price for the House's support.

One of the consequences on the body politic of this kind of

politics is a high level of public apathy. Again Duus is the most accurate in describing the phenomenon but unable to identify its causes. He notes that in the 1890's most newspapers had been organs of the freedom and civil rights movement, but that by 1914 the large dailies like the Asahi and journals like Chūō Kōron had become independent and anti-establishment. "At its mildest, the new climate of public opinion was marked by apathy toward the game of party politics. To many critics, it seemed a mere mechanical struggle for power, devoid of any change of policy."<sup>67</sup> But each of the typical complaints mentioned by Duus is related to the separation-of-powers constitution and has close parallels in the United States but not Britain:<sup>68</sup>

- (1) The parties lacked fixed programs; instead of pursuing fundamental principles, they were guided almost exclusively by considerations of expediency in the struggle for power.
- (2) The parties compromised away the advantages of the people in their dealings with the bureaucrats, the military, the genro, and other nonparty elements. . . . (3) The parties were far more sensitive to the demands of special interests than they were to the needs of the people as a whole; party members worked to secure benefits for their local constituents or their businessmen backers, not to promote the national welfare. (4) The overriding concern of Diet members with winning office, building local jiban, and raising election funds resulted in endemic corruption in the parties.

Duus concludes that "such practices were necessary to party survival," but when he discovers them in the United States as well, he says they "are probably endemic in any representative system."<sup>69</sup>

Public apathy, personality politics, and high levels of corruption

in prewar Japan must have resulted at least partly from politico-institutional forces. The logic of institutional relationships makes their occurrence more likely in separation-of-powers systems than parliamentary systems. Because in prewar Japan the existence of the Japanese executive was much more precarious than its American counterpart, coordination among Japanese institutions was much more difficult to achieve than in America. The result was even stronger institutional pressures in favour of personality politics, corruption, and public apathy than exist in America.

By 1918 the Japanese Constitution was without a central coordinating institution. Once the Genrō lost at least partial control of all institutions besides the Privy Council, the inadequacy of the Emperor as an institution created to knit the Constitution together had been laid bare. A concluding word will show why the Emperor system failed.

Conclusion: The Emperor System and the Triumph of the Separation-of-Powers

The Emperor was intended, and on occasion did, function as the most instantly effective of the Constitution's dei ex machina for resolving inter-institutional conflict. Once the ideology that His commands required absolute obedience had become an accepted tradition, it became possible for any institution which had his confidence to get an Imperial Rescript to bring opposing institutions into line. In the 1890's the Genrō used Imperial Rescripts to bring the Lower House to cooperate with them; in 1901 Itō used an Imperial Rescript to gain Upper

House support for his budget, and in 1913 Katsura used one against the Navy. As long as they were not used too frequently, Imperial Commands instantly resolved deadlocks. So although Katsura underestimated the degree of hostility which the Navy and Seiyūkai bore him in 1913, it is none the less surprising that the party agreed in the end to disobey an Imperial Command. But because the consequence of a single disobeyed command was, as Najitappoints out, that "never again would a prime minister use the political prerogatives of the Emperor against a political party in the Lower House,"<sup>70</sup> it became extremely important to emphasise the absolute binding nature on all subjects of such a command. Otherwise the Emperor would cease to be a deus ex machina, and either become another contender in the struggle like eighteenth-century British monarchs, or end up like modern British monarchs, merely performing ceremonial functions.

In a sense therefore, the Emperor became as powerful as leftwing Japanese scholars allege he became, not merely because of the constant stream of government propaganda emphasising the absolute binding nature of his will, but because of the effects on the popular mind of the many examples of instant obedience to his commands. All this, as well as the deference the government received by being accorded the privilege of "assisting" the Emperor, was a tremendously powerful weapon against uncooperative institutions. Essentially a deus ex machina to resolve inter-institutional conflict, the Emperor system and the propaganda on which its effectiveness depended, worked against

all kinds of conflict.

From another point of view, however, the Emperor lacked sufficient power to remain effective as a deus ex machina. To be permanently employed in this role, the Emperor would become controversial, and would gradually be deprived of the mystique that gave his commands their special binding force. His effectiveness depended on a sparing use of Imperial Rescripts. This is why there was always more propaganda emphasising the absolute binding nature of the sovereign imperial will than actual use of Imperial Rescripts against uncooperative institutions.

There was another reason for the continuous emphasis by representatives of all institutions, particularly those without a popular base, on the sovereignty of the imperial will and on the extent of the royal prerogative. If each of the separate institutions wanted to maintain the legitimacy of its own sovereignty in its special area, its most effective action was to insist on its own monopoly of the right to advise a theoretically all powerful but actually powerless Emperor on matters in that area. The Army, for example, particularly in the 1930's, insisted both on the sovereignty of the Emperor and on its sole right to advise him on foreign policy. In this way the ideology of the Emperor system served to perpetuate the separation-of-powers system, paradoxical as it may seem.

In a passage which reveals how close he came to seeing that the model according to which prewar Japanese politics should be analysed is the

separation-of-powers one, Duus wrote:<sup>71</sup>

The emperor was not too powerful in law, he was too weak in practice. In the absence of a central unifying force within the state, the power to make and carry out decisions was divided not in Montesquieuean fashion, but among an autonomous military high command, an independent professional bureaucracy, the leaders of the House of Peers, the Privy Council, and the parties in the House of Representatives. While the oligarchs lived, they managed to hold together this welter of competing elements by a kind of 'government by crony.' But once they had passed from the scene, the problems created by the fragmentation of power within the state became acute. The political leaders who emerged in the Taishō period were divided not simply by policy differences, but by different bases of power and in some cases by radically opposite philosophies of government. The result was a continual struggle for control of the cabinet.

Duus's conclusion can be improved upon by applying separation-of-powers theory to the reasons for Cabinet composition as well as its rise and fall. Although Appendix I indicates that the Genrō and the Lower House were the main makers and breakers of the Cabinet throughout the years 1900-1918, it also indicates that only the fall of the Terauchi government resulted solely from the influence of only one institution, and that more than two institutions brought about the rise and fall of quite a few cabinets. The Cabinet was in no sense responsible to any institution, because its rise and fall regularly depended on more than one institution. The Cabinet's existence was therefore separate from each institution: as far as each was concerned, the Cabinet had an independent existence.

The Cabinet's independent existence was always more visible in Cabinet-making than Cabinet-breaking. The cooperation of more institutions was necessary to raise a cabinet than to pull one down, and



Cabinet composition reveals even influence of all institutions except the Privy Council.

The development of a full-fledged separation-of-powers following the break away of all institutions except the Privy Council from the control of the Genrō, who also became merely one of a number of contenders, characterised the institutional development of the period. It was unlikely that this development would suddenly be reversed and give way to a parliamentary system overnight. Later developments were to demonstrate that the separation-of-powers was as much a characteristic of the Constitution in the 1920's as it had been in the previous decades, in spite of the dominant body of opinion to the contrary.

## CHAPTER 4

PARTY PREMIERS AND THE PERSISTENCE OF THE SEPARATION-OF-POWERS,  
1918-1932

Most contemporary as well as present-day observers of Japanese politics see in the years 1918-1932 a fairly rapid development towards institutions like those of Britain, mainly because of the large number of party premiers and Cabinet ministers who served during these years. The presence of party premiers and Cabinet members, however, did not result in an increasing degree of party government, or a greater concentration of power in the Cabinet. Cabinet-making and -breaking power remained in the hands of a number of competitive semi-autonomous institutions, none of which showed any real sign of surrendering this autonomy. Indeed, one institution, the Privy Council, which had hitherto been under the firm grip of the Genrō, came into its own in this period and joined the ranks of the active Cabinet-makers and -breakers. The agreement of the Genrō to nominate mainly party Prime Ministers, who in turn chose mainly party Cabinet members, did not imply an agreement to a de facto amendment of the Constitution through working to undermine the power of the other institutions. Not infrequently, the Genrō took the side of one of the other institutions against the party with a majority in the Lower House.

The reasons for the failure of Japanese political institutions to evolve out of the separation-of-powers lie in the timing of the occurrence

of certain crucial political forces, not merely of industrialisation and capitalism, as argued by Robert Scalapino.<sup>1</sup> Of the greatest importance was the order in which political phenomena like the adoption of universal suffrage, the establishment of parliament, the establishment and abolition of the separation-of-powers, and the development of a unitary state came to exist. The evolution towards strong responsible cabinets in Britain was very much the result of a specific order in which these phenomena developed in that country, and the lack of the same in Japan was due to their development in an entirely different order.

#### Background

The social and economic conditions which had been largely constant during the previous period underwent a sudden upheaval in the 1920's, largely due to the effects in Japan of the First World War. The new situation in the country contributed greatly to the most important characteristic of Japanese institutional development in 1918-1932: party control of the premiership and of most Cabinet seats.

As far as the parties themselves were concerned, the change was not all that great. Their dominant influence on Cabinet composition was something they had come to regard as normal, and in the years 1918-1932 they behaved very much the same as before. But while it was business as usual for the parties, growing dissatisfaction among the peasantry and urban working classes developed. Even after the adoption

of manhood suffrage in 1925, the two main parties remained representative of the wealthy classes alone and continued the struggle against the rising proletariat. The members of other institutions were on the whole content to allow the bourgeoisie in the Lower House to manage the social problems of the period, although they were not content to tolerate party control over foreign policy. Their interference in the conduct of foreign policy increased as foreign affairs came to occupy the centre of the stage in the late 1920's and early 1930's. The world depression which hit Japan in 1930-1931 made other institutions also less willing to leave the management of the nation's finances and economy in party hands, and interference in these matters characterised the depression years as well.

The economic changes wrought by the First World War were phenomenal. In the 1870's manufactures, which comprised about 30% of commodity production, consisted mainly of food products and textiles, and the modernization of these two industries through imported raw materials and machines was the typical characteristic of economic change until the outbreak of the First World War. On the whole, this first phase of industrialisation was supported mainly by an expansion of the traditional agricultural sector, an expansion which began to decline around 1905. The proportion of investments in the modern sector increased gradually and this sector became more able to support itself without the assistance of agriculture: tea and raw silk exports gave way to the outputs

of modern technology like silk and cotton fabrics. Until the War the import of manufactures greatly exceeded their export, but after the War the reverse was true. The boom of 1914-1919 brought with it unprecedented prosperity for the business class, but the resulting inflation exacerbated the inequalities in the country between the industrial and agricultural classes on the one hand, and the capitalist and urban working classes, on the other.

The first expression of lower class discontent was the rice riots of 1918, a discontent which became even more widespread following the slump that began in 1919 and lasted well into the 1920's, only to be deepened by the World Depression. Japanese capitalists responded to the post-war slump by rationalising industry and forming oligopolies, which became known as the zaibatsu (financial cliques), and each of the two major parties allied themselves closely with one of these oligopolies: the Seiyūkai with the House of Mitsui, the Kenseikai with the interests of Mitsubishi. The lower classes now directed their attacks more pointedly against the two main parties, although the peasantry lagged behind the industrial working class in detaching itself from the capitalist parties. The new working class, largely a creation of the war boom, began to organise itself and prepare for a confrontation.

The total number of factory workers increased by 60% from just under 1 million in 1914 to just over 1.5 million in 1919. The percentage of workers in textiles dropped from 60% of the total to 55%, while the

percentage in the machines and chemicals industries rose from 17% to 27%. The proportion of the population employed in the agricultural sector, however, remained above 50% throughout the 1920's.<sup>2</sup>

Even during the war boom, the real wages of factory workers remained almost constant, and during these years there was a great upsurge in working class organisations: the number of new unions and labour disputes was greater than ever, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

Although the changes in social and economic conditions took place largely during the latter part of the previous period, their impact on the body politic took place in the 1920's. The rice riots of 1918 form a convenient break not only in institutional history, but also in social history. They ushered in a period of party dominance over the Cabinet along with mass dissatisfaction with all parties and the classes they represented.

In addition to a realignment of social forces and a partial realignment of political forces, the 1920's witnessed an awakening assurance about the future of "democracy" in Japan. Although this upsurge in interest in liberal ideas was mainly confined to intellectuals and journalists like Yoshino Sakuzō and Baba Tsunego, it was briefly able to hold the imagination of the lower classes. The agitation over universal suffrage in the early 1920's owed a great deal to the ideas expressed in daily newspapers like the Asahi and semi-intellectual monthly magazines like Chūō Kōron. Although the lower classes soon lost

their fervour over universal franchise, the new liberals remained an important influence in bringing about its introduction in 1925. Their cry was less for party control over the Cabinet than for the democratisation of the parties themselves. Their criticisms of the parties were echoed by other institutions and became an important factor in the parties' inability to achieve complete control of the Cabinet. The alienation of the lower classes from the parties also assisted non-party institutions in their efforts to prevent the development of party government. Through their greater emphasis on the right to strike and to organise rather than the right to vote, the lower classes contradicted the parties' claims to represent the nation.

Even though the parties did not command the affections of the media and the lower classes, it is not surprising that they exercised the dominant institutional influence in the 1920's. The major national problems were financial, industrial, and social, problems with which the capitalist class represented by the parties came into closest contact. Party influence on Cabinet composition and its rise and fall was likely to exceed that of the other institutions, which represented classes antagonistic to the lower classes but not yet antagonistic to the capitalists.

The purpose of the present chapter is to illustrate that the Constitution functioned, as before, according to the rules of a separation-of-powers system. Less detail than before is devoted to the reasons

for Cabinet changes, the major emphasis being on providing evidence that no fundamental change had taken place. There is more emphasis on showing that the Constitution had not become a parliamentary type than on showing that it was of a separation-of-powers type. My evidence is therefore more anecdotal, and often only examples of separation-of-powers practices are presented. I feel it would be tedious to demonstrate in the detail of the previous chapter that little had changed. I also assume a greater knowledge of politics in the 1920's, partly because the study's emphasis is on the interpretation of events rather than their documentation, but partly because Japanese political history in the 1920's is better known even by non-Japanese specialists than it is in other periods.

It is well known that in 1918-1932 the Japanese Cabinet, with a few exceptions, was under party prime ministers who appointed mainly party cabinets. What has not been recognised is that in its so-called heyday, party government never really existed. Compromises with other institutions were as apparent in Cabinet composition and its rise and fall as ever before.

Party Premiers could not govern according to pre-determined party programmes but had to act according to their judgement of what was likely to provoke any of the other institutions into the kind of opposition that would result in their own demise. The choice that faced party prime ministers was the same as that faced by any previous occupant of the office: compromise with the other institutions, or deadlock, which



latter event meant political suicide. And as in Fourth Republican France, where the general mood favouring a compromise was always stronger after the crisis of a cabinet change, the institutions of prewar Japan limped along through a series of successive crises and compromises.

The long established modus vivendi between the Genrō and the Lower House remained intact throughout this period, except briefly in 1922-24, when the Genrō refused to nominate party men to the premiership. But the Genrō-House agreement never showed signs of developing into the kind of alliance that grew up between the Monarchy and Commons in nineteenth-century Britain, where the Monarch came to choose only majority party cabinets. On a number of occasions, the Genrō acted against the majority party in the House, and allowed cabinets which enjoyed the latter's confidence to fall when other institutions flexed their muscles. The cardinal principle of parliamentary government, that majority parties and only majority parties form the Cabinet, was violated by the Genrō again and again.

#### The Genrō-House Compromise in Cabinet-Making and -Breaking, 1918-1924

The present section describes solely the various forms the Genrō-House compromise took in 1918-1924. The roles of other institutions, which are discussed more fully in the next section, are mentioned only in so far as they affected Genrō-House relations in Cabinet-making and -breaking. I refer the reader to Appendix I for a summary account of the major and minor roles of Cabinet-makers and -breakers in these years

and proceed directly to explain the roles assigned.

The great change wrought in 1918 with Hara Kei's appointment to the premiership was Genrō recognition that party premiers could become the normal practice. Previously, the Genrō had only reluctantly agreed to party men in this office and eagerly awaited an opportunity to replace party premiers with non-party men. Although Hara's appointment was not made with the intention of having a party man succeed him, after 1924 party leaders occupied the office of Prime Minister until the end of the period, very much because Yamagata found Hara to have been an ideal choice..

As in the years 1900-1918, the Genrō formally met to nominate Terauchi's successor. Following the deaths of Inoue Kaoru and Ōyama Iwao in 1916, their number now only included Yamagata, Matsukata, and Saionji. Although Yamagata wanted to appoint either Saionji or his protege, Hirata Tōsuke, Hara Kei was prepared to have his party take part in the rice riots should Terauchi fail to resign and agree to support Hara as his successor. Yamagata therefore eventually agreed on Hara for two main reasons. Firstly, he was fully aware of the pressure in the country for a party man to succeed Terauchi following the rice riots. and could think of no alternative to Hara as the man most likely to restore order. Secondly, after working so closely with Hara for the past fifteen years, Yamagata had come to respect Hara as an individual who agreed with him on all matters except that of regular party prime ministers. While the Hara cabinet was a predominantly Lower House

creation, Yamagata's willingness to tolerate the Seiyūkai President in the office he wanted to reserve for non-party men means that the Genrō also played a part, although a limited one, in Hara's appointment.<sup>3</sup>

The fall of the Hara cabinet following the assassination of the Prime Minister need not detain us for long. No attempt has been made to identify institutional pressures that would have made Hara's resignation likely. Labour relations and the agitation over universal suffrage were regarded by the Seiyūkai President as security problems, and he had no need to fear the withdrawal of Yamagata's support. The Upper House was no source of trouble, and the working agreement Hara established with its Yamagata-controlled largest faction, the Kenkyūkai, was in no danger of being abrogated by an aristocracy apprehensive about the possible consequences of universal suffrage.<sup>4</sup>

The appointment of Takahashi resulted from the identical line-up of forces that brought his predecessor to power, although the absence of public rioting in late 1921 made the avoidance of a party premier an easier matter than in 1918. There was no question of appointing the leader of the opposition party, which had taken part in the suffrage agitation. Because Saionji felt it would set a bad precedent to turn out a party-dominated government because the party leader had been assassinated, he got Matsukata and Yamagata, who died soon afterwards, to support another Seiyūkai man. But although both the House and the

Genrō were once again the sole institutions responsible for the ultimate choice, their influence was more equal this time. Takahashi only became the Seiyūkai President after he became Prime Minister.

Saionji was hard-pressed to find someone in the Seiyūkai whom he felt, as Matsumoto Gokichi, Yamagata's and subsequently Saionji's private secretary, said "had the capacity (chikara) to become Prime Minister." He settled on Takahashi for two reasons. Firstly, according to Matsumoto, Saionji regarded it as a point in Takahashi's favour that "he was not a real member of the Seiyūkai."<sup>5</sup> Takahashi had been an indifferent party member, and belonged to the bureaucratic faction in the Upper House, the Chawakai (The Tea Group). Secondly, as Finance Minister in the Hara cabinet, Takahashi had occupied the highest Cabinet, as opposed to party, position in the Seiyūkai. The role of the Genrō was therefore more crucial in 1921 than in 1918, even though the institutional line-up was the same and the Genrō-House compromise took the same form.

The fall of the Takahashi cabinet, usually attributed simply to internal Cabinet disunity, had a great deal to do with the activities of the dominant groups in the Upper House as well as the prejudices of the Genrō. The dissident cabinet members, Nakahashi Tokugorō and Motoda Hajime, were the ones whose projects had been rejected by the Upper House under the leadership of the Chawakai, a group with which the Prime Minister continued to have cordial relations. But the Kenkyūkai, the largest and most influential group, suddenly indicated its readiness to change sides and support

the two ministers against the Premier. Takahashi's only way to purge the dissidents, something British prime ministers are always doing, was through a general resignation, after which he hoped to be renominated and to construct a new cabinet without them. That the party endorsed the Prime Minister's actions and expelled the party dissidents underlines the critical nature of the choice the Genrō made in not renominating the man who had really only resigned in order to restore party discipline. The Genrō and the Kenkyūkai were more responsible for the cabinet's collapse than was Seiyūkai disunity, which in fact only became serious after it was clear that the Genrō's personal antipathy towards Takahashi was preventing the rise of another Seiyūkai cabinet.<sup>7</sup>

The Genrō pleaded party disarray for their failure to nominate a party premier during the years 1922-1924, but this party disarray was more a consequence than a cause of the parties' distance from power. The Genrō did not see that the more a cabinet's existence depends solely on party unity, the greater will that unity be, and vice versa. Not having the need to keep a government in power as a unifying force, the Seiyūkai and Seiyūhontō (Orthodox Seiyūkai), the two parties into which the Seiyūkai divided a year after Takahashi's resignation, themselves tended to become more factionalised. But the failure to nominate the leader of the Kenseikai during these years, was more due to the Genrō's dislike of its leader, Katō Kōmei, than their fear of nominating the leader of a party without a majority in the House. Minority party leaders had been

nominated before and had always been able to create comfortable majorities in the subsequent elections they managed. By choosing Katō Tomosaburō, Yamamoto Gombei, and Kiyoura Keigo, the Genrō boosted the legitimacy of the institutions on which their cabinets were primarily based, reinforcing the already well established separation-of-powers.

The actual rupture of the Genrō-House compromise took place after the fall of the Katō Tomosaburō government, and was only restored in 1924 when Katō Kōmei was at last appointed to the office the Genrō had denied him for so long. The following section deals with the breakdown and restoration of the compromise, beginning with Katō Tomosaburō's selection.

The rise of the Katō Tomosaburō cabinet involved a complex line up of almost all institutions, whose order of importance is difficult to determine. The Seiyūkai leaders were not considered eligible, but someone acceptable to some party or other had to be found. Because Saionji did not want to nominate the Kenseikai leader, Katō Kōmei, he "became ill," and left the negotiations up to Matsukata.

Matsukata consulted the President of the Privy Council, Kiyoura Keigo, who first suggested Katō Kōmei and then Admiral Katō Tomosaburō, who had overcome the opposition of the Naval General Staff to the cuts in naval expenditure negotiated by himself at the Washington Conference in 1922 and had achieved great popularity in the country. Matsukata then consulted the guardian of the Navy's interests for the past two

decades, Yamamoto Gombei, an opponent of the Washington agreement. The Navy Admirals held a meeting and advised Katō Tomosaburō not to become Prime Minister. When Matsukata saw that Katō Tomosaburō was reluctant to accept, he began to make plans for a Katō Kōmei cabinet. As soon as Tokonami Takejirō, one of the leaders of the anti-Takahashi faction of the Seiyūkai, heard of this, he advised Katō Tomosaburō to accept the nomination, apparently pledging Seiyūkai support. Katō Tomosaburō then visited Takahashi, and although the Seiyūkai did not agree to Katō's request that Tokonami enter the government, the party gave him its support. Yamamoto Gombei then also concurred. It seems that the Navy's initial reluctance was its fear that the cabinet's failure might harm the Navy itself. The President of the Privy Council also consented to Katō's nomination. Finally, Mizuno Rentarō, an influential member of the Kōyū Kurabu (Friendship Club) in the Upper House and a member of the Seiyūkai since 1913, strongly urged Katō to accept the nomination.

Matsukata had been prepared to have Katō Kōmei serve, but when the inter-institutional struggle resolved itself in favour of Katō Tomosaburō, he went along with the general consensus. But the Genrō, because they would not have a Seiyūkai premier, wielded at least a minor influence in the rise of the cabinet. The same applies to the President of the Privy Council, whom Shinobu describes as the "midwife" of the cabinet.<sup>8</sup> The Navy, the Seiyūkai, and the Upper House, on the other hand, played major

parts. The Seiyūkai effectively prevented the rise of a Kenseikai cabinet, while the Navy agreed to act as the Seiyūkai's buffer against the Kenseikai. Through Mizuno Rentarō's pledge of support, his ability to win over the Kenkyūkai, and his almost complete freedom in selecting Katō's ministers, the Upper House exerted its influence. Matsumoto described the new cabinet as "actually a Mizuno Rentarō cabinet."<sup>9</sup>

The resignation of the Katō cabinet resulted from the illness of the Prime Minister, who died of stomach cancer soon afterwards. Shinobu says the government's resignation was "a sudden change in the political situation."<sup>10</sup> But the Genrō-House compromise ended with Yamamoto's selection.

The institutions raising the second Yamamoto government were, as is to be expected under the circumstances, almost the same as those raising its predecessor, although the parts played by each were different. Because the Genrō nominated Yamamoto directly to the Emperor, without first consulting Yamamoto, it is not easy to assign weights to each institution. The degree of post facto support each gave and the tussle over Cabinet seats are the only ways to resolve the problem.

The Genrō's role was more crucial this time: Saionji assumed the entire responsibility of appointing Yamamoto, and, according to Matsumoto, felt that "the leaders of the Kenseikai and Seiyūkai were not equal to the task."<sup>11</sup> Neither major party, both of whose leaders Yamamoto approached with offers of Cabinet positions only to meet with refusal, played any role at all. Only Inukai Tsuyoshi, the leader of the smaller Kakushin



Kurabu (Renovationist Club), formed in March 1922 out of Kenseikai dissidents and the old Kokumintō (People's Party), entered the cabinet and assisted Yamamoto in the Lower House. The Kenkyukai, the largest Upper House faction, had wanted to extend the previous government and have Okano Keijirō take over the premiership. Kenkyūkai refusal to support Yamamoto therefore requires that no role be assigned to the Second Chamber, even though Peers from other factions entered the cabinet.

Because Yamamoto tried to construct a kyokoku itchi (national unity) cabinet and went out of his way to solicit the support of powerful bureaucrats like Gotō Shimpei, Den Kenjirō, and Hiranuma Kiichirō, all of whom entered the cabinet and became its "pillars," the Civil Service wielded an important influence in the cabinet's appointment. The struggle between Gotō and Den for influence in the bureaucracy underlines the importance of Yamamoto's inclusion of both men. So does Saionji's encouragement of Yamamoto to work with Den. Because Itō Miyoji, one of the original drafters of the Constitution and a powerful member of the Privy Council, strongly urged Hiranuma and Okano Keijirō to enter the cabinet, and because both men were made Privy Councillors soon afterwards and became the Council's Vice Presidents—Okano in 1925 and Hiranuma in 1926—that institution's influence was at least a minor one. Finally, the Navy itself, through its most influential member's agreement to keep this welter of institutional representatives together, also played a large part in the making of the Yamamoto cabinet.<sup>12</sup>

The distance between the Genrō and the Lower House had hardly been greater since Katsura's appointment in 1913, although the House's actions were far from as dramatic. Following the great earthquake in Tokyo just after the new Prime Minister's appointment in 1924, both Houses of the Diet, the only two institutions not included in the alliance behind Yamamoto, began to work for his fall. Home Minister Gotō Shimpei tried to use the reconstruction of the city as a way to implement his policy to widen and increase the number of roads. The Seiyūkai regarded this as unnecessary and did not want to let Gotō take the credit for it. The Lower House cut the budget by 20% and the Peers passed the amended budget. Although Gotō finally backed down, his colleague and rival, Den Kenjiro, did not accept the Lower House's refusal to sanction his plan to lend money to fire insurance companies and resigned.

Before the Prime Minister had decided what to do about Den's resignation, there was an attempt on the life of the Prince Regent. Yamamoto tendered a general resignation of the cabinet, ostensibly taking responsibility for the incident. The Genrō told him there was no need for the cabinet to resign, and Yamamoto consulted his colleagues, who replied that the government could not continue in office. The government's relations with the two Houses of the Diet had made its continuance in office impossible.<sup>13</sup>

Even though the Lower House had acted as a major force in unseating Yamamoto, the Genrō did not yet restore the compromise. Their distrust

of Katō Kōmei and Takahashi exceeded their fear to provoke the parties into united opposition. Two other factors prompted Saionji, with Matsukata's approval, to nominate Kiyoura Keigo. Firstly, Saionji did not want the forthcoming election to be "managed" by either of the two parties and believed the President of the Privy Council to be the most neutral force between them. Secondly, Saionji chose Kiyoura because Kiyoura recognised that constitutional government required some working agreement with the Lower House. Saionji hoped Kiyoura would conclude such an agreement with the Seiyūkai. The first step towards restoring the compromise had been taken. Developments did not proceed quite according to plan. After the Genrō by-passed Takahashi for the third time, the anti-Takahashi faction of the party seceded and set up the Seiyūhontō (Orthodox Seiyūkai), and Kiyoura could only come to terms with the smaller Seiyūhontō. The Lower House therefore played only a minor role in the rise of the Kiyoura cabinet. The Privy Council, of which Kiyoura was the President, and the Upper House, from which he selected almost all his ministers, both played major parts.<sup>14</sup>

The Seiyūkai, Kenseikai, and Kakushin Kurabu responded to the new appointment by organising another Movement for Constitutional Government. Unlike the similar response in 1913, the parties in 1924 were unable to excite the public imagination, although the three concerned managed to win more seats in the election than the pro-government Seiyūhontō: their combined strength was 286 against the Seiyūhontō's 114.

Kiyoura resigned soon after the victorious parties translated their electoral alliance into an agreement on a minimal government programme.<sup>15</sup>

Shinobu describes the Genrō kaigi, the last attended by Matsukata, whose death soon afterwards left Saionji as the sole Genrō until 1940, as "a mere formality."<sup>16</sup> Past experience, however, indicates that the Genrō did have an alternative: they could have nominated the Seiyūhontō leader or someone more acceptable to that party than Kiyoura. If the Seiyūkai had not immediately deserted the three-party-alliance and reunited with the Seiyūhontō, a Seiyūhontō managed election would in all probability have induced a merger. Although the predominant pressure raising Katō Kōmei came from the House, the Genrō played at least a minor role.<sup>17</sup>

From the fall of the Katō Tomosaburō cabinet till the rise of the Katō Kōmei cabinet the leaders of the two main parties worked hard to restore some kind of compromise with the Genrō. The latter had learnt to manipulate the Constitution with considerable skill and had kept government functioning without party premiers and with only three party cabinet ministers since Takahashi's resignation. They had constantly shifted the main institutional alliances behind successive governments, alliances which acted as counter-weights to the influence of the Lower House. Because Saionji did not believe party premiers to be the abnormality his predecessors did, he was not unwilling to nominate party members if this would make his job to ensure the smooth working of

constitutional government an easier one. From 1924 until 1932 Saionji found party premiers the best way to fulfil his duty.

The Genrō-House Compromise in Cabinet-Making and -Breaking, 1924-1932

In the present section I simply intend to show that the selection of party premiers was a compromise and not a de facto amendment, even a temporary one, to the Constitution. Although all premiers in these years were party Presidents, Saionji only nominated majority party leaders when a premier with a majority died. On all other occasions minority party leaders were nominated. More pertinently, all prime ministers in 1924-32 who did not die in office were unseated by an institution other than the Lower House, without any objection from the Genrō. That the discretion of the Genrō was enormous, and actually increased with the greater separation-of-powers, must be underlined. As long as only one or two institutions could make and break cabinets, the types of persons the Genrō were free to nominate were few. But with the proliferation of semi-autonomous institutions, a greater variety of candidates could be considered, and the Genrō could make more real as opposed to circumscribed choices.

I devote less detail than before to the events surrounding the rise and fall of cabinets. Because only party leaders became prime ministers and the leader of the opposition party was always appointed after a cabinet fall, except when premiers died in office, I discuss only the fall of cabinets. Once the Genrō sanctioned the fall of any government,

the terms of the unspoken agreement required the appointment of the opposition party leader. The fall of the Katō Kōmei, Hamaguchi, and Inukai cabinets following the deaths of the prime ministers is not discussed in this section. The institutional forces that may have brought them to ruin had they not died are discussed in the section dealing with institutional autonomy. I refer the reader to Appendices I and IV for a summary account of Cabinet-makers and -breakers and a chronology of prime ministers and their ministries in 1918-1932.

The Genrō, Saionji, is assigned a major role in selecting minority party leaders, a minor role in selecting majority party leaders. The parties concerned in both types of cases are assigned major roles in raising the cabinets. In the breaking of these party cabinets, the House is assigned a minor role, except in the fall of Wakatsuki in 1927 and the fall of governments because of the death of their premiers. The Genrō only sanctioned the fall of cabinets resulting from other than natural causes in 1924-1932 because he intended to nominate the opposition party leader. When premiers died and the same party provided successors, the House is assigned no role at all. In the case of Wakatsuki's fall in 1927, the House actually played a major role. The roles of other institutions which affected the appointment of all the party premiers in 1924-32 and the possible fall of cabinets whose premiers died are discussed in the next section on institutional autonomy. The present section merely demonstrates that all premiers other than those

who died in office were removed by institutions other than the Lower House. The section therefore begins with Wakatsuki's fall in 1927.

The unseating of the first Wakatsuki cabinet is a partial exception to the generalisation that non-party institutions were the main causes of party cabinet fall. Although Wakatsuki's resignation is usually attributed solely to the Privy Council's veto of the cabinet's emergency relief measures for the Bank of Taiwan,<sup>18</sup> the Prime Minister did not even consider doing battle with the Council. The working agreement in the House between the Kenseikai and Seiyūhontō on which his majority depended had threatened to break up three months previously. It only remained temporarily intact because Wakatsuki promised to resign at a suitable opportunity after the end of the session. Wakatsuki seemed to have regarded the Privy Council's obstruction as such an opportunity.<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, if the Genrō was really trying to work against the separation-of-powers, he could have refused to sanction a resignation on the grounds of opposition from the Privy Council, and suggested waiting until the mood in the House dictated a cabinet change.

The fall of the Tanaka cabinet was a clearer-cut case of Genrō failure to side with the majority party in the House, come what may. The great merit of the British Cabinet system is that when governments are unpopular, even among their own supporters, they are kept in power by institutional forces and given the opportunity to take strong though unpopular action, which they hope will be vindicated before the next

quinquennial election. It is precisely in times of crisis that extra incentives to support cabinets are so valuable, incentives which allow British cabinets to take, if not a long-term view of policies, at least a five-yearly one. Prewar Japanese cabinets, even during the years of so-called parliamentary government, could operate only in the short-run.

Because the Army's role in unseating Tanaka is discussed more fully in the next section, only the support the Genrō gave the Army needs mentioning here. The Army had strongly objected to the Prime Minister's attempt to lay on it all the blame for the assassination of Chang Tso-lin, warlord of Manchuria. While Tanaka had previously reported to the Emperor that the Japanese Army was responsible for the incident, the Army forced him into the compromising position of reading to the Emperor an official statement which denied any Japanese complicity. The Emperor was furious because he was made to hear two contradictory versions of what had happened and refused to receive Tanaka in audience except to receive his resignation. By failing to side with the majority party prime minister, Saionji, as the major imperial adviser who could have smoothed matters over if he had chosen, must assume responsibility for the Emperor's actions.<sup>20</sup> The great virtue of parliamentarism is that a government need not fear for its existence, however unpopular or compromising its actions, as long as its own majority in the House remains loyal.

The same verdict applies to the fall of the second Wakatsuki cabinet. When the cabinet, backed by its majority, consistently opposed Army



demands for a stronger Manchurian policy, the Army began to work for a coalition "patriotic" cabinet under Adachi Kenzō, the Minseitō Home Minister who had been echoing the calls for a coalition patriotic cabinet, and Inukai Tsuyoshi, the new President of the Seiyūkai.

A brief digression on party mergers will explain party alignment in 1930. Inukai's Kakushin Kurabu (Renovationist Club) merged with the Seiyūkai in May 1925, and Inukai became Tanaka's successor as Seiyūkai President. The Minseitō (People's Political Party) was the result of a merger between the Seiyūhontō and the Kenseikai following Tanaka's appointment in 1927.

The institutional alliance which unseated Wakatsuki in 1931 was similar to the one which caused Takahashi's fall. But in 1931 the Army rather than the Peers encouraged internal Cabinet disunity. Wakatsuki also tried to purge his dissident member, Adachi, and was also abandoned by the Genrō, who soon came to favour a new government under Inukai. Again, by partly siding with a non-party institution against a government backed by a majority in the House, the Genrō confirmed the legitimacy of the offending institution. He could have re-nominated Wakatsuki, who could then have formed a new cabinet without Adachi.<sup>21</sup>

While the Genrō-House compromise did not develop into a permanent alliance, it was not abandoned either. After 1924, even though the Genrō never prevented non-party institutions from toppling majority-party-supported governments, he consistently handed the premiership over to

the leader of the minority opposition party, rather than to a member of the institution which played a major part in unseating the government. Saionji applied this principle when he nominated Tanaka, Wakatsuki for the second time, and Inukai. It was quite incorrect, however, to describe their nominations as "the normal course of constitutional government,"<sup>22</sup> because in modern Britain, as long as there is a majority party, a minority party is never asked to form a government.

More normal perhaps was the nomination of men, as successors of prime ministers who died while in office, from the same party or institution as the dead premier: Takahashi, Yamamoto, and Wakatsuki on both occasions. But even here, there was an occasional element of the abnormal. Takahashi only became President of the Seiyūkai after he was made Prime Minister by the Genrō and did not assume office as leader of his party.

The alternative to compromise, deadlock and demise, applied to the Cabinet's relations with institutions besides the Genrō and the Lower House. But because it was virtually impossible to please everyone at the same time, it was inevitable that other institutions would sooner or later find themselves the cause of a Cabinet crisis.

In 1918-1932, the Upper House, the Army, the Navy, and the Privy Council all used their veto power vigorously and between them were predominantly responsible for the fall of almost every government. The fall of two of the three exceptions also resulted from a major influence wielded by one of these institutions or another: only the Lower House

was a more important force than the Peers in unseating Yamamoto, and a greater obstacle than the Privy Council in the way of Wakatsuki's first government. After Yamagata's death in 1922, there was no force to restrain these institutions other than their own understanding of how to use their autonomous power most effectively.

The next section discusses the independent power of the major Cabinet-breakers of the period other than the Lower House and the Genrō. The ability of each to influence Cabinet composition is described alongside its ability to unmake cabinets. No complete analysis of Cabinet composition is provided, for which the reader is referred to Appendix IV. Typical examples suffice to illustrate that the analysis of Cabinet composition in the previous chapter largely applies to the years 1918-1932. The main difference is that party members occupied more Cabinet seats than ever before. Apart from this, the number of representatives each institution had was more or less the same as before. But the sources are more explicit in linking the appointment of ministers with the independent power of these institutions.

#### Institutional Autonomy, 1918-1932

Next to the Genrō and the House, the Peers were the most effective makers and breakers of cabinets in the 1920's. No ministry could assume office without coming to some agreement with them, the usual evidence of such agreement being the inclusion of at least one leading member of the Upper House's largest faction, the Kenkyūkai. For example,

the Hara and Takahashi cabinets retained the support of the Peers through the inclusion of Ōki Enkichī, a prominent Kenkyūkai leader.<sup>23</sup> Even Katō Kōmei, when the three parties, on whose joint efforts in 1924 he had risen to power, were clamouring for a share of scarce cabinet seats, regarded it as quite natural to give one to a Peer, Okada Ryōhei.<sup>24</sup> A few months after he assumed office in 1926, Wakatsuki gave a seat to a member of the Kenkyūkai, because, as Colegrove observed, "it is necessary, of course, for the cabinet to come to terms with these parties."<sup>25</sup> According to Tiedemann's study of the Hamaguchi cabinet, the Prime Minister and his successor after his death included Watanabe Chifuyu, "in an attempt to strengthen the cabinet's position in the House of Peers by securing the support of the Kenkyūkai, a group of which he was a leader."<sup>26</sup>

Whenever there was not a party premier, the major group from which cabinet members were sought was the Kenkyūkai. The Katō Tomosaburō cabinet was described as a "Kenkyūkai-centred Katō-Upper House cabinet,"<sup>27</sup> and included four members of the Kenkyūkai and three of the Kōyū Club. The Yamamoto cabinet, which was based on the Civil Service, the Navy, as well as the Peers, included four Peers, but none of them were from the Kenkyūkai, which refused to participate in the cabinet because Saionji rejected its plan to extend the Katō ministry by only changing premiers. Predictably, the Peers were a major institution responsible for Yamamoto's fall. In his dissertation on the Upper House, Fahs concludes that "the

power of the Kenkyūkai culminated in the establishment of the Kiyoura Cabinet, which . . . was based almost entirely on the support of the Kenkyūkai and the Kōyū Club."<sup>28</sup>

The Peers also did their fair share of cabinet-breaking. It was they who drove the wedge between the two factions in the Takahashi cabinet, forcing the Premier into a general resignation as the sole way to restore party unity. They were almost as responsible as the Lower House for the fall of the Yamamoto cabinet, which resigned because of the 20% reduction by both Houses of the budget designed to restore the city of Tokyo after the great earthquake. The resignation of the minister responsible for the plan to lend money to fire insurance companies, Den Kenjirō, who was "one of the pillars of the cabinet," was quickly followed by a general resignation.<sup>29</sup> The reason Yamamoto himself gave, that his government was responsible for the attempted assassination of the Prince Regent, served the same purpose as the typical plea of ill-health. When a similar attempted assassination occurred one month after the accession of the Inukai cabinet, a token general resignation was presented, but there was no question of its acceptance.<sup>30</sup>

Although the Upper House cannot be credited with the fall of any other ministry in these years, Katō Kōmei so greatly trimmed his programme of reform in anticipation of what it would tolerate, that had he not died in office, the Peers would undoubtedly have been mainly responsible for his cabinet's fall, whenever it occurred.<sup>31</sup> Redman concluded that the

Upper House's "indirect influence is unquestioned, and it can therefore be said that the cabinet has a certain responsibility to (it)."32

The continued autonomy and strength of the two Armed Services was evident whenever foreign affairs came to the fore. Although the Army was not quite willing or able, during these years of public satisfaction with party premiers, to raise its own cabinet, a typical compromise was found. A leading Army General, Tanaka Giichi, became President of a political party, and was supported for Prime Minister. This must have helped tip the balance against Den Kenjiro, whom, in spite of "the normal course of constitutional government," the Genro seriously considered as Wakatsuki's successor in 1927. That Tanaka was a party man as well as an Army General made him better qualified than Den in a system where the most important requirement of a Prime Minister is to do a balancing-act among a number of competitive institutions.33

The Army's power to unmake cabinets was more visible. It was the major force behind the fall of the Tanaka and second Wakatsuki cabinets, as well as a leading member of the anti-party-premier coalition, which, after the assassination of Inukai, finally forced the Genro to disregard the precedent of nominating a man from the same party or institution as the dead prime minister.

The Army's refusal to discipline the officers responsible for Chang Tso-lin's assassination forced the Prime Minister to contradict his previous imperial report. By not coming to Tanaka's rescue, the

Genrō only sanctioned the Army's Cabinet-breaking power. The Army was also the major force that came between the members of the second Wakatsuki cabinet and caused its fall, although responsibility was placed on Cabinet disunity. Finally, although the Army could not be implicated officially in the May 15 Incident, in which Inukai was assassinated, its sympathies with the motives of the revolutionaries were well enough known for the Genrō to set aside precedent and nominate a non-party successor.<sup>34</sup>

In addition to the more dramatic examples of Army independence, the Army's uninterrupted occupation of the War Minister's seat in the Cabinet revealed its potential as a cause of Cabinet crises. Throughout the 1920's, the Army remained a major force with which all governments had to come to terms.

The Navy's uninterrupted possession of the Navy Minister portfolio reflects that institution's possession of *avveto* power, which it used vigorously. As long as great power politics, which is always of great concern to navies, did not occupy the centre of the stage, the Navy was prepared to take a back seat. But with the conclusion of the popular Washington Agreement on naval construction in 1922, the Navy formed the backbone of the next government. Yamamoto succeeded Katō Tomosaburō partly in his own right as a virtual Genrō, but mainly because the death of Katō was no reason to terminate Navy-led government.

When great power politics loomed to the fore in the late 1920's

and keen inter-imperialist rivalry brought another agreement to limit the Japanese Navy in 1930, that institution emerged from its apparent slumber: a major section of the Navy revolted. The fall of the cabinet was only prevented by the support the agreement received from both parties in the House, the Genrō, the Army, and a section of the Navy itself. Only the Privy Council supported the opposition forces within the Navy. Had Hamaguchi not been assassinated, the Navy would have been the major institution responsible for the government's fall.

The most dramatic display of Navy Cabinet-breaking power was that institution's implication in the May 15 Incident. Senior Navy officers were deeply involved, and Saionji was almost as apprehensive about Navy opposition to a party successor of Inukai as he was about Army opposition.<sup>35</sup>

In the years 1918-1932, the Navy, like the Army and the Upper House, decisively influenced the institutional balance of power. It almost equalled their Cabinet-breaking power, but surpassed their Cabinet-making power. No cabinet existed independent of the Navy.

After 1922, the Privy Council, hitherto inconspicuous as a maker and breaker of cabinets, joined the throng of institutions able to veto government policy and topple cabinets. The usual explanation is that, while in earlier years the Cabinet and Council had been composed of similar kinds of men, clan bureaucrats, this was no longer the case.<sup>36</sup> But such an explanation does not shed light on the reasons



for the sudden and persistent opposition to cabinets that began in 1922, even ones led by Sat-chō men. It is more probable that the death in 1922 of Yamagata, who for eighteen years had been President of the Privy Council, finally freed this institution from Genrō control. No longer could cabinets assume that Privy Council support came automatically with Genrō support.

The Privy Council was instrumental in raising the Katō Tomosaburō and Yamamoto cabinets, and assumed major importance in raising the Kiyoura cabinet. Katō Kōmei watered down his party's reform programme and caused himself considerable domestic difficulty, not merely out of deference to the Upper House but to the Privy Council. Both institutions were coming between him and his party, and if he had fallen because of Cabinet disunity, the Peers and the Privy Council would have been the main causes.<sup>37</sup> The Privy Council was the force that finally compelled Wakatsuki to keep his promise and resign after the close of the 1927 Diet session. One should not assume that the coalition in the House would have broken up in any case. The Seiyūhontō was divided at the time, and after Tanaka's appointment actually merged with Wakatsuki's Kenseikai.<sup>38</sup>

The next two governments also had largely the Privy Council to thank for the major problems they encountered. Tanaka's difficulty with the Privy Council over the Kellogg-Briand Pact almost equalled his difficulty with the Army over foreign policy in Manchuria. The Council caused a great stir by objecting to the phrase, "in the names of their respective

peoples." Even the Minseitō came to the defence of imperial sovereignty. According to the Asahi daily, "there was no question that this was one of the major causes of the collapse of the Tanaka cabinet."<sup>39</sup> This may be an over-statement, but the affair contributed to Saionji's loss of confidence in Tanaka.

The final display of Privy Council power was its five-month battle against the Hamaguchi cabinet over the London Naval Agreement.<sup>40</sup> Although the Council and the Navy finally came round, the kind of atmosphere that inspired Hamaguchi's assassin resulted partly from the feeling in the country that Hamaguchi may have gone too far.

The only remarkable thing about the Privy Council's veto power was that there was little evidence of it in the composition of ministries. Kiyoura Keigo was the only Privy Councillor to serve in a cabinet throughout the period. It is possible that the Council's legitimacy as a separate institution, entitled to a Cabinet seat as of right, was more difficult to justify than that of any other institution.

The role of the Civil Service as a maker and breaker of cabinets is difficult to determine. Spaulding correctly points out that "the true measure of bureaucratic power is not how many ex-bureaucrats sat in the Cabinet, but how much voice bureaucrats collectively possessed in deciding policy and shaping legislation."<sup>41</sup> But a measure of influence on policy is hard to find. While counting heads may not be an inaccurate indicator, it is the only practical one readily available. One must therefore

note not merely the large number of ex-civil servants who sat in cabinets as members of one or other House of the Diet, but the increasing tendency for the positions of Foreign and Justice Minister to go to career members of these ministries.<sup>42</sup>

Even in the previous period, no party man, unless he was also Prime Minister, served as Foreign Minister. After 1918, this proved to be even more the case: Tanaka was the sole party Prime Minister to serve as his own Foreign Minister. Inukai was his own Foreign Minister for only one month. All other occupants of the portfolio were career men of whom the Foreign Office approved. In 1918, Hara was able to reject Yamagata's choice of Foreign Minister in favour of his own, Uchida Yasuya, only because Makino Shinken, a leading Foreign Office official, supported Uchida.<sup>43</sup> In 1923, the Foreign Office refused to accept Kiyoura's nominee, Fujimura Yoshirō, and got its own, Matsui Keishirō, accepted.<sup>44</sup>

While many party men served as Justice Minister before 1918, only the Katō Kōmei, first Wakatsuki, and Inukai governments had party men in this position in 1918-1932. Hara was his own Justice Minister only until he could find a career man willing to accept the job, the most influential of them, Hiranuma Kiichirō, having refused to serve under Hara.<sup>45</sup>

Because the seats of Foreign and Justice Minister gradually became the exclusive preserve of the Civil Service, cabinets were also under pressure to come to terms with bureaucratic interests. Even officials

in other ministries could occasionally dislodge a man they disliked, as in 1931 when the Railway Ministry officials forced Minister Egi Tasuku to resign by passing a public resolution of no-confidence in him.<sup>46</sup>

The seats of Army, Navy, Foreign, and Justice Minister were typically held by non-party men throughout the period of so-called parliamentary government, and at least one seat went to the House of Peers. The number left for party control was never sufficient to make party government more than an aspiration.

Cabinets in 1918-1932 were not merely made and unmade by a variety of institutional forces, but consisted of federations of institutional representatives. Appendices I and IV show the precise distribution of Cabinet seats in the period. Table 3 indicates the breakdown of Appendix I into the major and minor roles each institution, except the Civil Service which only played a part in raising the Yamamoto cabinet, played in the making of 11 cabinets, and the breaking of 9. The fall of the Katō Tomosaburō and Hara cabinets is not included.

Table 3. Major and Minor Roles in Cabinet-Making and -Breaking, 1918-1932

	Cabinet-Making						Cabinet-Breaking					
	House	<u>Genrō</u>	Peers	Army	Navy	Council	House	<u>Genrō</u>	Peers	Army	Navy	Council
Major	9	6	2	1	2	0	3	5	3	3	2	4
Minor	2	5	0	1	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0

As in 1900-1918, the Lower House and the Genrō were the major makers and breakers of cabinets in 1918-1932. The House surpassed the Genrō

in raising ministries, but not in pulling them down. The influences wielded by other institutions indicate, not merely as great a separation-of-powers as in the previous period, but a more even distribution of influence among the different branches. The existence of the Cabinet was also more separate from any single institution's control than ever before: according to Appendix 1, in 1900-1918 usually only two institutions at a time made and broke cabinets, but in 1918-1932, the average was almost three. Separation-of-powers theory alone emphasises this separation of the cabinet's existence from each of the other institutions.

Typical manifestations of separation-of-powers forces were not hard to find during these years, although it may be more difficult to attribute their occurrence to politico-institutional forces. In the following section no claim is made that corruption and personality politics resulted solely from institutional forces, although the timing of elections did seem to owe more to these forces than to any others.

#### Typical Consequences of the Separation-of-Powers

The high degree of electoral and other forms of corruption in the 1920's was notorious, but because this phenomenon has already been commented on, it is merely noted here that the separation-of-powers in the 1920's did nothing to mitigate corruption. Two other typical consequences of separation-of-powers forces will be discussed more fully: personality politics as it affects the path to party leadership and

the timing of elections. The present section claims only that in 1918-1932 these phenomena, which still existed in Japan during the 1970's, owed their occurrence at least partly to politico-institutional forces.

An interesting way in which the tendency towards personality politics manifests itself is in the typical path to party leadership under the separation-of-powers. While in modern Britain, leaders rise within their party, owing everything to their party, in America, men who are potential presidents for other reasons, find it necessary to capture a party. Often, like Mayor Lindsay of New York, they can even switch parties. As in post 1962 France and eighteenth-century Britain, the separation-of-powers also made it necessary for men like Lecanuet or Palmerston to capture a party, the latter also being to switch parties. But no leader can switch parties in modern Britain with impunity, as Joseph Chamberlain found out in 1885, because the only qualification required by a prime minister is that he is a party leader. A highly popular Winston Churchill or Harold Wilson can lose to less popular leaders, simply because their parties have lost favour with the electorate. British government is by parties, not personalities. But Richard Nixon can win the Presidency in America, in spite of his party's unpopularity, because in that country, at least in Presidential elections, personality is more important than party.

An examination of the way Japanese prime ministers rose to the

position of party president reveals a close parallel with the American pattern. Although Hara was a man who, alone among Seiyūkai presidents during this or any other period, owed his position more to his achievements within the party than to anything else, even he had also been a member of the Civil Service, and according to Duus, was nominated as Prime Minister "in spite of (author's italics) the fact that he was a party leader," because of other qualities regarded by Yamagata as more important.<sup>47</sup> Takahashi was even made Prime Minister before he became party leader, so had little difficulty in capturing the Seiyūkai presidency. Japanese parties were on the keen lookout for leaders who had the potential to become premiers, and remind one of the frantic search by the American Democratic Party in 1972 to find a potential winner.

More than any other Seiyūkai President, Tanaka Giichi was a man with a number of attributes that qualified him for the premiership, who subsequently captured the party. His successor, Inukai, who had also achieved distinction outside the party, was an example of a man who had even switched parties. Hara Kei was the only Seiyūkai President who owed his position as party leader to his labours within the Seiyūkai.

Minseitō leaders were slightly less typical of this pattern, because all had risen to positions of prominence within their parties. Even so, all were also ex-bureaucrats, and only Hamaguchi was not a Peer. Their qualifications were not therefore limited to their party

membership.

The timing of elections throughout the years 1918-1932 also conformed to that of separation-of-powers systems, a fact which illustrates better than most that there was no fundamental change in institutional forces. When power is concentrated in a Cabinet whose existence depends solely on a majority in the House, as in modern Britain, electorates choose executives in the very act of choosing legislatures, and cabinet changes coincide with elections, rather than precede them. It is not simply that executives and legislatures are chosen simultaneously at election time, but that the act of casting a single vote accomplishes both. In America, one does not choose a President in the very act of choosing a Representative, and many people vote for candidates from different parties in the two functionally different elections. Moreover, a new executive is not created every time a new Congress is chosen. In eighteenth-century Britain and prewar Japan, particularly after 1900, cabinet changes preceded elections, because the Cabinet's existence was not dependent on the composition of the legislature alone. While governments needed loyal majorities to remain in office, these were not on their own sufficient. So even though cabinets usually rose for reasons other than the possession of a parliamentary majority, they soon afterwards held carefully controlled elections to provide them with such a majority.

All the cabinets with party premiers during this period that came



to power without a majority in the House were able to win one in the elections they held. The most remarkable reversals of party fortune took place in the elections of 1930 and 1932, managed by Hamaguchi, or rather his notoriously skilful election manager, Adachi Kenzō, and Inukai respectively. When Hamaguchi came to power, his party had 216 seats to the Seiyūkai's 217, but after the election it was 273 to 174. Inukai reversed the situation to give his party 301 to the Minseito's 146. It is hardly likely that the electorate was "uninfluenced" in changing its mind so radically in such a short time. To understand why, a theoretical perspective is needed.

Under separation-of-powers institutions, the party in power has an opportunity to influence elections in a way not possible in parliamentary systems. It can hardly be overemphasised that in eighteenth-century Britain and prewar Japan, no party-supported government ever lost an election, while in America, at least in the twentieth-century when national politics assumed much greater importance, few incumbent Presidents who sought re-election failed to secure it. The power of the incumbent to enhance his personal appeal and to influence the electorate is greater in a separation-of-powers system than in a parliamentary system. There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, with the greater emphasis on personal ability to get the most out of the inter-institutional struggle, incumbents have greater access to the media. Because everything they say or do is news, they have a greater opportunity to project the

type of personal image required. Secondly, because incumbents have control over the administration, they can concretely demonstrate their ability to manipulate the system by delivering actual favours, whereas the lack of concreteness about the opposition's promises usually results in these being regarded with greater scepticism.

There is little doubt that institutional forces in Japan in the 1920's were similar to those of previous periods, giving to the Japanese polity characteristics which made it resemble in certain ways the American and eighteenth-century British polities. To demonstrate why this was so, however, and why there was little evolution away from the separation-of-powers at a time when many people believed such a process to be taking place, is less easy. A comparative analysis of the timing of a number of political forces in Britain and Japan, while suffering from the usual limitations of higher level explanations which gloss over many important details, nevertheless comes closer to providing an understanding of what Scalapino sought to explain in his study of prewar Japanese parties, which he subtitled, The Failure of the First Attempt.<sup>48</sup>

#### Why the Separation-of-Powers Persisted

The present section abstracts politico-institutional forces from the social, economic, and intellectual history of Britain and Japan, a procedure which is not meant to minimise the vastly different histories of these two island countries. For the purposes of the argument alone,

conditions other than politico-institutional ones, are assumed to be similar, even though such an assumption does not accord with the facts. The section also glosses over many crucial events and developments in the political histories of the two countries, because the length of the period covered requires that the comparison be limited to only the major relevant developments.

Nine types of politico-institutional developments in each country are identified and the order in which they occurred is compared. The completely different order indicates the different stages of institutional development Britain and Japan had achieved by the early 1930's.

In England the order in which the political forces occurred was as follows. Firstly, already by 1297 Parliament had attained a legitimacy that compelled even the most autocratic Kings to consult it or face armed rebellion. Secondly, it was after the right of Parliament to be consulted had become unquestioned that England gradually developed into a unitary state with a strong central government, and civil war came to an end. This took place between the years 1066-1688. Those pleading the rights of Parliament could not be accused of unpatriotically fomenting civil war. On the contrary, recognising the power of the parliamentary tradition, Kings like Henry VIII used Parliament as the major vehicle to promote national unity.

Thirdly, the arrival of separation-of-powers institutional forces took place well after the legitimacy of Parliament had become an established

fact. After 1688, when each of the separate institutions had its own legitimate function and was occupied by different people and inter-institutional deadlock became the order of the day, much to the chagrin of their occupants, governmental deadlock tended to be attributed, not to an unwieldy Parliament, but to a Crown that failed to act in accordance with that Parliament.

In the fourth place, the development of parties in Parliament was the earliest form political parties took, parties in the country developing much later. The Crown soon discovered that inter-institutional deadlock could be avoided simply by relying on these parties to get its business through Parliament. The parties in turn began to regard themselves, not as channels of opposition to transcendental government, but as the vehicles of His Majesty's government itself. The result was gradually increasing party discipline and stable government, a development which began soon after the accession of George III in 1714. It was much easier for the idea of parties as organs of government to gain currency before parties became frighteningly identified with the masses.

Fifthly, the natural result was steady evolution away from the separation-of-powers into party cabinets, whose existence depended solely on majorities in the Commons. Evolution was smooth simply because Kings naturally preferred the greater efficiency of government unencumbered by constant inter-institutional deadlock. By the late eighteenth-century, they had given up trying to govern contrary to the will of Parliament,

and by 1832, the Lords were forced to moderate their claims to equality with the Commons, even though until 1911 they remained a thorn in the flesh of many a government. Had mass parties with programmes of social reform preceded this development, it would not have taken place with such ease, as the ruling classes would not have allowed institutions which gave them a veto over proposals for radical change to become obsolete.

Sixthly, when as a result of industrialisation under capitalism, movements for social reform sprang up, the power to introduce or resist such reform was concentrated in a cabinet responsible to a majority in the Commons alone. The Constitution, not particularly favouring the ruling class or working class, could therefore be used with equal efficiency by either class. It was too late for a reactionary class to prevent social reform by retaining a foothold in one veto-possessing institution or another.

Seventhly, therefore, when virtual manhood suffrage came soon after in 1868, movements for social reform were easily channelled into parliamentary activity.

The result was that, eighthly, mass parties in the country became extensions of the already existing parliamentary parties. The road to party government would have been much more difficult had mass parties in the country existed before parliamentary parties.

Finally, the development of a large Civil Service took place well after the supreme authority of the Cabinet, dependent, through the

Commons, on a mass electorate alone, had become an established tradition. From the beginning, the Cabinet was able to exercise political control over the Civil Service, which never had the opportunity to become a veto-possessing institution. What gave it the opportunity to do so in France and Japan was the chronic weakness of Cabinet authority.

In Japan the order of events was almost exactly the opposite, mainly because they all occurred in a mere fifty-year period spanning the last quarter of the nineteenth-century and the first quarter of the twentieth-century.

Firstly, a large and powerful bureaucracy, which existed already in Tokugawa Japan and acquired greater influence with every show of weakness by existing political authority, was the sole organ of government for more than thirty years before the establishment of the Diet. No wonder it remained not merely one among many veto-possessing institutions, but one of the most powerful ones.

Secondly, the maintenance of a unitary state under strong centralised government was the overriding concern just before, rather than well after, the establishment of the Diet. Those who championed the rights of this institution were quite naturally accused of fomenting civil war, with the result that the legitimacy of the Diet was hard to establish.

Thirdly, parties in the country, with some degree of grass-roots support, had developed not merely before parties in the Diet, but before the Diet itself, already in the early 1880's. Having arisen as channels

of opposition to transcendental government, they were unlikely to act or be treated like organs of government themselves for some time.

Fourthly, because separation-of-powers institutional forces came to exist at the same time as the Diet in 1890, the Diet had no special legitimacy vis-a-vis other institutions, and could not shift blame onto them for inter-institutional deadlock. On the contrary, the older institutions, the Civil Service, the Army, the Navy, the Privy Council, and the Genrō, were all more able to blame the newly created Diet for the ill effects of inter-institutional deadlock.

Fifthly, because the establishment of the Diet was so late in the sequence of events, it took a long time for this institution to achieve a legitimacy even comparable to that of others.

Sixthly, when parties with some degree of discipline did develop in the 1890's, because of their origins they tended to aim more at effective opposition to transcendental government than at taking over for themselves the task of government. It is hardly surprising that they were not treated as capable of responsibility.

Seventhly, when, as a result of industrialisation under capitalism, agitation for social reform became widespread, particularly after the First World War, power was still fragmented among a number of competitive institutions, some of which the ruling class, in order to have legitimate ways to veto social reform, prevented from obsolescence. So the Constitution did not evolve out of one which favoured the class preferring the status quo,

with the result that reformers turned to anti-constitutional means.

Eighthly, when virtual manhood suffrage finally came in 1925, it was unable to give the House the popular boost to make it the sole institution able to make and unmake cabinets. Manhood suffrage, not holding out the possibility of controlling an all powerful Cabinet, roused little interest, and the House made no progress in its drive for sovereignty over other institutions.

Finally, the abolition of the separation-of-powers did not take place naturally and came last of all, because natural evolution required a sequence of events that was not possible in Japan, given the need to telescope into fifty odd years what had taken centuries in Britain. But while the problem of the separation-of-powers was solved by natural evolution in Britain, many other political developments in that country took place only after a great deal of bloodshed, which Japan was spared because of her telescopic development.

Robert Scalapino's explanation of the "failure of the first attempt" in terms of the timing of industrialisation is quite unconvincing, largely because of his imperfect understanding of what is concretely involved in running a successful democracy. By equating democracy with liberalism, Scalapino makes the running of a successful democracy synonymous with subscription to a particular political ideology. The equation makes his explanation purely a cultural one and sheds no light on the problem of the kinds of institutions required for democratic government. It makes



democracy just a matter of free-floating attitudes or "values", rather than of concrete procedures to be followed in a specific institutional framework. To look at the problem of those who genuinely wanted a more democratic Japan, and still do, in terms of the inability of Japanese capitalism to spread more widely the creed of possessive individualism, which even in Britain was widely subscribed to only in the nineteenth-century, is completely to misunderstand their difficulty. The problem was largely politico-institutional, and requires a politico-institutional analysis.

The 1930's are one of the most misunderstood periods in modern Japanese history. Very few western scholars have attempted to write a political history of these complex years, but those who have tried emphasise foreign affairs, the absence of liberalism, and the power of the Army to the exclusion of almost all else. Developments during these years, however, show not that the Army was in complete control of the government, but that it was only one of the more influential institutions in an inter-institutional struggle that had been accepted as the de facto "normal course of constitutional government." By the 1930's, the members of the veto-possessing institutions had learnt to live with the separation-of-powers;

## CHAPTER 5

LEARNING TO LIVE WITH THE SEPARATION-OF-POWERS: NATIONAL-UNITY CABINETS  
1932-1940

By the 1930's, the leaders of Meiji political institutions had come to recognise that it was futile to strive for anything more than sovereignty in the exercise of those functions which they regarded as peculiarly their own and for control of the entire Cabinet. Having learnt to live with the separation-of-powers, the leaders of each institution merely tried to ensure that they were not deprived of their due representation in the Cabinet and that no other institution encroached on matters falling within their own prerogatives. The kyokoku itchi (national unity) cabinets of the 1930's were the result, not merely of a domestic nationalist reaction to foreign imperialism, but of politico-institutional forces as old as the Constitution itself. Only cabinets that represented each of the veto-possessing institutions could hope to retain their support, and the coalition Cabinet became the final attempt to make the separation-of-powers work. While in the days of "transcendental" and "party" cabinets the major deus ex machina had been the dominant institution, the Genrō and the parties, the absence of a single dominant institution in the 1930's brought new ways to promote inter-institutional harmony: committees of representatives from institutions in need of reconciliation, cross-institutional factional alliances, and a multi-institutional mass movement.

## Background<sup>1</sup>

The misunderstanding of many aspects of Japanese history in the 1930's is not least due to the complexity of this history. Economic and social changes as well as new relations with foreign powers and Japanese colonies were inter-related in a number of ways that cause headaches to bourgeois and Marxist scholars alike. Orthodox interpretations of the 1930's have to gloss over certain contradictions to resolve others, and unorthodox interpretations frequently rest on weak theoretical grounds and raise their own contradictions. No attempt will be made to unravel the complexity of the period or to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of the various attempts to provide a general theory of what Japanese scholars regard as the "dark valley." Only a brief sketch of the different economic, social, and political developments of the period will indicate that the politico-institutional analysis which follows has been largely abstracted from a very complex set of events.

Economic changes in the 1930's were greater than in any other period. The relative importances of light and heavy industry were reversed. In 1929-1937 the decline in the textile industry's share of total manufacturing output and the rise in the share of machines and chemicals was greater than ever. In 1929, 50% of factory workers were in textiles and 26% in metals, machines, and vehicles, whereas in 1937, the figures were 35% and 42%. By 1937 Japan could produce most of the machines required by her industries. The relative decline in the growth of employment in

the textile industry resulted largely from technical improvements introduced under the impact of the depressed 1920's.

The rationalisation of industry in the 1920's had greatly increased its efficiency and reduced the number of workers required for a given output in textiles more than needs in heavy industry could absorb. But the greater emphasis on heavy industry in the 1930's was not solely a response to the deflation of the previous decade. The troubles in Manchuria that increased steadily after 1928 led the Armed Services to demand greater military budgets, and Inukai's Finance Minister, Takahashi, reversed the deflationary policies of his predecessor. Takahashi took Japan off the gold standard and, until his assassination in 1936, remained almost continually at the Finance Ministry. He used a cheap monetary policy to launch a massive programme of military expenditure: in 1931 the share of Gross National Expenditure devoted to the Army and Navy was 31%, but by 1936 the figure was 47%. Takahashi's budgeting was more than a response to demands from the Armed Services. It was an anticipation of Keynesian solutions to unemployment and depression, and Japan emerged from the slump soon after 1931. The years of Takahashi reflation were ones of rapid economic growth and higher employment.

Because the economic growth of the 1930's was induced by an expansion of heavy industries, structural unemployment was bound to appear sooner or later. Already in 1936 bottlenecks in the form of a scarcity of skilled workers began to occur in the heavy industries, but a mass of

unskilled workers were clamouring for scarce jobs. A huge migration from the countryside to urban areas and from agricultural trades to industrial trades took place: in 1930 agriculture and forestry absorbed 50% of the occupied population, but in 1940 the figure was only 44% of a larger total.

The large pool of unskilled workers depressed the wage rate, which even in the depressed 1920's had not fallen all that much. An agricultural depression that began in the late 1920's and from which the country emerged only in 1935 led to a fall in the cost of living, which alone prevented the wage rate in the 1930's from falling more than it did. The decline in the price of raw silk and rice, which accelerated the rate of migration to the cities, prevented the decline of real wages in 1931-1936 from keeping pace with the decline in money wages. The hardest hit by falling real wages were tenant farmers and workers in light industry.

After Takahashi's assassination in 1936, when he decided to end his expansionary policy, the outbreak of hostilities in China in 1937 prevented any further interference with the growth of heavy industry. Throughout the 1930's, declining levels of consumption and rising levels of military expenditure characterised the Japanese economy.

The Japanese working class and tenant farmers fought an uphill battle to prevent further erosion of their standard of living, although they were more united in this endeavour than they had been in the 1920's. In 1925 the Nihon Rōdō Sōdōmei (Japan General Federation of Labour),

founded in 1921 and put under severe strains by government clampdowns and the destruction of many unions following the failure of the syndicalist strikes in 1922, split into Communist and Social Democratic organisations. By the end of the 1920's, mass arrests in 1928 and 1929 had driven the Communists underground, and working class organisations of the 1930's remained social democratic, even though the legal leftwing organisations included many Communists.

In 1932 the Shakai Taishūtō (Social Masses Party) was formed. It was not the first socialist party in Japan, but it was the first one to bring the legal left and social democratic working class organisations into a single party to contest general elections. Its main support came from the organisations into which the old Nihon Rōdō Sōdōmei split in 1925 and which tended to merge together again in the late 1930's.

The Shakai Taishūtō's electoral appeal was narrow. White-collar workers, small farmers, and the petty bourgeoisie remained loyal to the bourgeois parties, and only the workers and tenant farmers who were organised gave their support to the new party. But organised workers and tenant farmers only comprised some 4-5% of the total electorate in the 1930's, and the classes they represented formed only 30% of the electorate. The Socialists therefore aimed less at winning elections than at using elections for propaganda purposes, and only in 1937 did they receive 10% of the total vote, which came almost entirely from the large cities.

The Shakai Taishūtō was dominated by urban interests, because even

though the agricultural population was still enormous, farmers unions were difficult to organise. Only .33 million tenants were organised at the high point of farmer unionisation in 1927.

The impact of the working class on the body politic in the 1930's was minimal. The right to strike and organise was not widely recognised, and the proletarian party's performance in elections was not much more than an irritant to the bourgeois parties. The peasantry had a greater influence on major developments in the 1930's, but because it was poorly organised, its main institutional manifestation was through the Army, which recruited heavily from the peasantry. The Army was one of the major influences in shaping events in the 1930's.

The late 1920's witnessed increased interference in Cabinet affairs by the Army and the Navy, because foreign affairs once again occupied the centre of the stage. In September 1931 the Army presented the Cabinet with a fait accompli occupation of Mukden, and later forced Japanese annexation of Manchuria. Public support for the Army's actions came not merely with the League of Nations' condemnation of the fatherland, but with the greater markets and population outlet the new colony provided, particularly for landless peasants.

When trouble broke out in Shanghai in early 1932 and the Army came to the rescue of the Navy, international criticism of Japan only added to the Army's already growing prestige. The national mood of this island people was one of intense patriotism in the face of the growing inter-

imperialist rivalry in the Far East. The outbreak of the China war in 1937 prevented any likelihood that foreign affairs would give way to economic problems as the major national concern.

Although the public on the whole was prepared to suffer and frequently support the Army's growing control over foreign policy, in the early 1930's, at least, public opinion was shocked by the Army's attempts to exert a greater influence on domestic affairs. From the assassination of Inukai in 1932 until the attempted assassination of Okada in 1936 the Army refused to live with the separation-of-powers. But after 1936, when the Army once again worked within the Constitution, public opinion was behind it.

The Army leaders themselves were not united on the proper degree of control they should exercise on foreign and domestic policy. The Kōdōha (Imperial Way Faction), was the more influential group in the Army until at least 1934. It was also the more radical, because it included the young officers whose ties with the hard-pressed peasantry were close: in 1920-1927, 30% of those entering the cadet corps had agrarian and petty-bourgeois origins. The older officers had a more aristocratic background, and had for many years worked for Army interests through compromise with other institutions. They advocated a less radical policy in Manchuria and less radical methods to further that policy. The so-called "Shōwa Restorationists" in the Kōdōha consisted mainly of young officers, who aimed to "restore" to the Emperor the sole right to control national



affairs, because they resented the practice of compromising with other institutions, particularly the Lower House. Their abortive coup d'etat on February 26 1936 spelt the end of Kōdōha supremacy in the Army, which thereafter lived with the separation-of-powers. The February 26 Incident marked the end of the peasantry's impact, albeit indirect, on the body politic.

The main opposition to the Kōdōha within the Army, the Tōseiha (Control Faction), capitalised on public sympathy for their attempt to restore Army discipline and increased the overall influence of the Army vis-a-vis other institutions, particularly in foreign affairs. Members of other institutions regarded the Tōseiha leaders as the only people who could restore discipline in the Army and who were prepared to operate within the Constitution. After the outbreak of the China war in 1937, the Army brooked little interference from other branches of government, except the Navy and the Foreign Ministry, in the exercise of the function which was constitutionally its own.

Predominant Army influence in war time was quite consistent with constitutional practice: only the Navy and the Foreign Office could legitimately challenge Army supremacy in the decade when the major national concern was inter-imperialist rivalry. Problems arose in the Army's relations with institutions other than the Navy and Foreign Office only because the desire to expand the Army's share of national expenditure required the approval of the institution constitutionally empowered to

reject increased expenditures.

The two Lower House bourgeois parties remained allied to the zaibatsu (financial cliques) in the 1930's. Because the zaibatsu found that shifting resources into heavy industries preserved their profits, they offered little resistance to the new economic policies. Until 1936 the expansion of heavy industry was financed by cheap money, and after 1936 only a part of the military appropriations came from increased taxes. Although there was never complete agreement between the Army and the zaibatsu parties on economic policy, the fundamental conflicts between the Lower House and the Army were not over the budget, but foreign policy. The maintenance of profits depended largely on good relations with Britain and America, and the parties advocated caution in dealing with Japan's major trading partners. The Army, however, tended to throw caution to the wind and wanted to use Japan's military potential in the way the actual users of that potential deemed fit. The Lower House was compliant over the budget and even agreed to Army proposals for greater economic controls and planning. But it constantly criticised the Army for moving too close to Germany and for antagonising Britain and America. The Army's anti-capitalism of the early 1930's gave way to an anti-Anglo-Saxonism in the late 1930's, and the Lower House's anti-militarism of the early years gave way to an anti-Germanism in later years.

Although the distance separating the two institutions most closely concerned with the two major national problems of the decade, foreign and

economic policy, was not unbridgeable, it was sufficient to cause continual deadlock. Neither the Army nor the Lower House tolerated a prime minister representing the other, and the only governments that had any measure of success in the 1930's were under premiers from more neutral institutions.

Examination of Cabinet composition and its making and breaking reveals that the Army and the Lower House were the two dominant institutions in the 1930's. Because most prime ministers came from branches other than these two specifically in order to keep the peace between them, both were major influences on the rise of all cabinets under third-force premiers. The Lower House was a major force causing the fall of all cabinets of the period, and often the Army conspired with it. Because the role of third-force institutions was always critical in Cabinet-making, the raising of cabinets was as separate as ever from the control of any single institution. Cabinet-breaking power, however, was less fragmented than in the 1920's, because usually only two institutions were needed to topple a government, and sometimes only one sufficed.

The following section discusses only Cabinet composition and Cabinet-making, a procedure which indicates that more than ever before the Cabinet was a federation of institutional representatives under the Prime Minister the Genrō regarded as the most able to keep together the often antagonistic forces they represented. After the fall of the Inukai government, the Genrō no longer believed that party premiers

were the best qualified for the task. The struggles over domestic reform in the 1920's when the parties were the best placed co-ordinators of major national policies gave way to the foreign and economic policies of the 1930's, when the Army refused to serve in cabinets under party leaders. By their breaking of the only two Army-led governments in the 1930's, the parties demonstrated their unwillingness to tolerate Army premiers. The Genrō always chose a premier from among those men most able to retain the allegiance of all the veto-possessing institutions. By the 1930's, the need to compromise and live with the separation-of-powers was more generally accepted than ever before. The Genrō and the parties gradually came to live with a smaller share of influence than they had wielded until then. The Genrō-House compromise of the last three decades gave way to a more general compromise, which now brought institutions other than the Genrō and the House more prominently into Cabinet-making.

#### The General Compromise in Cabinet-Making, 1932-1940

In a classic on British government, Sir Ivor Jennings wrote:<sup>2</sup>

Cabinet government is government by committee, but it differs from ordinary committee government because, through the party system, an attempt is made to achieve uniformity of opinion. Usually a committee . . . contains members whose opinions differ widely. . . . The Cabinet is not such a committee. Normally, it is chosen from among the members of one party, who accept party policy as a matter of course.

In one of the few studies on the Japanese Cabinet, Yamazaki Tanshō wrote:<sup>3</sup>

After the May 15 Incident, when party cabinets came to an end, and the so-called national unity (kyokoku itchi) or mixed cabinets came into being, the Cabinet was formed by gathering representatives from all fields, with the result that it became impossible to form a cabinet of people with the same political opinion.

In order to maintain the support of the sole institution able to make and break it, the British Cabinet is composed entirely of members of that institution, and agreement on policy among ministers is the rule. In prewar Japan, however, in order to maintain the support of all institutions able to make and break it, the Cabinet was composed of representatives from all these institutions, regardless of their conflict with one another, and agreement on policy was rare. In the 1930's, this was as true, if not more so, and the representation of institutions as balanced, as in any other period, because by then the rules of the separation-of-powers system had gained general recognition and acceptance.

Appendices I and IV show that throughout the decade, each of the institutions was consistently well represented, excepting the Privy Council, and the Genrō, both of which gradually ceased to be independent forces in Cabinet-making and -breaking and became mere barometers to assess the relative strength of each institution in order to have the Emperor appoint the cabinet most likely to succeed. The Genrō became less inclined to sanction any kind of lop-sided cabinet whatsoever. When a cabinet failed to include a proper balance of representatives, the offended institution, usually the Lower House of the Diet, saw to it that the

cabinet was short-lived. The Hayashi cabinet, which Ogata Taketora described as "one of the shortest-lived and most incapable Cabinets ever known in Japan,"<sup>4</sup> was unseated by the House, because Hayashi failed to include party representatives and to come to terms with the House.

Behind this need for a balanced apportionment of seats lay the Cabinet's attempt to win the cooperation of its potential breakers and to retain that of its makers. The Cabinet was not merely a collection of people from different walks of life who happened to be chosen for high office, it was an attempt to coordinate conflicting politico-institutional forces by bringing their representatives together. According to Spaulding, civil servants "thought of the executive branch as a confederation of autonomous ministries," and the Cabinet "as a summit conference."<sup>5</sup> In 1937 a contemporary observer wrote:<sup>6</sup>

Japan will continue, for some time yet to come, to have Cabinets organised on the basis of compromise among the bureaucrats, the military and the political parties. It may even be said that this type of Cabinet has already become a well-established institution in politics *à la japonaise*.

Saionji himself referred to the Cabinet as a "patchwork operation" and a "sort of federation."<sup>7</sup>

Because the task of forming a successful and balanced "federation" fell mainly on the Prime Minister, the person chosen for this office had to be someone who would not provoke any institution. He had to be an uncontroversial, flexible, and frequently mediocre person. The Prime Ministers of the 1930's were of this type.

The present section does not go into the details of the events surrounding the rise of cabinets in the 1930's. Only the main institutional forces are identified, and Cabinet composition is mentioned only when it better illustrates the institutional line-up than does the mere selection of a premier. I refer the reader to Appendices I and V for the summary accounts of Cabinet composition and its makers in 1932-1940. Because the role of the Genrō is discussed in a later section on the functions of institutions, the reasons for assigning Saionji an influence up to and including the appointment of Hayashi are not discussed in this section. The nature and influence of the Genrō's successor, the Jūshin (Senior Retainers), are also discussed in the section on the functions of institutions. The present section, beginning with Saitō Makoto's appointment in 1932, identifies all the other makers of cabinets in 1932-1940. In almost every case, the Army and the Lower House wielded a major influence, and other institutions acted as third forces to keep the peace between the Army and the House.

After Inukai's assassination in 1932, the Armed Services, particularly the Army, were strongly opposed to a party successor, and even public opinion was hesitant about the appointment of another party premier. In the Lower House, only the mainstream faction of the Seiyūkai under Suzuki Kisaburō advocated a single-party cabinet. The Minseitō and the anti-Suzuki faction of the Seiyūkai preferred a coalition government. Saitō was chosen as the man most likely to restore some kind of truce

between the parties and the Army. In 1936 Iwabuchi Tatsuo wrote:<sup>8</sup>

[Saionji] saw in Viscount Saitō the ideal type of man to organise a ministry that would strive primarily to appease and tranquilise the nation. He thought that this retired admiral of modesty . . . was especially suited for the task of calming the people and easing the strained relations among the military, the parties and other factions.

Before he was appointed, Saitō had to pass a screening test. Saionji consulted representatives of all institutions: acting Prime Minister Takahashi of the Seiyūkai and President of the Minseitō, Wakatsuki; President of the Privy Council, Kuratomi Yūsaburō; President of the House of Peers, Konoe Fumimaro; and Fleet Admiral Tōgō Heihachirō, Field Marshal Uehara Yūsaku, and the two Service Ministers. In the end Saionji decided on Saitō, because, as a representative of the Navy, Saitō could appease extremists in the Army without over-provoking the parties in the Lower House. In his dissertation on Palace Officials in the 1930's, Titus is not quite accurate in arguing that Saitō was merely a "generalist" or "negotiator" and not "an institutional spokesman."<sup>9</sup> Saionji regarded him as both of these, and herein lay his suitability as Prime Minister. Saitō was meant to bring in the Navy as a third force between the Army and the Lower House. After the Army's unabashed show of sympathy for the assassins of the Lower House premier, Inukai, an act condemned by the Navy even though senior officers were implicated, Saitō did well to win the initial support of both parties in the House. The Saitō cabinet was the creation of the Navy, the House, and the Army.<sup>10</sup>

Saitō's successor, another retired Admiral, was chosen for reasons



similar to the ones that led to his own appointment. According to Iwabuchi, "he [Saionji] wanted another Premier as much like Viscount Saitō as possible, and he could not have chosen better than he did to assure perpetuation of the harmless, moderate policy of the outgoing cabinet."<sup>11</sup> Miller points out that both cabinets "consisted of bureaucratic, military, and party men, reflecting the effort to produce harmony with the house of representatives, the house of peers, the privy council, and the military."<sup>12</sup> There were only two differences in the forces raising the Saitō and Okada cabinets: in 1934 it was more important that a Navy man serve than it was in 1932, and in 1934 only the Minseitō supported the government. The Genrō felt that the Okada government's major task was to participate successfully in the London Naval Conference in 1935, whereas the mission of the Saitō ministry had been to bring domestic tranquility.<sup>13</sup>

In March 1936, after the February 26 Incident, Iwabuchi observed that "again he [Saionji] wanted peace and moderation, and again he found a Premier who was relatively popular in all circles and without bitter enemies."<sup>14</sup> The Army had become tired of Navy-led ministries and increasingly determined to brook no interference in its control of troops in Manchuria. It also wanted to force onto the Lower House some of its ideas on domestic economic reform. Ideal third-forces were obviously the Foreign Ministry and the House of Peers, and Saionji's first recommendation was the President of the House of Peers, Prince Konoe, who according to Harada Kumao, Saionji's private secretary, "was on friendly terms with

the military, the political parties, and the House of Peers."<sup>15</sup> When Konoe declined the offer, Saionji nominated an influential member of the Foreign Office, Hirota Kōki, who had been Okada's Foreign Minister.

Hirota's ability to act as a mediator between the Army and the House is revealed by his willingness to make concessions to both sides. He gave way to Army objections to the entry into the cabinet of Nakajima Chikuhei, Shimoura Hiroshi, and Yoshida Shigeru, to Ohara Naoshi's remaining on as Justice Minister, and to Kawasaki Takukichi of the Minseitō becoming Home Minister. But he would not accede to the demand that each of the major parties have only one representative instead of two as he had promised.<sup>16</sup>

The next prime minister did not measure up to the requirements of the office, although the person ultimately appointed was only the Genrō's third choice. Saionji's first choice, because Hirota's fall resulted from a head-on collision between the Lower House and the Army, was, as Baba Tsunego wrote, "a military man with an understanding of such [parliamentary] politics."<sup>17</sup> Unfortunately, although the parties were strongly in favour of Ugaki Kazushige, the Army was completely hostile. When Saionji's second choice, President of the Privy Council, Hiranuma Kiichirō, refused to serve, Saionji felt the sole alternative was the man for whom Ishihara Kanji of the Army General Staff had been conducting a vigorous campaign, partly in conjunction with certain party men who were also advocating the formation of a new-pro-military political party under

Prince Konoe. Because their number included Maeda Yonezō and Nakajima Chikuhei of the Seiyūkai and Nagai Ryūtarō of the Minseitō, Saionji must have believed that Hayashi could assume the necessary middle-of-the-road position between the Army and the Lower House.<sup>18</sup>

The actual balance of forces behind the Hayashi cabinet, however, is revealed in Ishihara's dominant influence on Hayashi's list of prospective ministers and Hayashi's inability to have it accepted by other institutions. Ishihara wanted Itagaki Seishirō as Army Minister, Suetsugu Nobumasa as Navy Minister, Ikeda Seihin as Finance Minister, and Tsuda Shingō as Commerce and Industry Minister. They all appeared on Hayashi's list. But the Army vetoed Itagaki and chose Nakamura Kōtarō, Suetsugu was unpopular in the Navy and was rejected in favour of Yonai Mitsumasa, and Ikeda and Tsuda refused to serve because they were reluctant to implement Ishihara's policy of economic reform. Finally, when Hayashi offered seats to Nakajima (Seiyūkai), Nagai (Minseitō), and Yamazaki Tatsunosuke (Shōwakai), only the latter was prepared to accept the condition of first resigning from his small party. The only positive institutional support behind the Hayashi cabinet was the Tōseiha (Control Faction) of the Army, and possibly the Kenkyūkai in the Upper House. Although the Foreign, Justice, and Home Ministries were headed by career men, who possibly brought Hayashi some support from the Civil Service, no fewer than four of the remaining seats were occupied by men who headed more than one ministry, indicating the Prime

Minister's inability to fill certain positions with the usual balance of representatives. Not surprisingly, the Hayashi cabinet lasted only four months. It was a chōzen naikaku (transcendental cabinet) rather than a kyokoku itchi cabinet, a type that had become quite unacceptable by the 1930's, and was soon unseated.<sup>19</sup>

The fall of two ministries had resulted from clashes between the Lower House and the Army, and not merely was a new third-force needed, but one which could also command the positive allegiance of the two belligerents. Otherwise, the paralysis of government would continue. Rōyama Masamichi wrote: "The structure of the first Konoe cabinet reflected this domestic situation clearly in the personnel of its Ministers gathered mainly from the administrative bureaucrats and the members of the House of Peers, whose institutional positions were deemed to be comparatively neutral in the conflicts between the Diet and the Military."<sup>20</sup> Of the nine officials in the cabinet, four were purely Civil Service spokesmen, while three of the eight Peers represented the Upper House alone: two third-forces came between the House and the Army. But Konoe also won the positive support of both sides. By allowing rumours to circulate that he intended to form a new party, he elicited the support of those Dietmen, who, like many in 1900 and 1913, believed that a prestigious President was the only way to regain party control of the Cabinet. After the Seiyūkai defeat in the 1936 election, cooperation with Konoe became the Maeda-Nakajima group's major tactic to revive Seiyūkai fortunes. In

his dissertation on Prince Konoe, Berger writes: "If party men wished to demonstrate that they could gain the confidence of the other elites and win the support of the ordinary citizenry, it would clearly be to their advantage to have the respected and popular Prince Konoe leading them."<sup>21</sup> The two party representatives in the cabinet, Nakajima and Nagai, were the leaders in their respective parties of the new party movement, even though Konoe minimised the importance of their appointment by saying that they were serving as individuals rather than as representatives. But the leaders of their parties agreed that they entered the cabinet as representatives.<sup>22</sup>

Prince Konoe also had many friends in the Army. He had a long association with the Kōdōha (Imperial Way Faction), and refused the premiership in 1936 because he was unwilling to preside over the liquidation of his friends after the February 26 Incident. Because he was supported by the Army and the Lower House and had few political enemies even in other institutions, Prince Konoe was superbly qualified to head the only practicable type of cabinet in a separation-of-powers system, a kyokoku itchi cabinet.<sup>23</sup>

The most striking thing about the advent of the Hiranuma ministry was the attempt to make it seem that no real change had taken place. When President of the Privy Council, Hiranuma, became Premier, Yoshioka Bunroku wrote: "In order to make known that the Cabinet change involved no question of policy, Prince Konoe was installed as President of the

Privy Council and concurrently Minister without portfolio in the new government, and the majority of the members of the preceding ministry joined the new cabinet."<sup>24</sup> In 1934 there had been a similar attempt to perpetuate a reasonably successful ministry. But Hiranuma differed from Konoe more than Okada did from Saitō, and although his cabinet, which included four pure bureaucratic spokesmen, came as a neutral third force between the Army and the House, he found it more difficult to win the allegiance of both sides, particularly because he was associated with the Kōdōsha of the Army and the Kokuhonsha (The National Foundation Society), a rightwing organisation of mainly bureaucrats and military men established in 1924.<sup>25</sup>

Hiranuma therefore took special pains to publicise that he recognised and accepted the system as it was. He had learnt to live with the separation-of-powers, and, according to Baba Tsunego, said as much to newsmen:<sup>26</sup>

He would respect the Diet, for Japan has constitutional government, and therefore could not disregard the political parties, which he said came into being spontaneously wherever there is a legislature. His remarks were interpreted as recognition of the parties and assurance that he had no intention of crushing them.

To demonstrate his good faith, he departed from the precedent set by Hayashi and Konoe, who insisted that party men join as individuals: he approached the leaders of the parties to request official party representatives. The smooth transfer of power from Konoe to Hiranuma also demonstrated that the new government was meant to be an extension of the old.

In December 1938, consultations among only Konoe, Hiranuma, and the Privy Seal made it almost a foregone conclusion that when Konoe chose to resign, Hiranuma would succeed him.<sup>27</sup>

The next cabinet, under General Abe, lasted only two weeks longer than the abortive Hayashi cabinet, for similar reasons. Abe had been associated with the Ugaki school of thought in the Army and was placed on the reserve list in 1936, because, as he said, the senior generals should be held responsible for the lack of discipline that lead to the February 26 Incident. Although the pro-German school of thought soon gained prominence, they lost face with the conclusion of the Russo-German Non-Aggression Pact in August 1939. Once again Iwabuchi understands the middle-of-the-road position required of premiers: "Because he [Abe] had not been associated with any blamable developments and thus had incurred no blame himself, it is presumable that he was chosen for the premiership as the man least likely to arouse friction in any quarter."<sup>28</sup>

Events just prior to Abe's appointment, however, suggest that his ministry could not have been received all that neutrally. The signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact had vindicated the Navy's and Foreign Ministry's opposition to the pro-German policy of the Hiranuma government, and the President of the Privy Council and Lord Privy Seal regarded Hirota of the Foreign Ministry as the most suitable successor. Initially the Army made no objection. But suddenly on August 24, a movement began

among the Army General Staff against Hirota, and the next day they came up with Abe. Although Saionji favoured Ikeda Seihin, the President of the Privy Council decided to support Abe, and Saionji gave in.<sup>29</sup>

Abe was the compromise and last-minute choice of the Army as well as the man who robbed the Foreign Office of its chance to put right what it regarded as an erroneous foreign policy. In forming his cabinet, he sought solely to appease the pro-German forces, apparently oblivious of the Army-House conflict which had undone all his predecessors in the 1930's. He acceded to the Army's demand not to select the Foreign Minister from the Foreign Office, and gave two seats to one of the men who had started the anti-British movement, Nagai Ryūtarō, an anti-mainstream leader in the Minseitō. In all, there was nothing about the composition of the cabinet, besides the Prime Minister's past, to suggest that it was born of an anti-German reaction. Nor was there reason to believe it could win the confidence of the Lower House. If the party maverick, Nagai, was unlikely to bring Abe Minseitō support, the Seiyūkai dissident, Kanemitsu Tsuneo, was less likely to further liaison with that party. Supported mainly by the pro-German forces in the Army at a time of public hostility towards Germany, the Abe cabinet failed to create any balance between rival institutions, and was soon overthrown by those it excluded.<sup>30</sup>

When the previous Army-led ministry under Hayashi fell after irreconcilable conflict between the House and the Army, the ensuing first



Konoe cabinet was based on a third force and had been reasonably successful. So had the two Navy-led cabinets which came between the House and the Army after a period of party-led cabinets. It is not surprising therefore, that a Navy man was chosen to succeed Abe. That neither a party-led nor an Army-led government could survive in the conditions of the 1930's was gradually gaining acceptance.

Like Konoe, Hirota, and Hiranuma, Yonai was expected to win the confidence of both antagonists. Baba Tsunego also understood the problem: "The main concern of the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, the Genrō, and others in choosing the last Premier was to find a man who would not be opposed by the Army yet who could steer Japan's course in foreign and domestic affairs in collaboration with the Army rather than in opposition to it." Baba then noticed: "In the course of its organization, the Yonai Cabinet showed more friendship and respect for the political parties than any previous bureaucratic cabinet."<sup>31</sup> Why then did this ministry last only six months? Was there anything about the coalition of forces behind it to suggest the likelihood of such an outcome?

Yonai's relationship with the House was closer than that of all the successful third-force cabinets of the decade. He included four party men and all received the blessing of their parties. But he failed to win the confidence of the Army. If the Abe cabinet, which was expected to capitalise on the Army's embarrassment in 1939 over its pro-German policy, could not resist its growing anti-British sentiment, how could a cabinet,

which had as its Prime Minister and Foreign Minister men who were long time opponents of an Axis with Germany, possibly win the confidence of the Army? But for the opposition of Yonai and Arita Hachirō, the Hiranuma government would have concluded a military alliance with Germany, something the Army could not forget. Although the Army did not want one of its Generals to lead another cabinet for fear of another anti-Army reaction, it was so incensed by Yonai's appointment that the Army Minister had to be summoned to the palace and be told to cooperate with the new government. As could have been expected, the Army soon found a way to unseat Yonai without appearing disloyal to the Throne.<sup>32</sup> A theoretical point will help explain why Yonai was succeeded by Konoe.

When the national consensus breaks down in a separation-of-powers system, it becomes extremely difficult to find a leader who can win over the warring institutions and introduce real shifts in policy. In America, many people in recent years have come to believe that only Ted Kennedy can do it. In Japan in the 1930's, the belief that only Konoe could gradually gained wider acceptance.

In 1940 Konoe came to power not merely as the sole person who could act as a successful third force between the Army and the House, but as the leader of a popular campaign to unite the members of these institutions in a single mass organization. For the first time, the goals of the parties and the Army appeared, if not similar, at least not contradictory, because both supported the new Konoe-led political organization.

The precedents of the Liberals inviting Itō to lead them in 1900, and the Progressives inviting Katsura to do so in 1913, provide the clearest illustration of the party leaders' motives. On each of these occasions the problem was to obtain party control of the Cabinet. Because only a particular type of personality could become Prime Minister, the parties felt that the reason for their long exclusion from control over important Cabinet seats was, as the old parliamentarian Okazaki Kuni-suke said:<sup>33</sup>

There is not anyone in our political parties . . . who has ever mastered this art of riding the steed of State. Without such mastery, the only alternative seems to be a coalition cabinet.

When Yonai was appointed in 1940, many party members were finally persuaded that a new leader was needed to restore predominant party control of the Cabinet. Nakajima Chikuhei, one of the first party leaders to throw in his lot with the new party movement, deliberately alluded to the precedent in 1900 and said he would merge with Konoe just as Itagaki had merged with Itō.<sup>34</sup>

By the end of the 1930's, the supporters of the new party took a less critical view of the Army's foreign and domestic policies, largely because they realised that no party could restore Lower House influence to what it had been in the 1920's unless it compromised with the Army in defending Japan's international interests. That different views on how to revive party control of the Cabinet were at the heart of party and factional cleavages in the House is obscured by the nature of these cleavages: both parties were divided into a majority which opposed many Army proposals to

extend economic planning and controls, and a minority which supported them. But the minority's major purpose was to revive party fortunes by having a new Konoe-led party enact radical economic reforms. Because the Army was the only institution which had a domestic and foreign programme that could excite the imagination of the people on whom the party men ultimately depended, the cleavage took the misleading form of pro- and anti-Army.<sup>35</sup>

As in 1900 and 1913, the main supporters of a new party in the late 1930's were younger members who had become impatient with the old tactic of "total opposition." In 1940 when the House demanded Abe's resignation, both parties were split down the middle, and pressure to replace the Abe ministry with one based on Konoe's new party came from the younger members who had lost confidence in their leaders' ability to revive party morale and restore party fortunes. Within three months, both major wings of the Seiyūkai under Kuhara Fusanosuke and Nakajima Chikuhei came out in favour of the new party. Because President of the Minseitō, Machida Chūji, refused to climb on the band wagon, he had to witness a huge defection from his party under Nagai soon after Konoe announced to the press that he intended to form a new party.<sup>36</sup>

If Konoe came to power in 1940, not merely as a third-force between the Army and the House, but with the positive support of the House, his assumption of office and proposal for a new political party was equally welcome to the Army. By January 1940, the Army had been fighting in

China for two and a half years with only mixed success, and had to see its major concern, domestic economic reform in order to strengthen the country's military capabilities in case of war with Russia, pushed into the background. But by this time the Army appreciated that no government could enact a policy to control and plan the economy without the sanction of the Lower House of the Diet. Without Diet support, Hayashi had failed to pass the Electric Power Control Bill, whereas soon afterwards, Konoe, with such support, had not merely passed this bill but the National Mobilisation Bill as well.

The Army's greatest institutional deficiency was its lack of a legitimate popular base, without which it could not really compete with the House for the affections of the public. If the implementation of Army proposals required popular support, the Army had no alternative to forming an alliance with the House. As in 1925, when General Tanaka became President of the Seiyūkai, personality was the basis of the compromise in 1940, and the Army Vice Minister could confidently say: "The Army is united in backing Prince Konoe as the next premier."<sup>37</sup> Because the preparatory commission on Konoe's new organisation, the nature and composition of which is discussed in the section on new devices to avoid deadlock, included his Civil Service-dominated cabinet, the Civil Service was also a major influence behind his government.<sup>38</sup>

Throughout the 1930's, more dramatically so at the beginning and end of the decade, the Army and the House were the most influential

institutions responsible for the coalition of forces behind each ministry. While the coalition usually took the form of some third force assuming the central positions in the government to mitigate Army-House conflict, there were two Army-led ministries and one that had the whole-hearted support of the Army and the House. Once it was admitted that Army-led cabinets were as provocative as House-led ones, and that third forces could not always be perfectly impartial, pressures for Army-House cooperation increased and led to a truce in the late 1930's. The basic cause of the conflict was also the main reason for the new spirit of cooperation.

Inter-imperialist rivalry and domestic economic conditions in the 1930's made it very difficult for the Army and the House to avoid encroaching on each other's legitimate "functions", because high levels of expenditure on armaments were bound to strain the economy and provoke interference in Army matters by that institution whose function it was to ratify all expenditure. Because the Army found such expenditures essential to the responsible exercise of its function, it could not help interfering in House affairs. Each was incensed by the other's interference, particularly when the veto power was freely used. The Army vetoed party premiers, the House vetoed Army premiers. After a while both sides saw that real power was shifting in favour of third parties, to their mutual disadvantage. They had become mainly negative forces, dominant in bringing about the demise of cabinets, but unable to raise many that could translate their

own preferences into national policy. There were therefore institutional pressures for them to bury their differences, and in order to realise their own interests rather than simply veto those of each other, to raise cabinets of their own, as they did in July 1940 and partly in April 1937.

Cabinet-making in the 1930's required a greater willingness to compromise than ever before. No longer could a Genrō-House compromise assume the predominant influence in raising cabinets, but both the Genrō and the House were compelled to strike the best bargain they could in a more even competition involving institutions which in previous years had been content to take a back seat. The only cabinet that could survive in a separation-of-powers system in which most branches have more or less equal power was the kyokoku itchi cabinet. In the 1930's pressures for this type of cabinet did not merely come from a threatening international environment but from previous experiences with the Meiji Constitution. Conditions in the 1930's altered the institutional balance of power and brought institutions, which in previous years only occasionally upset the balance appropriate to those years, to the forefront of the competition in the 1930's.

The Army and the Lower House, far from being the pivotal forces in Cabinet-making in the 1930's, had weaker incentives to support cabinets than the institutions which acted as third forces. A cabinet which is not the main creation of any institution is unlikely to receive

strong support from that institution. Every third-force ministry in the 1930's was brought down by the House or the House and the Army, while both Army-led ministries were brought down by the House.

#### Cabinet-Breaking, 1932-1940

Cabinet-breaking power, while not as evenly distributed as Cabinet-making power, was nevertheless not the preserve of any single institution. Usually at least two institutions had to combine to turn out a government, although the Lower House's dominant influence in the dismissal of cabinets made the 1930's resemble the 1890's more than any other period. The reason is that the sole institution with a legitimate popular base played a more limited role in raising cabinets in any other period excepting the 1890's. In the present section, once again only the institutional pressures causing the demise of cabinets, beginning with the Saitō cabinet and excluding the second Konoe cabinet, are identified.

Soon after the rise of the Saitō cabinet, Mori Kaku of the Seiyūkai and Lieutenant General Suzuki Teiichi of the Army were cooperating to pull it down. Until Saitō's ultimate fall in July 1934, allegedly over corruption in the Finance Ministry, the Army and the Seiyūkai plotted his resignation. Education Minister Hatoyama Ichirō said in September 1932 that the price of Seiyūkai support was a promise to resign in December, and the President of the Seiyūkai, Suzuki Kisaburō, made support of the budget conditional on a promise to resign after the session. But when the time came, Takahashi, the Seiyūkai Finance Minister, refused to



fulfil his promise to resign, and the party's plans were foiled. In June the next year, the Seiyūkai came out with a public statement of strict neutrality towards the government.

In May 1933, when Lieutenant General Matsui Iwane called for a reorganisation of the cabinet, Saionji believed the Seiyūkai was relying on the Army to take the odium of toppling the cabinet. By December, relations between the Army and Takahashi, whom the Seiyūkai had virtually disowned, had reached breaking point. On the 20th, Generals Hayashi Senjūrō and Mazaki Jinzaburō urged the Army Minister to resign, because nothing could be expected of the Saitō ministry. When the scandal over corruption in the Finance Ministry involving the Imperial Rayon Company finally broke, Saitō took the opportunity to step down. The real pressures, however, came from the Army and the Lower House.<sup>39</sup>

An almost identical story can be told of the Okada cabinet, the fall of which Yamazaki also classifies as due to "taking responsibility for some incident," in this case the February 26 Incident.<sup>40</sup> Again the real forces causing the cabinet's fall, rather than merely occasion it, came from the Army and the House. Both plotted Okada's dismissal soon after his appointment. The Seiyūkai expelled those party members who accepted cabinet seats, and took up its position firmly as an opposition party. The Araki Sadao and Mazaki Jinzaburō faction of the Army began its efforts in September, and by July 1935 was causing the Prime Minister and Army Minister considerable trouble, the more so when it began to cooperate with

a section of the Seiyūkai.

In the September issue of Contemporary Japan, Baba Tsunego reported: "The Seiyūkai was almost frantic in its machinations to pull down the Okada cabinet before the fated day [the election] ."41 On January 31 1936, the Seiyūkai proposed a vote of no-confidence, but the government had already decided to dissolve. Baba reported that "it was being generally surmised" that the Okada government would "be deserted even by the Minseitō and thus be compelled to resign."42 The cabinet finally resigned after the February 26 Incident, in which Mazaki and his associates were heavily implicated, and which Okada interpreted "as motivated by Army resentment at the 'Navy cabinets' which had . . . been used as a counter force to check the Army's program."43

The fall of the Hirota ministry, the third attempt to mitigate conflict between the House and the Army by means of a third-force, resulted from a head on collision between these two institutions, a collision which ended in victory for the House. The trouble began when Army Minister Terauchi Hisaichi proposed to prohibit Dietmen from receiving Cabinet positions and flared up after the signing of the Anti-Comintern Pact on November 25 1936. At the party conventions in early 1937, the government was severely criticised for submitting to the Army and its foreign policy, and on January 21 Hamada Kunimatsu echoed these feelings in the House. Terauchi reacted strongly and demanded that the House be dissolved, but because the four party ministers as well as the Navy Minister

would not comply, Hirota felt he had no choice but to resign. The House and the Navy were therefore the breakers of Hirota's cabinet.<sup>44</sup>

The demise of the Hayashi cabinet, the first to be led by someone who was solely an Army spokesman, was a clear-cut case of the House's cabinet-breaking power. Even Yamazaki regarded it as one of five such cases.<sup>45</sup> The Army had got the Cabinet to dissolve the House, and the parties responded by conducting their election campaign under the slogan, "the dissolution was unconstitutional." The result was a massive defeat for the government, which resigned soon after the parties held a meeting calling on it to do so.<sup>46</sup>

Yamazaki regards the resignation of the first Konoe cabinet as an instance of "a cabinet change to facilitate a policy change,"<sup>47</sup> but this says nothing about the kinds of forces that necessitated a policy change and made it difficult for the cabinet to continue. An examination of the main institutional pressures which Konoe had to endure for a year and a half reveals once again that the Army and the House were the institutions whose cooperation had been most difficult to retain. At the heart of the problem was the unanticipated China Incident, which from the beginning led to strained relations between the Prime Minister and the Army. The Army consistently acted on its own, often without even informing the Prime Minister. By the middle of November 1937, Konoe wanted to resign, because the Army was opposing the equal distribution, regardless of rank, of money to the families of the war dead and was calling for the reorganisation

of the cabinet.<sup>48</sup>

When the Emperor asked Konoe whether he could control the Army, Konoe replied that the only way to do so was to merge the parties, implying, it seems, an intention to balance the two main institutional forces more equally by strengthening the weaker one. But by this time the House had become an independent source of trouble. Konoe's National Mobilisation Bill was critically questioned in the House, and although it was eventually passed, together with the Electric Power Control Bill, it had generated a great deal of heat, and the House had forced the government to back down on a number of points, for example, prohibition of public meetings and control of newspapers. When Konoe added insult to injury by rousing the ambitions of many party members through his encouragement of rumours that he intended to form a new political party only to drop the subject as suddenly as he had raised it, his relationship with the House reached an all time low. With grumblings in bureaucratic circles and no prospect to end the China Incident and improving relations with the Army, Konoe decided to step down. The Army, the House, and less so the bureaucracy, brought the Prime Minister to this point.<sup>49</sup>

Yamazaki's classification of the Hiranuma ministry's resignation as another instance of "a cabinet change to facilitate a policy change" is quite accurate in this case, and it is difficult to isolate particular institutional forces. Baba Tsunego also wrote, "resignation en bloc [had] become necessary owing to the conclusion of the German-Soviet non-aggression treaty."<sup>50</sup> The government was almost entirely occupied throughout its

seven month term in an attempt to conclude a military alliance with Germany and to reconcile the position of the Army, which wanted to include Britain and France as countries against which the alliance was directed, with that of the Navy and Foreign Office, which would only contemplate an alliance directed solely against Russia. Hiranuma leaned in favour of the Army's position, and anti-British demonstrations were financed by the Army and believed by the public to have had government support. If definite institutions are to be isolated as the ones which Hiranuma could not face after the discrediting of his policy, the Navy and the Foreign Ministry are obvious. But equally important was the government's loss of public confidence, and the House could not have tolerated the existence of a government which was alienated from the House's own constituency.<sup>51</sup>

General Abe also resigned because he lost public confidence, but this time the House acted more directly. The issue was the supply and price of rice, about which the government seemed unable to do anything, and the Agriculture and Forestry Minister suggested resignation. Although Abe tried to keep on good terms with the orthodox party leaders, the middle-echelon members wanted to unseat him, and on January 7 1940, they proposed a resolution of non-confidence, which was signed by 276 members. Nagai Ryūtarō, Kanemitsu Tsuneo, and Akita Kiyoshi, the three party members of the government, advocated dissolution, but the Army refused, because it feared that an election would only stir up anti-Army sentiment in the

country. The Army's refusal to side with the supporters of dissolution meant that the Prime Minister had no alternative but to bow to the wishes of the House, and Berger concludes that "a Diet centred campaign had resulted in the resignation of an army-supported government." The Army's role was minor.<sup>52</sup>

The Yonai ministry, which was supposed to command the support of the Army and the House, resigned when Yonai recognised that he had lost the confidence of both. His popularity in the House decreased in almost direct proportion to the mounting campaign to have Konoe lead a new political party. When Konoe publicly announced his decision to do so, the orthodox party leaders, who were on close terms with the government, could no longer contain the feeling in the House in favour of a new Konoe ministry. The Army, availing itself of the opportunity to get rid of a cabinet it had disliked from the beginning, forced the Army Minister to resign and refused to nominate a successor.<sup>53</sup>

The fall of Konoe's second cabinet in July 1941 took place under conditions of such ominous war clouds that it is beyond the scope of this study. It belongs more to the category of Chamberlain's replacement by Churchill on the eve of the European war, than to the interplay of institutional forces with which this study is concerned. No attempt has therefore been made to fill in the missing symbols in Appendix I.

Throughout the 1930's, the Army and the Lower House were the major forces responsible for the rise and fall of cabinets. In raising cabinets, their influence usually took the form of making third-force ministries

the only ones likely to have any measure of success, while in bringing cabinets down, their influence was more direct.

Table 4 indicates the breakdown of Appendix I into each institution's major and minor roles in Cabinet-making and -breaking in the years 1932-1940. The minor roles assigned to the Genrō after Hayashi's appointment, roles which are assigned to the Jūshin (Senior Retainers) in the Appendix, are explained in the next section on the functions of institutions. That section also explains who the Jūshin were and why the roles of the Genrō and Jūshin are grouped together in Table 4.

Table 4. Major and Minor Roles in Cabinet-Making and -Breaking, 1932-1940.

	Army	House	Bureaucracy	<u>Genrō</u>	Navy	Council	Peers
Cabinet-Making							
Major	9	7	4	3	3	2	1
Minor	0	0	1	6	0	0	0
Cabinet-Breaking							
Major	4	8	1	0	2	0	0
Minor	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

In 1932-1940 the Army was the major maker of cabinets, the Lower House their major breaker. The period differed from the 1890's in two main respects. Firstly, the House was more prominent in Cabinet-making than it had been in the 1890's, and the Army more prominent in Cabinet-breaking than the Genrō had been in the 1890's, mainly because governments in the 1930's were headed by third forces. Secondly, other institutions were more involved in raising and toppling cabinets than in the 1890's,

although not much more so in the latter role. An important similarity in the two periods is that the struggle between the two dominant institutions led to a compromise at the end of the period: the Genrō-House compromise of 1900, and the Army-House compromise of 1940.

Although the Army and the Lower House were the main influences on the Cabinet's existence in the 1930's, only the two Army-led governments were not strongly backed by at least three institutions and not brought down by major pressures from at least two. While in the 1890's the Cabinet could be described as negatively responsible to the Lower House, which, on the whole, was the Cabinet's sole breaker, the typical cabinets of the 1930's could not be brought down by any single institution. The existence of the Cabinet was separate from any one institution and the description of the Cabinet as a balanced federation of institutions remains accurate. The Navy was sufficiently conspicuous in the raising of the Saitō, Okada, and Yonai ministries, and the breaking of the Hirota and Hiranuma ministries, to be considered a force that always had to be reckoned with. Its absolute control over the Navy Minister's seat also indicated its unchallenged participation in every "federation." The roles of the Genrō, the Civil Service, the Privy Council, and the Upper House, however, were different and require individual mention.

#### The Functions of the Separate Branches

One of the main characteristics of the years 1932-1940 was each institution's growing willingness to confine itself to the exercise of



its constitutionally determined functions alone. Only when these functions overlapped did serious deadlock occur, as in the case of the Army, the Navy, the Foreign Office, and the Lower House. The comparative absence of Genrō, Privy Council, and Upper House interference in the 1930's resulted largely from the failure of other institutions to encroach on matters these institutions regarded as their legitimate functions. By the 1930's they all came to accept a narrower definition of what their prerogatives were and confined themselves to acting within the Constitution.

The present section examines the functional specificity of the Upper House, the Genrō, and the Privy Council. It also discusses the role of the Civil Service, the "Army-ization" of which parallels its "party-ization" in previous periods, but whose control of certain Cabinet seats also reveals that the Civil Service confined itself to exercising specific functions. It begins with the House of Peers.

The part played by the House of Peers in the institutional struggles of the 1930's contrasted sharply with that played in the 1920's and indicated that the Peers wanted no more than to perform their legitimate constitutional function, to safeguard the interests of the aristocracy and to act as a "check to hasty, one-sided . . . legislation."<sup>54</sup> In the 1920's, when the Lower House could play a major part in initiating legislation, the Peers were active in preventing the bourgeoisie and working class from swamping the interests of the aristocracy. In the 1930's,

however, when such initiative as the Lower House did possess was "checked and balanced" by the greater influence of the Army, the Peers felt less called on to perform this function. The only time any government faced any serious resistance from the Peers was when it suggested something that came too close to home, like Peerage reform, which even Konoe was unable to implement.<sup>55</sup>

Another indication that the Peers were prepared not to interfere in matters that were the prerogatives of other institutions provided they themselves were not affected was their ability to retain their share of representatives in the Cabinet. While the total number of Peers who served in this period was about the same as the number who served in any other period, Appendices II to V show that the Kenkyūkai received a greater share of Upper House seats in the 1930's than ever before. Eighteen of the Peers' 40 seats in the 1930's went to the Kenkyūkai, while 17 of the 49 in the previous period did. Prime Ministers were always conscious of the reasons for allocating seats to the Upper House. For example, even the Peer-dominated first Konoe ministry appointed Hatta Yoshiaki in a reshuffle in order to further liaison with the Peers.<sup>56</sup> To the very end, the Upper House jealously guarded its prerogatives and was not prepared to dissolve its factions in response to Konoe's call for a new political order in 1940.<sup>57</sup>

The position of the Civil Service in the 1930's was very similar to its position in the 1920's, except that the major factions into which it

divided, apart from those along department lines, were pro- and anti- that institution which in this period was exercising a major influence on appointments to the Cabinet and to certain high Civil Service positions. When Yamagata and the Seiyūkai vied for this power, bureaucrats divided into two corresponding camps; when the Dōshikai and the Seiyūkai did, they were associated mainly with one or other party; and when the Army came to assert a major influence, they received a great incentive to become what Spaulding calls "revisionists", or civil servants who "usually supported army policies."<sup>58</sup>

What Spaulding describes as the "military penetration of the Civil Service" was accomplished in stages. The first took place under Okada, who removed from the Foreign and Overseas ministries almost all powers in Manchuria and the leased territory and transferred them to the Manchurian Affairs Bureau, which was largely controlled by the Army. The second instance of active-duty officers receiving positions that would previously have gone to civilians was the appointment of Army men to the Cabinet Investigation Bureau, also by the Okada cabinet. The civil servants who received positions in these bureaux were predictably "revisionists," as were those appointed to the heir of the Investigation Bureau, the Planning Board, which Konoe set up in 1937. Men who climbed on the revisionist band wagon and who later received Cabinet positions included Gotō Fumio, Hirota Kōki, Fujii Masanobu, Kido Kōichi, Matsuoka Yōsuke, Hoshino Naoki, Yoshida Shigeru, and Aoki Kazuo.<sup>59</sup>

But when the Army's encroachment on what the Civil Service regarded as its peculiar preserve began to threaten Civil Service sovereignty in these matters, factional cleavages disappeared and the bureaucracy united to defend its institutional interests. Even Hirota strongly resisted the establishment of the Asian Development Board in 1938, and when the Army wanted to set up a Ministry of Foreign Trade, which would have swallowed up the Foreign Ministry's Bureau of Commercial Affairs, the Foreign Ministry officials revolted. The centre of the dispute was the latter's desire to retain control over appointment and dismissal of commercial attaches. Because the Foreign Office had been defeated over the Asian Development Board issue, it was adamant this time. As many as 131 senior officials submitted their resignations, and anti-Army feeling ran high. In the end, the government was forced to capitulate.<sup>60</sup>

The Civil Service was not prepared to surrender so much of its power of promotion and appointment to the military. This was again illustrated by its successful resistance to a joint Army-Navy plan in 1936 to create a Cabinet Personnel Bureau to control Civil Service appointments. The entire bureaucracy rose in opposition to such centralised control, and jealously guarded the tradition of each ministry's sovereignty in these matters. Every cabinet from that of Hirota to Yonai tried and failed to implement this plan, which Konoe's second ministry ultimately abandoned.<sup>61</sup>

Although the bureaucracy was "Army-ized" in the 1930's, it still

retained the same degree of esprit de corps it displayed in previous periods. Foreign Ministers were regularly career men from the Foreign Office, even though men like Hirota and Matsuoka were revisionists. But in 1918-1932 Shidehara Kijūrō had been associated with the Minseitō and Uchida Yasuya with the Seiyūkai, and in the 1890's Sone Arasuke and Aoki Shūzō were in the Yamagata clique. The Justice Ministers were regularly Justice Ministry officials and, particularly after the "Minobe Affair" in 1935, when Prof. Minobe Tatsukichi was dismissed from Tokyo University because he regarded the Emperor as an organ of the State rather than as the State itself, there was a tendency for Imperial University Professors or officials from the Education Ministry to occupy the corresponding Cabinet seat. Besides this obvious control of the Cabinet, there was occasional evidence that bureaucrats had a crucial voice in the choice of ministers. For example, Harada said that Commerce and Industry Minister Kobayashi Ichizō in Konoe's second cabinet "was the nomination of Vice Minister Kishi and no one else."<sup>62</sup> Kishi Nobusuke was also crucial in having Fujiwara Ginjirō appointed to this position under Yonai.<sup>63</sup> When Abe was looking for a Justice Minister in 1939, he asked Shiono Suehiko, a leading bureaucrat and ex-minister himself, to nominate someone and appointed Shiono's nominee, Miyagi Chōgorō.<sup>64</sup>

The Civil Service reached the height of its power in the 1930's: it was one of the third forces that came between the Lower House and the Army in raising the first Konoe and Hiranuma cabinets; its Foreign

Ministry performed the same function in the Hirota cabinet and played a major role in unseating Hiranuma; it was a major force behind Konoe's second cabinet; and it helped bring down Konoe's first cabinet and raise Hayashi's cabinet. Besides this greater-than-ever influence on Cabinet-making and -breaking, the Civil Service had a greater influence on Cabinet composition than ever before. Appendices IV and V show that 27 of the 68 seats occupied by bureaucrats in 1932-1940 went to men who represented the Civil Service alone, while 54 of the 62 corresponding seats in 1924-1932 were occupied by bureaucrats who were also members in other institutions. The Civil Service was the main institution to capitalise on Army-House conflict in the 1930's.

The Privy Council in the 1930's, like the House of Peers, was much less ambitious about the range of functions in which it was prepared to exercise a veto. Because the ratification of foreign treaties did remain one which it regarded as peculiarly its own, it was an active participant in foreign treaty disputes. For example, in June 1936, it issued a rebuke to the government for including a clause in the treaty on extra-territorial rights in Manchuria, and the government apologised.<sup>65</sup> The President of the Privy Council was also one of the few privileged people to have taken part in the War Councillor's Meeting before the Emperor to discuss China policy in December 1937.<sup>66</sup> But there is no record in the 1930's of the Privy Council ever venturing to exercise a veto over the Army, Navy, or Foreign Office, even though the President

of the Council remained an active participant in the inter-institutional discussions on foreign affairs.

The Privy Council's function to interpret the Constitution also became much narrower during the 1930's but also the one in which it was prepared to assert itself more forcefully. By the 1930's the Constitution was generally regarded as workable only if each of the separate institutions confined itself to the exercise of its own legitimate functions alone. But because functions can never in practice be neatly compartmentalised in this way, the practical problem of interpreting the Constitution centred on the difficulty in appointing as Prime Minister a man who could preserve the institutional peace, usually by forming as balanced a "federation" as possible. The President of the Privy Council was always most active in times of Cabinet changes. In the consultations over candidates for the premiership he and the Lord Privy Seal were the sole participants who had a legitimate institutional base. The Genrō institution would disappear after Saionji's death, and the ex-premiers who were frequently brought in never had much influence precisely because they lacked an institutional base. A proposal in the early 1930's to make these men Privy Councillors would have increased the influence both of the Council and the ex-premiers and was rejected by Saionji for this very reason.<sup>67</sup>

It is frequently forgotten by those who analyse Japanese politics in terms of feudal forces that no matter how prestigious a man be in

the social hierarchy, he is powerless without a hold on some political institution. Konoe, who desperately wanted to succeed Saionji, felt this acutely and proposed that the President of the Privy Council, Konoe himself, convene the Jūshin (Senior Retainers) to select the new Prime Minister. When Saionji rejected the idea, Konoe decided to resign from the Presidency of the Council and make a new party his new base, bringing to mind Itō's decision in 1900.<sup>68</sup>

The role of the President of the Privy Council in the group of men whom Titus calls "Negotiators", whose task it was to select the most "balanced" man to form the most balanced cabinet, can be better understood in relation to the role of the other "Negotiators," who in the 1930's included the Genrō, former prime ministers, and the palace officials, mainly the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal. During the 1930's, the institutional force which in previous periods was referred to as the Genrō, sometimes simply meaning Yamagata, at others Saionji, was referred to as the Jūshin and included all those persons whom Titus regards as "Negotiators."

By the 1930's the Jūshin had also learnt to live with the separation-of-powers and to confine themselves to the exercise of certain functions alone. Of one of these functions, Titus writes: "The institutional separation of Court and Government . . . produced a parallel division of function: the emperor and Court ritualized, the Government decided and executed."<sup>69</sup> The paradox of an infallible Emperor



who was to wield imperial prerogatives was solved by recourse to separation-of-powers theory. Titus continues:<sup>70</sup>

His personal will, which might be fallible, was not the "imperial will", which was by definition the infallible will of the imperial ancestors. This in turn meant restricting the emperor to acts of formal ritual, such as rites and the formal sanctioning of Government decisions.

In so far as Court officials were also Jūshin, they also exercised the function of "negotiating," particularly after 1936, when the Genrō ceased to be an independent force in politics and became merely one of them. Of this function, Titus writes:<sup>71</sup>

The Negotiators would advise the emperor to appoint as Prime Minister that person most able to "cope with the situation" or to ratify that policy most "in line with the times" at any given time. In doing so they were influenced by their estimate of "public opinion." . . . By public opinion was meant the views of the persons who counted, not the public at large. . . . What counted was the weight assigned . . . to any one or combination of the components of imperial prerogative—Imperial Diet, Foreign Ministry, army, navy.

The imperial prerogative was exercised by separate institutions, each with its own function, while the "Negotiators" tried to appoint as Prime Minister the person most able to reunite these components into something that could be regarded as the single voice of the Government for the Emperor to sanction.

If the "Negotiators" were to choose the best person, it was essential that they did not lean in favour of any particular institution. Until 1936, however, this was not the case, because until then Saionji, like his predecessors, did have fixed ideas on which institutions were to have

the major share of influence in normal times. In 1932, although he consulted representatives of all institutions, he did so individually in order to keep the ultimate decision in his own hands.<sup>72</sup> In 1934, Saionji retained the initiative by seeing to it that the conference of Jūshin, which this time included only the Lord Privy Seal, the President of the Privy Council, and former Prime Ministers (and therefore Takahashi and Wakatsuki), was firmly under his management and accepted the person on whom he and Saitō had previously decided.<sup>73</sup> In February 1936, Saionji did not convene the Jūshin, but merely consulted the President of the Privy Council and the Lord Privy Seal, and made his recommendations.<sup>74</sup>

Hayashi's appointment was Saionji's last act as an independent force in the selection of Prime Ministers. Although he did not come to Tokyo because of illness, he was consulted by the Lord Privy Seal, who also consulted the President of the Privy Council. Saionji nominated Ugaki, Hiranuma, and Hayashi. Because only his third choice was acceptable, Saionji only played a minor part in the rise of the Hayashi cabinet.<sup>75</sup>

When Konoe was nominated in 1937, a change is believed to have taken place. The Lord Privy Seal was the person to whom the Emperor put the question of a successor, whereas in the past it had been put to the Genrō through the Lord Privy Seal. While the Lord Privy Seal consulted the Genrō, he recommended Konoe on his own responsibility, and according to Yamazaki, "the Genrō's opinion was used only as a reference."<sup>76</sup>

Just before the fall of the Yonai ministry, a contemporary wrote:<sup>77</sup>

The Hiranuma, Abe, and Yonai Cabinets all came into being after political conferences in the capital while Prince Saionji remained at his Okitsu villa and was kept informed of the proceedings by his private secretary. . . . (T)here has developed what virtually amounts to a new Genrō, or group of advisers for the selection of Premiers.

The key men in this group were the Lord Privy Seal and the President of the Privy Council, who were always consulted, and former premiers, who only sometimes participated. Hiranuma and Abe were chosen without the assistance of the former premiers, and in Abe's case the President of the Privy Council tipped the balance, because he refused to support the Genrō's choice, Ikeda Seihin.<sup>78</sup> Yonai and Konoe were nominated at a formal Jūshin kaigi, which was attended by the President of the Privy Council, the Lord Privy Seal, and former prime ministers, while Saionji was consulted through his secretary.<sup>79</sup> Yonai was chosen against the wishes of the President of the Privy Council, and Konoe against those of the Genrō, indicating that the Jūshin had come to acquire a corporate existence and could overrule in the name of the whole the wishes of any single participant. The Privy Council did not take over entirely the function abrogated by Saionji, but had to share it with the Lord Privy Seal, and on occasion, former premiers.

Because the Jūshin were themselves also institutional representatives, they could exercise less discretion than the Genrō had, and they played only minor roles in Cabinet-making. Unlike the Genrō until 1936, the Jūshin only tried to assess institutional influence and to appoint the person most likely to retain the maximum support. Neither the Genrō nor

the Jūshin played any role in Cabinet-breaking in 1932-1940. They always wanted governments to remain in office as long as possible and rarely had any idea of successors until governments actually fell.

After 1936, when the Jūshin ceased to lean in favour of any particular institution but made it their task to determine the national consensus, a parallel change took place at Court. Until then, Saionji had not only been much more than a barometer to assess the institutional balance of power but able to impress on Court officials his views on the most desirable institutions to lead the Cabinet. The Lord Privy Seals Makino Shinken, Ichiki Kitokurō and Yuasa Kurahei were all constitutional monarchists like Saionji.<sup>80</sup> Keeping pace with the new development in the nature and role of the Jūshin, a new group of palace officials gradually came into being and achieved pre-eminence in 1940 when Kido became Lord Privy Seal.

Under these new men, Titus says, "a careful balance of institutional forces at the side of the throne was maintained, not to secure a partisan stance but to ensure the accuracy of the 'national consensus'".<sup>81</sup> To live with the separation-of-powers the Court itself had to acquire a balance of institutional representatives, a development that began in 1929 and reached its culmination in 1940. After 1929 only Admirals were appointed to position of Grand Chamberlain. Titus points out why:<sup>82</sup>

Such appointments reveal the nature of the institutional balance required at the Emperor's side. The post of Chief Aide-de-Camp was always held by an army general. It appeared advisable by 1929

to counter the voice of the army at court, since by that time the army had mounted its institutional campaign to declare the Imperial Will in both domestic and international affairs.

The Army's voice needed to be countered because the advice of the Chief Aide-de-Camp invariably reflected the views of the Army. Examples are the Chief Aide's advice to dismiss Minobe Tatsukichi in 1935 and to exercise restraint rather than strong disciplinary action against the Army after the February 26 Incident.<sup>83</sup>

Titus shows that during the 19 years spanning the period 1926-45 the four major palace positions were held by the following institutional representatives:<sup>84</sup>

Imperial Household Minister:	Foreign Office: 9 years. Home Office: 9 years. Finance Ministry: 1 year.
Grand Chamberlain:	Foreign Office: 2 years. Navy: 17 years.
Chief Aide-de-Camp:	Army: 19 years.
Lord Privy Seal:	Foreign Office: 9 years. Home Ministry: 4 years. House of Peers: 5 years.

He concludes:<sup>85</sup>

A clear pattern of bureaucratic representation at the emperor's side emerges. These might be called the four major constituents of modern Japanese bureaucratic politics: the army, navy, Foreign Ministry, and Home Ministry.

This balance of forces among imperial aides, Titus points out, helped the Jūshin maintain a balance in the cabinet:<sup>86</sup>

Those close to the throne, however, never permitted the Military complete domination. Institutional balances were still maintained in the composition of the Cabinet, though the military representatives carried the most weight.

Because military domination over other institutions in the 1930's was less than Genrō domination in the early years and party domination in the 1920's, inter-institutional coordination was weakest during these years. The result was a proliferation of new devices to promote harmony, devices which fall into three categories: i) those initiated by the government, ii) those spontaneously created by the institutions in need of coordination, and iii) joint attempts.

#### New Devices to Avoid Deadlock

Although each of the three types of dei ex machina existed in previous periods, they had been less developed and less frequently used. The 1930's witnessed a greater proliferation of their number and a higher development of their purposes and characteristics than ever before. A discussion of how they functioned belongs to the years 1932-1940, when the absence of a single dominant institution made their role more important. Only typical examples of each type are presented.

Government-sponsored coordinating devices were almost invariably different kinds of committees consisting of representatives from each of the main institutions. The first such committee was formed in June 1917 by Terauchi, who set up the Advisory Council on Foreign Relations. According to Colegrove, its "ostensible purpose was to formulate a consistent foreign policy; its real purpose was to minimise opposition to whatever policy the cabinet should pursue."<sup>87</sup> Consisting of representatives of the parties, bureaucracy, Peers, Privy Council, Army and Navy,

it attempted to create a national consensus.<sup>88</sup>

A number of almost identical devices were created in the 1930's. The first was Okada's Naikaku Shingikai (National Policy Deliberation Council), which included party men, Jūshin, Peers, military men, and representatives of big business. According to Harada, its purpose was "to educate" these men with conflicting views in order to minimise opposition from the institutions they represented.<sup>89</sup>

Under Konoe's first ministry, the main coordinator was the group of Sangi (Cabinet Councillors), which, according to Ogata Taketora, was created "to strengthen his cabinet" by enabling him "to confer with leaders of the nation representing as many different interests as possible."<sup>90</sup> It also consisted of representatives from the Army, Navy, parties, bureaucracy, and business. The inclusion of party men in his cabinet, Ogata says, was considered "insufficient to assure the Cabinet of the support of the Diet."<sup>91</sup>

Other schemes introduced by Konoe were less comprehensive and only usually included representatives of the armed services, the zaikai (the financial world), and the Civil Service. Examples are the Kikakuin (Planning Board), the Liaison Conference, and the Five Minister Conference, which included the Prime Minister, the Army, Navy, Foreign, and Finance Ministers.<sup>92</sup> The reason for the exclusion from these bodies of representatives from the two Houses of the Diet seems to have been that they all dealt almost exclusively with foreign policy, particularly the

war in China. As on past occasions when the country was at war, the two Houses made no attempt to interfere with its conduct, and therefore were not in need of coordination.

The second category of expedients to prevent deadlock, inter-institutional factional alliances, resulted from the chronic factionalism all institutions endured under the separation-of-powers. Because no single one of them, no matter how disciplined, could ever hope to translate its desires into government decisions without a great deal of compromise with others, different factions within institutions naturally advocated different kinds of cross-institutional alliances. If the concurrence of all institutions was essential before the government could act, one way, perhaps the best, to gain general agreement was to have groups of people within each one who worked for its acceptance of the desired policy, much the way Yamagata did. There are so many cases of the use of this tactic in the 1930's that the conclusion is hard to resist that institutional forces were one of the main causes. Only a few of the many examples will be given.

The Tokonami Takejirō and Kuhara Fusanosuke factions of the Seiyūkai were among the first to learn to live with the separation-of-powers and recognise that their party would never achieve the degree of control over the Cabinet it had in the 1920's. The most it could expect were a few Cabinet seats, and rather than uncompromisingly oppose all cabinets, certain party factions sought to participate in cabinets through cooperating



with factions in other institutions. In the early days of the Saitō cabinet, Tokonami was in contact with the Hiranuma faction, which itself was influential in the Privy Council, the Army, and the Civil Service, particularly the Justice Ministry. Hayashi, a member in the Army's Kōdōha, was also in touch with Hiranuma at this time, and by 1935 other members of the Kōdōha were involved: Araki Sadao and Mazaki Jinzaburō.<sup>93</sup> In December that year, Kuhara, in cooperation with a group in the Army, planned to submit a non-confidence motion in the government over its handling of the controversy over the Emperor organ theory and to bring down the cabinet.<sup>94</sup> In January 1938, Matsuoka Yōsuke, a Foreign Ministry "revisionist," was in association with Kuhara and General Minami Jirō, and in December 1939, an alliance between Kuhara and Generals Mazaki and Araki was reported to have been formed.<sup>95</sup>

While the precise tracing of factional alliances is beyond the scope of this study, the tendency for House factions to favour alliances with Army men in this period above ones with one another is easy to discern. In the 1920's, factions in institutions with less control over the Cabinet than the parties tended to form alliances with the parties, whereas in the 1930's, those with less influence than the Army favoured cooperation with the Army. Table 5 indicates that fewer bankers, bureaucrats, and military men joined the parties in the 1930's than in the 1920's.

Table 5. Institutional background of Lower House Members, 1928-40.<sup>96</sup>

Election	Ex-Officials	Ex-Military	Ex-Bankers	Businessmen
1928	41	4	5	92
1930	36	3	2	82
1932	39	1	1	79
1936	27	0	0	72
1937	9	3	1	72

While corresponding figures are not available to indicate the increased gravitation of men from other institutions towards the Army, the "Army-ization" of the bureaucracy has already been noted. A good example of rival Foreign Office factions which cooperated with rivals in another institution was the Shiratori Toshio faction, which worked with certain Army and Navy men to oppose Admiral Nomura Kichisaburō's appointment as Foreign Minister under Abe, and the Tani Masayuki faction, which supported Nomura.<sup>97</sup> Another example of gravitation towards the Army is that Finance Ministers, who were typically bankers, in the late 1930's were no longer also party members but were on close terms with the Army, for example, Yūki Toyotarō and Ikeda Seiin. A final example is that the men whom the parties tried to recruit as Presidents had become military men like Saitō Makoto and Ugaki Kazushige.<sup>98</sup>

That these cross-institutional alliances partly served to harmonize relations among institutions is indicated by the development for this very purpose of one of them into the third type of coordinating device, a cross-institutional mass movement. The Taisei Yokusan Kai (Imperial Rule Assistance Association) of 1940, was little more than an expanded version of the Konoe faction of the early 1930's, which was a loose association of leaders of major institutions, who rallied round Konoe as the man most likely to help further their purposes.

In 1931 Konoe was in contact with Shiratori of the Foreign Office and Mori Kaku of the Seiyūkai in an effort to make Hiranuma premier.

He was also in contact with Army leaders like Suzuki Teiichi, Nagata Tetsuzan, and Obata Toshishirō, and when he met Araki Sadao, he became closely associated with the Kōdōha for many years. His association with party leaders has already been mentioned, and as a member in the Upper House since 1916 and its President since 1933, he had extensive contacts among the Peers. In later years, when the Army and the parties urged him to form a new party, he was always careful to say that what he wanted was not a new party, but a new "political order" (Shin sei-ji taisei). What he envisaged was a kyōkoku (whole nation) political system, and his new organization was to include, as he put it, "a legislative branch, an administrative branch, and, in a sense, the supreme command."<sup>99</sup>

Kuhara saw eye to eye with Konoe much more than did the other party leaders, and the members of the national and local councils which Kuhara advocated were to be selected from the two Houses of the Diet, the bureaucracy, and the armed services.<sup>100</sup> Both men regarded the new organization as primarily an organ of coordination with a mass base. Konoe said it would absorb the unions, agricultural groups, and commercial associations, and would include Diet and non-Diet leaders. It would also work closely with the Army.<sup>101</sup> Konoe never intended it to be a Diet-centred political party but a cross-institutional mass movement to support a government that was the victim of conflicting institutional pressures. This intention is revealed in the list of 24 persons whom Konoe nominated to serve on the

preparatory commission. There were six members of the Lower House, three Peers, three high ranking bureaucrats, the Chairman of the National Council of Village and Town Mayors, two Army Generals, two Admirals, two businessmen, four leaders of the press, and one or two others. Later the members of Konoe's cabinet were also appointed.<sup>102</sup>

But even before the new organization was formally launched, Konoe had begun to lose interest in it, probably because it was difficult to translate the theory into practice. The futility of trying to coordinate conflicting institutional pressures by including their representatives in the same cabinet should have taught the advocates of the new political order the futility of any organization based on the same principle. None of the expedients in the first category had done much to mitigate deadlock, and conflicting pressures in Konoe's new organization paralysed it as much as they did the Cabinet. The Diet, the Home Ministry, and the Army soon discovered that they had opposite views on what it was supposed to be.<sup>103</sup>

Berger says that as a result of the new organization,<sup>104</sup>

neither the political system nor the balance of power among the elites underwent further change. . . . Perhaps the most striking feature of the IRAA was the minimal impact it had on political institutions and relations among elites. The relationship of the cabinet, Diet and military services was ultimately left unchanged by the IRAA. In itself the IRAA did not enable either the cabinet or the military to impose new constraints on the independence of one another, nor did it permit either of them to deprive the Diet of its constitutional prerogative to approve budgets and represent the people. . . . The new order also had little effect on the operation of the cabinet system and the continuing need for coalition among the elites.

The sudden demise of this final attempt to cover up somehow the separation-of-powers only emphasises that everyone had really learnt to live with it. There could be no solution until the Cabinet itself ceased to be a federation of representatives from antagonistic institutions and included only like-minded men. This in turn would only be possible once the power to make and break it was the sole possession of only one institution, and the Cabinet became responsible to it alone.

## CONCLUSION

Throughout the period 1890-1945, the most striking characteristic of the Japanese Cabinet remained its chronic weakness. It could ordinarily be unseated by almost any two of a variety of institutions and a new cabinet could rarely be raised by fewer than three. Its existence was therefore quite separate from each individual institution, and to describe it as "fused" with or responsible to any other institution would be incorrect. Its coming to office was quite separate and independent of each individual institution and its tenure in office usually depended on the collective will of all but one: if two conspired, the Cabinet would ordinarily fall. Unlike the American executive, which cannot be removed by any one or even a combination of other institutions except in the gravest of constitutional crises, the Japanese executive suffered without an existence completely independent of other institutions. It ended with all the disadvantages of an executive in a separation-of-powers system and none of those of an executive in a parliamentary system, because it could be unseated, not by one other institution, but by a variety of combinations of other institutions. Its existence was precarious because, not having a completely independent existence like the American executive and not being the sole creation of only one other institution like the British executive, no other institution had a strong incentive to support it. Its precarious existence then further decreased incentives to support it and its existence became more precarious.

The prewar Japanese polity was neither a pure separation-of-powers type, nor a pure parliamentary type. The government was divided into separate branches, each of which had a corresponding identifiable function, and each of which possessed a limited veto power over the others. The members of most branches were usually members of only one branch, although this was less true of the two Houses of the Diet, the Cabinet, and the Civil Service. Ex-officials, whose influence in their ministries did not usually cease with their departure from government service, were frequently members of one or other House. Cabinet members were always members of one or more other institutions, and many members of the Upper House were also members of parties in the Lower House. Only the last kind of overlapping membership also exists in America. But deadlock was as much a characteristic of prewar Japanese government as American government.

That separation-of-powers theory provides the best understanding of the prewar Japanese system is also indicated by no single institution's complete control over appointments to any other institution. Because none was totally dependent on any other, each had a separate existence, although the degree of separateness varied. All except the Genrō and the Cabinet had an independent power base, which guaranteed that they and their constituencies alone, excepting the Upper House 31% of whose members were imperial appointments, determined their own composition. The Genrō had no independent power base and would either have become

"fused" with some other institution or disappeared completely after Saionji's death.

The position of the Cabinet was different and reveals that certain parliamentary forces were present, even though the drafters of the Constitution firmly intended that no other institution affect the Cabinet's composition or existence. Because in practice each institution, excepting the Genrō and the Privy Council, regularly controlled a few Cabinet seats, a "part" of the Cabinet was "fused" with each institution and was responsible to it. In a sense the Cabinet was "concurrently responsible" to a number of institutions, each of which possessed the entire power to appoint part of it. But no single institution could raise an entire cabinet, and the Cabinet was strictly speaking not responsible to any other institution.

Although each institution could also veto Cabinet policy, only in the 1890's and on a few other occasions could only one institution, the Lower House, dismiss an entire cabinet, which was occasionally "fused" with the House and responsible to it in this negative sense. And because the Cabinet could usually be dismissed by any two of a number of institutions, one could stretch the language of parliamentary theory and say that the Cabinet was "concurrently responsible" to any two institutions, although the term "responsible" is best reserved for an institution which possesses the entire power of appointment and dismissal.

On balance, although the prewar Japanese polity is more comprehensible



in terms of separation-of-powers theory, to call it a hybrid system may be more accurate, because it also had certain characteristics of parliamentary systems. A Cabinet that is responsible to only one institution can easily retain the support of that institution. A Cabinet that is "responsible" to different combinations of all institutions cannot win the whole-hearted support of any. A President who is "responsible" to no other institution can ordinarily continue in office without the support of any. Because the prewar Japanese Cabinet was "responsible" to all, had the whole-hearted support of none, and needed the support of all, it acted as if and was in fact responsible to none. The result was that its average life span was only 1.4 years, and if the second Itō and first Katsura ministries are excluded, the average was just over a year.

What guarantees the longevity of British cabinets is that if an institution is the sole maker of a cabinet, at least in peace time it will not be that cabinet's breaker. This mechanism could not come to the rescue of the Japanese Cabinet, which was not made solely by one institution. What guarantees the longevity of the American executive is that if an institution has no power to make a President, it ordinarily has no power to break him either. This mechanism was also of no use in Japan, because all institutions had some power to make the Cabinet. What determined the rise and fall of the Japanese Cabinet was that if an institution did not take part in making a cabinet, it would try to break that cabinet, although it did not necessarily follow that if an institution conspired to break a cabinet, it would participate

in making the next cabinet.

Until 1932, the only cabinets whose fall resulted from a major use of influence by the same institution that played a major part in raising them were the second Matsukata, first and second Ōkuma, and first Wakatsuki cabinets. On each occasion the institution was the Lower House, but only the second Matsukata cabinet was brought down by the same party that played a major role in raising it. In the years 1932-1940, the rise and fall of all cabinets, excepting the two Army-led ones, resulted from a major use of influence by the Lower House. But the Lower House was not the pivotal force in raising any of these cabinets, all of which were formed by prime ministers from institutions other than the Lower House.

Because the separation-of-powers system in Japan was never pure and the Cabinet was "responsible" to all institutions and yet to none, there was a greater likelihood in Japan that one institution would encroach on the functions of another. The greater any institution's power to make and break the Cabinet, the greater its ability to usurp functions not constitutionally its own. Because in different periods, different institutions could exercise more than their fair share of Cabinet-making and -breaking power, they could also exercise more than their legitimate share of government functions.

In any separation-of-powers system, the nature of the dominant problem facing the nation at any time will tend to determine the balance

of power among the various institutions. In America, the Supreme Court lost influence in the 1930's when the Congress and the President advocated social reform in response to a national mood overwhelmingly in favour of such a change. In the 1950's, however, the Court could gain influence when it sought to extend the rights of Black Americans, because this was a time when the nation was deeply concerned to implement principles relating to the rights of man. On the question of States' rights, as long as the economy was not inter-dependent to a degree that laissez-faire philosophy was seriously questioned, the institution that championed States' rights most staunchly, Congress, gained the upper hand. But once the need for national economic policy became more urgent, the balance shifted in favour of the President, the only institution in a position to undertake the kinds of measures that would satisfy the public mood. The same applies to foreign policy, an area in which the President alone is well situated to act decisively. During the years of post Second World War American imperialism accompanied by an aggressive national mood, the President achieved a degree of influence in foreign policy unequalled by any previous institution in any issue area.

The pattern of institutional rise and fall in Japan was also largely determined by the nature of the dominant problem confronting the nation in successive periods, although the hybrid nature of the Japanese system without its American stabilisers permitted institutional influence to

fluctuate much more than it can in America. In the 1890's, when State-building was the dominant problem, it was hardly surprising that the revolutionaries who set up the new State were the dominant institution. In the next period, the absence of a single all pervasive problem was paralleled by the absence of a single dominant institution. Before industrialisation under capitalism had reached the stage of unleashing a discontented urban proletariat and before any real problems in the nation's foreign relations had emerged, no overriding concern could tip the balance in any institution's favour. But after the First World War, the economy received a boost that almost overnight brought to the fore a discontented urban working class and a greedy capitalist class whose conflicting interests determined the nature of the major national problems during the 1920's. Because the Lower House of the Diet was controlled by the capitalist class, other institutions, which were equally opposed to the demands of the new proletariat, were content to leave the House as the major battleground for the time being, provided of course there was not too much encroachment on what they regarded as their special prerogatives. But towards the end of the 1920's and throughout the 1930's, when foreign relations and colonial wars absorbed the nation's consciousness, the balance was bound to shift in favour of those institutions constitutionally entitled to deal with these matters: the Army, Navy, and Foreign Office.

But why did so much influence go to the Army, rather than to the

Navy or Foreign Office? Partly for the same reason that no matter how popular the actions of the Supreme Court in the 1950's and 1960's, this institution could never hold the balance of influence for long, because it has no direct ties with the public at large. In Japan, while the Navy and Foreign Office had no such ties with the people, the Army did, mainly because many of its recruits were peasants, still the largest group in Japanese society, and the Army was the only institution to undertake a radical defence of peasant interests, at least until 1936. The Army also gained more influence than the Navy and the Foreign Office because, like the Civil Service in domestic affairs, the Army actually executed the policy of expansion in Asia and the Navy was only occasionally involved.

Because the Lower House had a legitimate and secure popular base, it could become the Army's main competitor for the position of the dominant institution, even in times when the nation was concerned mainly with foreign affairs and colonial wars. In the long run therefore, whether or not the Americans had introduced constitutional changes after the war, the departure of foreign affairs from the centre of the stage would have meant a gradual evolution of the Japanese system from the separation-of-powers type to the parliamentary type. The system's great thorn in the flesh, the absence of a secure basis for the executive's existence, would also have allowed it to develop in a direction denied the American and post-1962 French Fifth Republic systems, whose executives

are popularly elected and "responsible" to no other institution and so unable to become responsible to only one of them. The Japanese executive, because it was "responsible" to all, would have stood a chance of becoming responsible to only one.

## FOOT-NOTES

## INTRODUCTION

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## CHAPTER 1

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Article LV.

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Hackett, p. 208. See also Jiji Shinpō, November 30 1898, as cited in NKJ, III, 242-43; Yamagata Aritomo Den, III, 350-57; Itō Hirobumi Den, III, 463-468; Hackett, pp. 187-208; Uyehara, p. 242.

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See Appendix II for the dates of all ministerial appointments, including reshuffles, and a list of all Cabinet members in 1890-1900.

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Kōno Togama and Soejima are possible exceptions, because their appointment was partly to facilitate relations with the Lower House in order to keep the whole cabinet in office. See Akita, p. 100.

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See note 37 above.

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Itō Hirobumi Den, III, 794-95; Takekoshi, p. 238.

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## CHAPTER 5

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## APPENDICES

Appendix I. Cabinet Composition and its Makers and Breakers, 1890-1940.<sup>i</sup><sup>i</sup>Abbreviations:

G	<u>Genrō</u>	JY	<u>Jiyūtō</u>
J	<u>Jūshin</u>	SP	<u>Shimpotō</u>
PC	Privy Council	KS	<u>Kenseitō</u>
CS	Civil Service	S	<u>Seiyūkai</u>
FO	Foreign Office	D	<u>Dōshikai</u>
A	Army	KA	<u>Kakushin Kurabu</u>
N	Navy	KK	<u>Kenseikai</u>
P	House of Peers	SH	<u>Seiyūhontō</u>
H	Lower House	M	<u>Minseitō</u>

The order of the abbreviations after each cabinet indicates order of importance. Capital letters indicate major roles, small letters minor roles. For example, both the Genrō and the Shimpotō played major roles in raising the second Matsukata cabinet, but the influence of the Genrō is placed above that of the Shimpotō. The kinds of roles and the order of their importance represent judgements based on the sources examined. The reasoning behind these judgements is set forth in the text.

The figures indicating the number of representatives each institution had in each cabinet are a summary of Appendices II to V, which represent the combined findings of sources too numerous to mention here. All are listed in the Bibliography. The figures for each cabinet add up to more than the total number of cabinet members, because many were either members in or had close ties with more than one institution. The institutional qualifications indicated in Appendices II to V are assumed to be the main reasons for the ministers' inclusion in the Cabinet. More than one qualification indicates more than one reason. In the early years it seems to have been hoped that overlapping membership would help build bridges between antagonistic institutions, and judgements on which the major qualification was are difficult to make. In later years overlapping membership seems to have been largely abandoned as a coordinating device and became less frequent. When it did occur, judgements on the major qualification are easier, partly because in later years the sources are more explicit.

Ministry	Makers	Breakers	Composition						
			G	PC	CS	A	N	P	H
An Emerging Separation-of-Powers, 1890-1900.									
Yamagata I	G	H	7	2	7	4	2	3	3
Matsukata I	G	H a n	7	8	12	4	2	3	4
Itō II	G h(jy)	H(JY)	12	11	12	5	2	3	5
Matsukata II	G H(SP)	H(SP)	6	6	9	2	3	5	1
Itō III	G	H	9	5	10	1	1	7	2
Ōkuma I	H(KS) G	H g a	2	0	3	1	1	1	8
Yamagata II	G	H(KS)	7	3	5	2	2	4	1

## A Full-Fledged Separation-of-Powers, 1900-1918.

Itō IV	H(S) G	P h(s) g	8	1	7	2	1	3	9
Katsura I	G h(s)	H(S) g	8	1	10	3	1	8	0
Saionji I	H(S) g	P G h(s)	6	0	9	1	1	4	3
Katsura II	G h(s)	H(S) g	7	0	6	2	1	6	0
Saionji II	H(S) g	A G	1	0	5	2	1	2	4
Katsura III	G h a	H(S) N g	8	0	7	2	1	6	6
Yamamoto II	H(S) N g	P g	2	0	4	2	2	3	7
Ōkuma II	H(D) g	H(S) G	5	0	7	2	2	4	9
Terauchi	G h(s)	H(S)	4	0	8	2	1	5	1

## Party Premiers and the Persistence of the Separation-of-Powers, 1918-1932.

Hara	H(S) g	Died	0	0	5	2	1	3	7
Takahashi	H(S) G	P G h(s)	0	0	4	1	1	3	6
Katō Tomo.	N H(S) P g pc	Died	0	0	5	1	2	7	1
Yamamoto II	N G CS h(ka) pc	H P	0	0	6	1	2	4	1
Kiyoura	G P PC h(sh)	H	0	1	7	1	1	7	1
Katō Kōmei	H g	Died (P PC g)	0	0	7	1	1	4	14
Wakatsuki I	H(KK) g	H(S) PC G	0	0	5	1	1	6	9
Tanaka	H(S) G a	A G PC h(m)	0	0	5	2	1	4	10
Hamaguchi	H(M) G	Died (N PC g)	0	0	6	2	2	4	10
Wakatsuki II	H(M) g	A G h(m)	0	0	5	1	1	5	9
Inukai	H(S) G A	Died (G N A)	0	0	7	1	1	2	10

Ministry	Makers	Breakers	Composition						
			G	PC	CS	A	N	P	H
Learning to Live with the Separation-of-Powers, 1932-40.									
Saitō	N G H A	H (S) A	0	0	8	2	3	6	5
Okada	N G A H(M)	A H (S)	0	0	9	2	2	3	8
Hirota	G FO A H	H N	0	0	7	1	1	5	5
Hayashi	A g p cs	H	0	0	5	3	2	2	1
Konoe I	P CS A H j	H A cs	0	0	9	4	2	8	2
Hiranuma	PC CS A H j	N FO H	0	2	8	3	1	4	2
Abe	A PC j	H a	0	0	6	2	3	5	3
Yonai	N H A j	A H	0	1	6	2	2	2	4
Konoe II	H A CS j	---	0	2	10	3	3	5	5

Appendix II. Cabinet Composition, 1890-1900<sup>i</sup>

FIRST YAMAGATA MINISTRY

			Genrō	(Clan) Privy Batsu Chō.	Coun.	Last Cab.	Civil <sup>ii</sup> Ser.	Army Lt. Gen.	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Yamagata Aritomo	P.M.	24/12/89 6/5/12	*			*					
Aoki Shūzō	For.	24/12/89 29/5/12	Yam.	Chō. 1889			For. Min.			1890- 1897	
Yamagata Aritomo	Home	24/12/89 17/5/90									
Matsukata Masayoshi	Fin.	22/12/85 6/5/91	*	Sat.		*	Fin. Min.			1890- 1897	
Ōyama Iwao	Army	22/12/85 17/5/91	*	Sat.		*		Lt. Gen.			
Saigō Tsugumichi	Navy	22/12/85 17/5/90	*	Sat.		*		Lt. Gen.			
Yamada Akimasa	Jus.	22/12/85 1/6/91	*	Chō.		*		Lt. Gen.		1890- 1892	
Enomoto Takeaki	Edu.	22/3/89 17/5/90		Toku- gawa		*	*		Vice Adm.		
Iwamura Michitoshi	Agr.	24/12/89 17/5/90		Tosa			*				Contacts
Gotō Shōjirō	Com.	22/3/89 8/8/92		Tosa		*	*				Contacts

<sup>i</sup> Even though ministers were not always actual members in certain institutions when they entered the cabinet, past membership or contacts are indicated in this period to show the patterns that were emerging.

<sup>ii</sup> In the case of the Civil Service, an asterisk (\*) indicates that the official concerned had broad experience in the bureaucracy. Both officials and ex-officials are indicated, because even after leaving government service, influential members retained a great deal of influence in their old ministries.

	(Clan)	Privy	Last	Civil		Upper	Lower
<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Coun.	Cab.	Ser.	Army	Navy	House
						House	House

## Reshuffles

Mutsu	Agr.	17/5/90	Kii	For.	Elected
Munemitsu		14/3/92		Min.	1890-92
Yoshikawa	Edu.	17/5/90	Yam. Toku-	Home	
Kensei		1/6/91	shima	Min.	
Kabayama	Navy	17/5/90	Sat.	Vice	
Sukenori		8/8/92		Adm.	
Saigō	Home	17/5/90			
Tsugumichi		1/6/91			
Ōki	Tem.	25/12/90	Saga	1889-	
Takatō	Jus.	7/2/91		1891	

1st Election: July 1 1890.



## FIRST MATSUKATA MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Last Cab.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Matsukata Masayoshi	P.M.	6/5/91 8/8/92	*	Sat.		*	Fin. Min.			1890-1897	
Aoki Shūzō	For.	24/12/89 29/5/91	Yam.	Chō.	1889	*	For. Min.			1890-1897	
Saigō Tsugumichi	Home	17/5/90 1/6/91	*	Sat.		*		Lt. Gen.			
Matsukata Masayoshi	Fin.	6/5/91 8/8/92									
Ōyama Iwao	Army	22/12/85 17/5/91	*	Sat.		*		Lt. Gen.			
Kabayama Sukenori	Navy	17/5/90 8/8/92		Sat.		*			Vice Adm.		
Yamada Akimasa	Jus.	22/12/85 2/6/91	*	Cho.		*		Lt. Gen.		1890-1892	
Yoshikawa Kensei	Edu.	17/5/90 1/6/91	Yam.	Toku-shima		*	Home Min.				
Mutsu Munemitsu	Agr.	17/5/90 14/3/92		Kii		*	For. Min.				1890-1892
Gotō Shōjirō	Com.	22/3/89 8/8/92		Tosa		*	*				Contacts
Reshuffles											
Takashima Tomonosuke	Army	17/5/91 8/8/92		Sat.				Lt. Gen.			
Enomoto Takeaki	For.	29/5/91 8/8/92		Toku-gawa	1890-1891		*		Vice Adm.		
Ōki Takatō	Edu.	1/6/91 8/8/92		Saga	1889-1891		*				
Shinagawa Yajirō	Home	1/6/91 11/3/92	Yam.	Chō.	1888-1892		*				
Tanaka Fujimarō	Jus.	1/6/91 23/6/92		Owari	1890-1891			For. Min.			

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Last Cab.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Soejima	Home	11/3/92		Hizen	1888-		*				Contacts
Taneomi		8/6/92			1891						
Kōno	Agr.	14/3/92		Tosa	1888-		*				Contacts
Togama		14/7/92			1892						
Matsukata	Home	8/6/92									
Masayoshi		14/7/92									
Sano	Agr.	14/7/92		Saga	1888-		*				
Tsunetami		8/8/92			1892						
Kōno	Jus.	23/6/92									
Togama		8/8/92									
Kōno	Home	14/7/92									
Togama		8/8/92									

2nd Election: February 15 1892.

## SECOND ITŌ MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Last Cab.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Itō Hirobumi	P.M.	8/8/92 31/8/96	*	Chō.	1891- 1892		*			1890- 1891	
Mutsu Munemitsu	For.	8/8/92 30/5/96		Kii	1892		For. Min.				1890- 1892
Inoue Kaoru	Home	8/8/92 15/10/94	*	Chō.			*				
Watanabe Kunitake	Fin.	8/8/92 17/3/95		Taka- shima			Fin. Min.				
Ōyama Iwao	Army	8/8/92 20/9/96	*	Sat.	1891- 1892			Gen.			
Nire Kagenori	Navy	8/8/92 11/3/93		Sat.					Vice Adm.		
Yamagata Aritomo	Jus.	8/8/92 11/3/93	*	Chō.				Gen.			
Kōnō Togama	Edu.	8/8/92 7/3/93		Tosa	1888- 1892	*	*				Contacts
Gotō Shōjirō	Agr.	8/8/92 22/1/94		Tosa		*	*				Contacts
Kuroda Kiyotaka	Com.	8/8/92 17/3/95	*	Sat.	1889- 1892			Lt. Gen.			
Reshuffles											
Inoue Kaoru	Tem. P.M.	28/11/92 6/2/93									
Inoue Kowashi	Edu.	7/3/93 29/8/94	Itō	Higo	1890- 1893		*				
Saigō Tsugumichi	Navy	11/3/93 8/11/98	*	Sat.	1892			Lt. Gen.			



				Privy	Last	Civil			Upper	Lower
		<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Coun.	Cab.	Ser.	Army	Navy	House	House
Takashima	Col.	2/4/96		Sat.	1892				Lt.	
Tomonosuke		2/9/97							Gen.	
Itagaki	Home	14/4/96		Tosa		*				
Taisuke		20/9/96								Leader
Saionji	For.	30/5/96								<u>Jiyūtō</u>
Kimmochi		22/9/96								
Shirane	Com.	9/10/95	Yam.	Chō.			Home			
Senichi		26/9/96					Min.			
Kuroda	Tem.	21/3/96								
Kiyotaka	P.M.	1/4/96								
"	"	5/6/96								
		13/7/96								
"	"	31/8/96								
		18/9/96								

4th Election: September 1 1894.

## SECOND MATSUKATA MINISTRY

			Genrō	Batsu	Privy Coun.	Last Cab.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Matsukata Masayoshi	P.M.	18/9/96 12/1/98	*	Sat.			Fin. Min.			1890- 1897	
Ōkuma Shigenobu	For.	22/9/96 6/11/97		Hizen	1889- 1891		*				Leader <u>Shimpotō</u>
Kabayama Sukenori	Home	20/9/96 12/1/98		Sat.	1896				Adm.		
Matsukata Masayoshi	Fin.	18/9/96 12/1/98									
Takashima Tomonosuke	Army	20/9/96 12/1/98		Sat.	1892- 1895	*		Lt. Gen.			
Saigō Tsugumichi	Navy	11/3/93 8/11/98	*	Sat.	1892	*			Adm.	1895- 1902	
Kiyouura Keigo	Jus.	26/9/96 12/1/98	Yam.	Higo			*			1891- 1906	
Hachisuka Mochiaki	Edu.	28/9/96 6/11/97		Toku- shima			*			1890- 1918	
Enomoto Takeaki	Agr.	22/1/94 29/3/97		Toku- gawa		*	*		Vice Adm.		
Nomura Yasushi	Com.	26/9/96 12/1/98	Yam.	Chō.	1893- 1894		For. Min.				
Takashima Tomonosuke	Col.	2/4/96 2/9/97									
Reshuffles											
Ōkuma Shigenobu	Agr.	29/3/97 6/11/97									
Nishi Tokujirō	For.	6/11/97 30/6/98		Sat.	1897		For. Min.				



## THIRD ITŌ MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Last Cab.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Itō Hirobumi	P.M.	12/1/98 30/6/98	*	Chō.	1891- 1892		*			1895- 1899	
Nishi Tokujirō	For.	6/11/97 30/6/98		Sat.	1897		* For. Min.				
Yoshikawa Kensei	Home	12/1/98 30/6/98	Yam.	Toku- shima			Home Min.				
Inoue Kaoru	Fin.	12/1/98 30/6/98	*	Chō.			*				
Katsura Tarō	Army	12/1/98 23/12/00	Yam.	Chō.				Lt. Gen.			
Saigō Tsugumichi	Navy	11/3/93 8/11/98	*	Sat.	1892		*		Adm.	1895- 1902	
Sone Arasuke	Jus.	12/1/98 30/6/98		Chō.			For. Min.				1892- 1894
Saionji Kimmochi	Edu.	12/1/98 30/4/98	Itō	Kuge	1894		*			1890- 1940	Contacts
Itō Miyoji	Agr.	12/1/98 26/4/98	Itō	Naga- saki			*			1894- 1899	
Suematsu Kenchō	Com.	12/1/98 30/6/98	Itō	Koku- ra			*			1896- 1906	1890- 1894
Reshuffles											
Toyama Masakazu	Edu.	30/4/98 30/6/98		Edo			Pres. Tōdai			1890- 1900	



			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Last Cab.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Kaneko	Agr.	26/4/98	Itō	Fuku-			*			1894-	
Kentarō		30/6/98		oka						1906	

5th Election: March 15 1898.°

## FIRST ŌKUMA MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Last Cab.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Ōkuma Shigenobu	P.M.	30/6/98 8/11/98		Hiizen	1889- 1891		*				Leader <u>Shimpoha</u>
Ōkuma Shigenobu	For.	"									
Itagaki Taisuke	Home	30/6/98 8/11/98		Tosa			*				Leader <u>Jiyūha</u>
Matsuda Masahisa	Fin.	30/6/98 8/11/98		Saga							Elected <u>Jiyūha</u>
Katsura Tarō	Army	12/1/98 23/12/00	Yam.	Chō.		*		Lt. Gen.			
Saigō Tsugumichi	Navy	11/3/93 8/11/98	*	Sat.		*			Fl. 1895- Adm. 1902		
Ōhigashi Yoshimichi	Jus.	30/6/98 8/11/98		Omi							Elected <u>Shimpoha</u>
Ōzaki Yukio	Edu.	30/6/98 27/10/98		Kana- gawa							Elected <u>Shimpoha</u>
Ōishi Masami	Agr.	30/6/98 8/11/98		Tosa			*				Elected <u>Shimpoha</u>
Hayashi Yūzō	Com.	30/6/98 8/11/98		Tosa			*				Elected <u>Jiyūha</u>
Reshuffles											
Inukai Tsuyoshi	Edu.	27/10/98 8/11/98		Ōka- yama							Elected <u>Shimpoha</u>

6th Election: August 10 1898.

## SECOND YAMAGATA MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Last Cab.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Yamagata Aritomo	P.M.	8/11/98 19/10/00	*	Chō.	1893- 1894			Fld. Mar.			
Aoki Shūzō	For.	8/11/98 19/10/00	Yam.	Chō.	1889		For. Min.			1890- 1897	
Saigō Tsugumichi	Home	8/11/98 19/10/00	*	Sat.	1892	*			Fl. Adm.	1895- 1902	
Matsukata Masayoshi	Fin.	8/11/98 19/10/00	*	Sat.			Fin. Min.			1890- 1897	
Katsura Tarō	Army	12/1/98 23/12/00	Yam.	Chō.		*		Gen.			
Yamamoto Gombei	Navy	8/11/98 7/1/06		Sat.					Vice Adm.		
Kiyoura Keigo	Jus.	8/11/98 19/10/00	Yam.	Higo			*			1891- 1906	
Sone Arasuke	Agr.	8/11/98 19/10/00		Chō.			For. Min.				1892- 1894
Yoshikawa Kensei	Com.	8/11/98 19/10/00	Yam.	Toku- shima			Home Min.				

Appendix III. Cabinet Composition, 1900-1918

## FOURTH ITO MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Itō Hirobumi	P.M.	19/10/00 10/5/01	*	Chō.		*				Pres. <u>Seiyūkai</u>
Katō Kōmei	For.	19/10/00 2/6/01	Itō	Owari		For. Min.				
Suematsu Kenchō	Home	19/10/00 2/6/01	Itō	Kokura		*			1896- 1906	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Watanabe Kunitake	Fin.	19/10/00 14/5/01	Itō	Taka- shima		Fin. Min.				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Katsura Tarō	Army	12/1/98 23/12/00	Yam.	Chō.			Gen.			
Yamamoto Gombei	Navy	8/11/98 7/1/06		Sat.				Vice Adm.		
Kaneko Kentarō	Jus.	19/10/00 2/6/01	Itō	Fuku- oka		*			1894- 1906	<u>Seiyūkai</u>
Matsuda Masahisa	Edu.	19/10/00 2/6/01		Saga						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Hayashi Yūzō	Agr.	19/10/00 2/6/01		Tosa						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Hoshi Tōru	Com.	19/10/00 22/12/00		Tokyo						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Reshuffles										
Saionji Kimnochi	Tem.	27/10/00	Itō	Kuge	Pres.	*			1890- 1940	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
"	P.M.	12/12/00								
"	"	2/5/01								
"	"	2/6/01								
"	Tem.	14/5/01								
"	Fin.	2/6/01								

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Kodama Gentarō	Army	23/12/00 27/3/02	Yam.	Toku- yama			Lt. Gen.			
Hara Kei	Com.	22/12/00 2/6/01		Riku- chū		For. Min.				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member

## FIRST KATSURA MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Katsura Tarō	P.M.	2/6/01 7/1/06	Yam.	Chō.			Gen.			
Sone Arasuke	For.	2/6/01 21/9/01	Yam.	Chō.		For. Min.			1900- 1906	
Utsumi Tadakatsu	Home	2/6/01 15/7/03		Chō.		Home Min.			1900- 1905	
Sone Arasuke	Fin.	2/6/01 7/1/06								
Kodama Gentarō	Army	23/12/00 27/3/02	Yam.	Toku- yama			Lt. Gen.			
Yamamoto Gombei	Navy	8/11/98 7/1/06		Sat.				Vice Adm.		
Kiyouura Keigo	Jus.	2/6/01 22/9/03	Yam.	Higo		*			1891- 1906	
Kikuchi Dairoku	Edu.	2/6/01 17/7/03		Oka- yama		Edu. Min.			1890- 1912	
Hirata Tōsuke	Agr.	2/6/01 17/7/03	Yam.	Yone- zawa	1898- 1925	*			1890- 1920	
Yoshikawa Kensei	Com.	2/6/01 17/7/03	Yam.	Toku- shima		Home Min.			1900- 1907	
Reshuffles										
Komura Jūtarō	For.	21/9/01 7/1/06		Obi		For. Min.				
Katsura Tarō	Tem.	3/7/05								
"	For.	18/10/05								
"	"	4/11/05								
"	"	2/1/06								
Kodama Gentarō	Home	15/7/03 12/10/03								

			<u>Genrō</u> <u>Batsu</u>		Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Katsura Tarō	Home	12/10/03 20/2/04								
Yoshikawa Kensei	Home	20/2/04 16/9/05								
Kiyouura Keigo	Home	16/9/05 7/1/06								
Terauchi Masatake	Army	27/3/02 30/8/11	Yam.	Chō.					Lt. Gen.	
Hatano Takanao	Jus.	22/9/03 7/1/06		Hi zen		Jus. Min.				
Kodama Gentarō	Edu.	17/7/03 22/9/03								
Kubota Yuzuru	Edu.	22/9/03 14/12/05		Toyo-oka		Edu. Min.			1894-1917	
Katsura Tarō	Edu.	14/12/05 7/1/06								
Kiyouura Keigo	Agr.	17/7/03 7/1/06								
Sone Arasuke	Com.	17/7/03 22/9/03								
Ōura Kanetake	Com.	22/9/03 7/1/06	Yam.	Sat.		Home Min.			1900-1915	

7th Election: August 16 1902.

8th Election: March 8 1903.

9th Election: March 9 1904.

## FIRST SAIONJI MINISTRY

			Genrō	Batsu	Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Saionji Kimmochi	P.M.	7/1/06 14/7/03	Itō	Kuge		*			1890- 1940	<u>Seiyūkai</u> President
Katō Kōmei	For.	7/1/06 3/3/06	Itō	Owari		For. Min.				
Hara Kei	Home	7/1/06 14/7/08		Riku- chū		For. Min.				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Sakatani Yoshirō	Fin.	7/1/06 14/1/08	Inoue	Oka- yama		Fin. Min.				
Terauchi Masatake	Army	27/3/02 30/8/11	Yam.	Chō.			Lt. Gen.			
Saitō Makota	Navy	7/1/06 16/4/14		Sen- sai				Vice Adm.		
Matsuda Masahisa	Jus.	7/1/06 25/3/08								<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Saionji Kimmochi	Edu.	7/1/06 27/3/06								
Matsuoka Yasutake	Agr.	7/1/06 14/7/08	Yam.	Kōki		*			1891- 1920	
Yamagata Isaburō	Com.	7/1/06 14/1/08	Yam.	Chō.		*				
Reshuffles										
Saionji Kimmochi	Tem. For.	3/3/06 19/5/06								
Hayashi Tadasu	For.	19/5/06 14/7/08		Chiba		For. Min.				
Saionji Kimmochi	Tem. For.	30/8/06 18/9/06								



			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Matsuda	Fin.	14/1/08								
Masahisa		14/7/08								
Senke	Jus.	25/3/08		Izumo		Home			1890-	
Takatomi		14/7/08				Min.			1918	
Makino	Edu.	27/3/06		Sat.		For.				
Shinken		14/7/08				Min.				
Hara	Com.	14/1/08								
Kei		25/3/08								
Hotta	Com.	25/3/08		Miya-					1890-	
Masayasu		14/7/08		gawa					1911	

10th Election: May 15 1908.

## SECOND KATSURA MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Katsura Tarō	P.M.	14/7/08 30/8/11	Yam.	Chō.			Gen.		1907- 1913	
Terauchi Masatake	Tem. For.	24/7/08 27/8/08								
Hirata Tōsuke	Home	14/7/08 30/8/11	Yam.	Yone- zawa		*			1890- 1920	
Katsura Tarō	Fin.	14/7/08 30/8/11								
Terauchi Masatake	Army	27/3/02 30/8/11	Yam.	Chō.			Gen.			
Saitō Makoto	Navy	7/1/06 14/4/14		Sen- dai				Vice Adm.		
Okabe Nagamoto	Jus.	14/7/08 30/8/11	Yam.	Kishi- wada		*			1890- 1916	
Komatsu- bara Eitarō	Edu.	14/7/08 30/8/11	Yam.	To- yama		Home Min.			1900- 1916	
Ōura Kanetake	Agr.	14/7/08 30/8/11	Yam.	Sat.		Home Min.			1900- 1915	
Gotō Shimpei	Com.	14/7/08 30/8/11	Kat.	Iwate		Home Min.			1903- 1929	
Reshuffles										
Komura Jūtarō	For.	27/8/08 30/8/11		Obi		For. Min.				
Komatsu- bara Eitarō	Tem. Agr.	28/3/10 3/9/10								

## SECOND SAIONJI MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Saionji Kimmochi	P.M.	30/8/11 21/12/12	Itō	Kuge		*			1890- 1940	<u>Seiyūkai</u> President
Uchida Yasuya	For.	30/8/11 21/12/12		Kuma- moto		For. Min.				
Hara Kei	Home	30/8/11 21/12/12		Riku- chū		For. Min.				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Yamamoto Tatsuo	Fin.	30/8/11 21/12/12		Ōita					1903- 1947	Pro- <u>Seiyūkai</u>
Ishimoto Shinroku	Army	30/8/11 2/4/12		Hyōgo			Lt. Gen.			
Saitō Makoto	Navy	7/1/06 16/4/14		Sen- dai				Vice Adm.		
Matsuda Masahisa	Jus.	30/8/11 21/12/12		Saga						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Haseba Junkō	Edu.	30/8/11 21/12/12		Sat.						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Makino Shinken	Agr.	30/8/11 21/12/12		Sat.		For. Min.				
Hayashi Tadasu	Com.	30/8/11 21/12/12		Chiba		For. Min.				
Reshuffles										
Hayashi Tadasu	Tem. For.	30/8/11 16/10/11								
Uehara Yūsaku	Army	5/4/12 21/12/12		Miya- zaki			Lt. Gen.			
Makino Shinken	Tem. Edu.	9/11/12 21/12/12								

11th Election: May 15 1912.

## THIRD KATSURA MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Katsura Tarō	P.M.	21/12/12 20/2/13	*	Chō.			Ex.- Gen.		1907- 1913	<u>Dōshikai</u> President
Katsura Tarō	For.	21/12/12 29/1/13								
Ōura Kanetake	Home	21/12/12 20/2/13	Kat.	Sat.		Home Min.			1900- 1915	<u>Dōshikai</u> Member
Wakatsuki Reijirō	Fin.	21/12/12 20/2/13	Kat.	Mat- sue		Fin. Min.			1911- 1947	<u>Dōshikai</u> Member
Kigoshi Yasutsuna	Army	21/12/12 24/6/13	Kat.	Kana- zawa			Lt. Gen.			
Saitō Makoto	Navy	7/1/06 16/4/14		Sen- dai				Adm.		
Matsumuro Itaru	Jus.	21/12/12 20/2/13		Koku- ra		Jus. Min.				
Shibata Kamon	Edu.	21/12/12 20/2/13	Kat.	Chō.		Home Min.			1903- 1919	
Nakakōji Ren	Agr.	21/12/12 20/2/13	Kat.	Chō.		Jus. Min.			1911- 1923	<u>Dōshikai</u> Member
Gotō Shimpei	Com.	21/12/12 20/2/13	Kat.	Iwate		Home Min.			1903- 1929	<u>Dōshikai</u> Member
Reshuffles										
Katō Kōmei	For.	29/1/13 20/2/13	Itō	Owari		For. Min.				<u>Dōshikai</u> Member

## FIRST YAMAMOTO MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	Batsu	Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Yamamoto Gombei	P.M.	20/2/13 16/4/14		Sat.				Adm.		
Makino Shinken	For.	20/2/13 16/4/14		Sat.		For. Min.				Pro- <u>Seiyūkai</u>
Hara Kei	Home	20/2/13 16/4/14		Riku- chū		For. Min.				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Takahashi Korekiyo	Fin.	20/2/13 16/4/14		Edo		Fin. Min.			1905- 1924	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Kigoshi Yasutsuna	Army	21/2/12 24/6/13	Kat.	Kana- zawa				Lt. Gen.		
Saitō Makoto	Navy	7/1/06 16/4/14		Sen- dai						
Matsuda Masahisa	Jus.	20/2/13 11/11/13		Saga						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Okuda Yoshindo	Edu.	20/2/13 6/3/14	Itō	Tot- tori		*			1912- 1917	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Yamamoto Tatsuo	Agr.	20/2/13 16/4/14		Ōita					1903- 1947	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Motoda Hajime	Com.	20/2/13 16/4/14		Ōita						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Reshuffles										
Kusunose Yukihiro	Army	24/6/13 16/4/14		Tosa				Lt. Gen.		
Okuda Yoshindo	Tem.	11/11/13								
"	Jus.	6/3/14								
"	"	6/3/14								
"	"	16/4/14								
Ōoka Ikuzō	Edu.	6/8/14 16/4/14		Chō.						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected

## SECOND ŌKUMA MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Ōkuma Shigenobu	P.M.	16/4/14 9/10/16		Hizen		*				Past
Katō Kōmei	For.	16/4/14 10/8/15	Itō	Owari		For. Min.				<u>Dōshikai</u> Member
Ōkuma Shigenobu	Home	16/4/14 7/1/15								
Wakatsuki Reijirō	Fin.	16/4/14 10/8/15	Kat.	Mat-sue		Fin. Min.			1911- 1917	<u>Dōshikai</u> Member
Oka Ichinosuke	Army	16/4/14 30/3/16	Yam.	Chō.			Lt. Gen.			
Yashiro Rokurō	Navy	16/4/14 10/8/15		Owari				Vice Adm.		
Ozaki Yukio	Jus.	16/4/14 9/10/16		Kana-gawa						<u>Chūseikai</u> Elected
Ichiki Kitokurō	Edu.	16/4/14 10/8/15	Yam.	Shizu-oka		Home Min.			1900- 1917	
Ōura Kanetake	Agr.	16/4/14 7/1/15	Kat.	Sat.		Home Min.			1900- 1915	<u>Dōshikai</u> Member
Taketomi Tokitoshi	Com.	16/4/14 10/8/15		Saga						<u>Dōshikai</u> Elected
Reshuffles										
Ōkuma Shigenobu	For.	10/8/15 13/10/15								
Ishii Kikujirō	For.	13/10/15 9/10/16		Chiba		For. Min.				
Ōura Kanetake	Home	7/1/15 30/7/15								

				Privy Civil		Upper Lower	
		<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Coun.	Ser.	Army Navy	House House
Ōkuma	Home	30/7/15					
Shigenobu		10/8/15					
Ichiki	Home	10/8/15					
Kitokurō		9/10/16					
Taketomi	Fin.	10/8/15					
Tokitoshi		9/10/16					
Ōshima	Army	30/3/16	Shiga			Lt.	
Ken'ichi		29/9/18				Gen.	
Katō	Navy	10/8/15	Hiro-			Vice	
Tomosaburō		12/6/22	shima			Adm.	
Takata	Edu.	10/8/15	Tokyo	*		1915-	<u>Dōshikai</u>
Sanae		9/10/16				1938	Member
Kōno	Agr.	7/1/15	Mi-				<u>Dōshikai</u>
Hironaka		9/10/16	haru				Elected
Minoura	Com.	10/8/15	Ōita				<u>Dōshikai</u>
Katsundo		9/10/16					Elected

12th Election: March 15 1915.

## TERAUCHI MINISTRY

			<u>Genrō</u>	<u>Batsu</u>	Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Terauchi Masatake	P.M.	9/10/16 29/9/18	Yam.	Chō.			Fld. Mar.			
"	For.	9/10/16 21/11/16								
Gotō Shimpei	Home	9/10/16 23/4/18	Kat.	Iwate		Home Min.			1903- 1929	Pro- <u>Seiyūkai</u>
Terauchi Masatake	Fin.	9/10/16 16/12/16								
Ōshima Ken'ichi	Army	30/3/16 29/9/18		Shiga			Lt. Gen.			
Katō Tomosaburō	Navy	10/8/15 12/6/22		Hiroshima				Adm.		
Matsumuro Itaru	Jus.	9/10/16 29/9/18		Kokura		Jus. Min.				
Okada Ryōhei	Edu.	9/10/16 29/9/18		Kakegawa		Edu. Min.			1904- 1929	
Nakakōji Ren	Agr.	9/10/16 29/9/18	Kat.	Chō.		Jus. Min.			1911- 1923	Ex- <u>Dōshikai</u>
Den Kenjirō	Com.	9/10/16	Yam.	Hyōgo		Com. Min.			1906- 1926	Ex- <u>Seiyūkai</u>
Reshuffles										
Motono Ichirō	For.	21/11/16 23/4/18		Saga		For. Min.				
Gotō Shimpei	For.	23/4/18 29/9/18								
Mizuno Rentarō	Home	23/4/18 29/9/18		Tokyo		Home Min.			1912- 1946	<u>Seiyūkai</u>
Katsuda Shukei	Fin.	16/12/16 19/9/18		Ehime		Fin. Min.				

13th Election: April 20 1917.



Appendix IV. Cabinet Composition. 1918-1932

## HARA MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Hara Kei	P.M.	29/9/18 4/11/21		For. Min.				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Uchida Yasuya	For.	29/9/18 2/9/23		For. Min.				
Tokonami Takejirō	Home	29/9/18 12/6/22		*				Elected <u>Seiyūkai</u>
Takahashi Korekiyo	Fin.	29/9/18 13/11/21		Fin. Min.			<u>Chawa-</u> <u>Kai</u>	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Tanaka Giichi	Army	29/9/18 9/6/21			Lt. Gen.			
Katō Tomosaburō	Navy	10/8/15 12/6/22				Adm.		
Hara Kei	Jus.	29/9/18 15/5/20						
Nakahashi Tokugorō	Edu.	29/9/18 12/6/22		*				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Yamamoto Tatsuo	Agr.	29/9/18 12/6/22					<u>Kōyū</u> <u>Club</u>	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Noda Utarō	Com.	29/9/18 12/6/22						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Motoda Hajime	Rail.	15/5/20 12/6/22						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Reshuffles								
Uchida Yasuya	Tem. P.M.	4/11/21 13/11/21						

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Yamanashi	Army	9/6/21						
Hanzō		2/9/23						
Ōki	Jus.	15/5/20						
Enkichi		12/6/22						
							<u>Kenkyū</u>	
							<u>kai</u>	

14th Election: May 10 1920.

## TAKAHASHI MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Takahashi Korekiyo	P.M.	13/11/21 12/6/22		Fin. Min.			<u>Chawa-</u> <u>kai</u>	<u>Seiyūkai</u> President
Uchida Yasuya	For.	29/9/18 2/9/23		For. Min.				
Tokonami Takejirō	Home	29/9/18 12/6/22		*				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Takehashi Korekiyo	Fin.	13/11/21 12/6/22						
Yamanashi Hanzō	Army	9/6/21 2/9/23			Lt. Gen.			
Katō Tomosaburō	Navy	10/8/15 12/6/22				Adm.		
Ōki Enkichi	Jus.	15/5/20 12/6/22					<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Nakahashi Tokugorō	Edu.	29/9/18 12/6/22		*				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Yamamoto Tatsuo	Agr.	29/9/18 12/6/22					<u>Kōyū</u> Club	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Noda Utarō	Com.	29/9/18 12/6/22						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Motoda Hajime	Rail.	15/5/20 12/6/22						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected

## KATŌ TOMOSABURŌ MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Katō Tomosaburō	P.M.	12/6/22 25/8/23				Adm.		
Uchida Yasuya	For.	29/9/18 2/9/23		For. Min.				
Mizuno Rentarō	Home	12/6/22 2/9/23		Home Min.			<u>Kōyū</u> Club.	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Ichiki Otohiko	Fin.	12/6/22 2/9/23		Fin. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Yamanashi Hanzō	Army	9/6/21 2/9/23			Gen.			
Katō Tomosaburō	Navy	12/6/22 15/5/23						
Okano Keijirō	Jus.	12/6/22 2/9/23		Jus. Min.			<u>Kōyū</u> Club	
Kamata Eikichi	Edu.	12/6/22 2/9/23					<u>Kōyū</u> Club	
Arai Kentarō	Agr.	12/6/22 2/9/23		Fin. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Maeda Toshisada	Com.	12/6/22 2/9/23					<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Ōki Enkichi	Rail.	12/6/22 2/9/23					<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Reshuffles								
Uchida Yasuya	Tem. P.M.	25/8/23 2/9/23						
Takarabe Takeshi	Navy	15/5/23 7/1/24				Adm.		

## YAMAMOTO II MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Yamamoto Gombei	P.M.	2/9/23 7/1/24				Adm.		
"	For.	2/9/23 19/9/23						
Gotō Shimpei	Home	2/9/23 7/1/24		*			<u>Chawa-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Inoue Junnosuke	Fin.	2/9/23 7/1/24					1924	
Tanaka Giichi	Army	2/9/23 7/1/24			Gen.			
Takarabe Takeshi	Navy	15/5/23 7/1/24				Adm.		
Den Kenjirō	Jus.	2/9/23 6/9/23		Com. Min.			<u>Chawa-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Inukai Tsuyoshi	Edu.	2/9/23 6/9/23						<u>Kakushin</u> Elected
Den Kenjirō	Agr.	2/9/23 24/23/23						
Inukai Tsuyoshi	Com.	2/9/23 7/1/24						
Yamanouchi Kazutsugu	Rail.	2/9/23 7/1/24		Home Min.			<u>Kōyū-</u> Club	
Reshuffles								
Ijūin Hikokichi	For.	19/9/23 7/1/24		For. Min.				
Hiranuma Kiichirō	Jus.	6/9/23 7/1/24		Jus. Min.				

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Okano Keijirō	Edu.	6/9/23 7/1/24		Jus. Min.			<u>Kōyū-</u> Club	
"	Agr.	24/12/23 7/1/24						

## KEYOURA MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Kiyoura Keigo	P.M.	7/1/24 11/6/24	Pres.	*				
Matsui Keishirō	For.	7/1/24 11/6/24		For. Min.				
Mizuno Rentarō	Home	7/1/24 11/6/24		Home Min.			<u>Kōyū</u> Club	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Katsuda Shukei	Fin.	7/1/24 11/6/24		Fin. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Ugaki Kazushige	Army	7/1/24 20/4/27			Lt. Gen.			
Murakami Kakuichi	Navy	7/1/24 11/6/24				Adm.		
Suzuki Kisaburō	Jus.	7/1/24 11/6/24		Jus. Min.			<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	
Egi Senshi	Edu.	7/1/24 11/6/24		Edu. Min.			<u>Chawa-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Maeda Toshisada	Agr.	7/1/24 11/6/24					<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Fujimura Yoshirō	Com.	7/1/24 11/6/24					<u>Kōyū</u> Club	
Komatsu Kenjirō	Rail.	7/1/24 11/6/24		Com. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	

15th Election: May 10 1924.

## KATŌ KŌMEI MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Katō Kōmei	P.M.	11/6/24 28/1/26		For. Min.			<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	<u>Kenseikai</u> President
Shidehara Kijūrō	For.	11/6/24 20/4/27		For. Min.				
Wakatsuki Reijirō	Home	11/6/24 30/1/26		Fin. Min.			<u>Chawa-</u> <u>kai</u>	<u>Kenseikai</u> Member
Hamaguchi Osachi	Fin.	11/6/24 3/6/26		Fin. Min.				<u>Kenseikai</u> Elected
Ugaki Kazushige	Army	7/1/24 20/4/27			Lt. Gen.			
Takarabe Takeshi	Navy	11/6/24 20/4/27				Adm.		
Yokota Sen'nosuke	Jus.	11/6/24 5/2/25						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Okada Ryōhei	Edu.	11/6/24 20/4/27		Edu. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Takahashi Korekiyo	Agr.	11/6/24 1/4/25		Fin. Min.				<u>Seiyūkai</u> President
Inukai Tsuyoshi	Com.	11/6/24 30/5/25						<u>Kakushin</u> Elected
Sengoku Mitsugu	Rail.	11/6/24 3/6/26						<u>Kenseikai</u> Member
Reshuffles								
Ogawa Heikichi	Jus.	9/2/25 2/8/25						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Takahashi Korekiyo	Com. Ind.	1/4/25 17/4/25						



			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Okazaki	Agr.	17/4/25						<u>Seiyūkai</u>
Kunisuke	For.	2/8/25						<u>Elected</u>
Noda	Com.	17/4/25						<u>Seiyūkai</u>
Utarō	Ind.	2/8/25						<u>Elected</u>
Adachi	Com.	30/5/25						<u>Kenseikai</u>
Kenzō		20/4/27						<u>Elected</u>
Egi	Jus.	2/8/25		*			<u>Dōsei-</u>	<u>Kenseikai</u>
Tasuku		20/4/27					kai	Member
Hayami	Agr.	2/8/25						<u>Kenseikai</u>
Seiji	For.	3/6/26						<u>Elected</u>
Kataoka	Com.	2/8/25						<u>Kenseikai</u>
Naoharu	Ind.	14/9/26						<u>Elected</u>
Wakatsuki	Tem.	26/1/26						
Reijirō	P.M.	30/1/26						

## FIRST WAKATSUKI MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Wakatsuki Reijirō	P.M.	30/1/26 20/4/27		Fin. Min.			<u>Chawa-</u> <u>kai</u>	President <u>Kenseikai</u>
Shidehara Kijūrō	For.	11/6/24 20/4/27		For. Min.			<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	
Wakatsuki Reijirō	Home	30/1/26 3/6/26						
Hamagushi Osachi	Fin.	11/6/24 3/6/26		Fin. Min.				<u>Kenseikai</u> Elected
Ugaki Kazushige	Army	7/1/24 20/4/27			Gen.			
Takarabe Takeshi	Navy	11/6/24 20/4/27				Adm.		
Egi Tasuku	Jus.	2/8/25 20/4/27		*			<u>Dōsei-</u> <u>kai</u>	<u>Kenseikai</u> Member
Okada Ryōhei	Edu.	11/6/24 20/4/27		Edu. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Hayami Seiji	Agr. For.	2/8/25 3/6/26						<u>Kenseikai</u> Elected
Kataoka Naoharu	Com. Ind.	2/8/25 14/9/26						<u>Kenseikai</u> Elected
Adachi Kenzō	Com.	30/5/25 20/4/27						<u>Kenseikai</u> Elected
Sengoku Mitsugu	Rail.	11/6/24 3/6/26					<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	<u>Kenseikai</u> Member
Reshuffles								
Hamaguchi Osachi	Home	3/6/26 20/4/27						

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Hayami Seiji	Fin.	3/6/26 14/9/26						
Machida Chūji	Agr. For.	3/6/26 20/4/27						<u>Kenseikai</u> Elected
Fujisawa Ikunosuke	Com. Ind.	14/9/26 20/4/27						<u>Kenseikai</u> Elected
Inoue Tadashirō	Rail.	3/6/26 20/4/27					<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Kataoka Naoharu	Fin.	14/9/26 20/4/27						

## TANAKA MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Tanaka Giichi	P.M.	20/4/27 2/7/29			Gen.		<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	<u>Seiyūkai</u> President
Tanaka Giichi	For.	"						
Suzuki Kisaburō	Home	20/4/27 4/5/28		Jus. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Takahashi Korekiyo	Fin.	20/4/27 2/6/27		Fin. Min.				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Shirakawa Yoshinori	Army	20/4/27 2/7/29			Gen.			
Okada Keisuke	Navy	20/4/27 2/7/29				Adm.		
Hara Yoshimichi	Jus.	20/4/27 2/7/29		(Law- yer)				
Mitsuchi Chūzō	Edu.	20/4/27 2/6/27						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Yamamoto Teijirō	Agr. For.	20/4/27 2/7/29						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Nakahashi Tokugorō	Com. Ind.	20/4/27 2/7/29		*				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Mochizuki Keisuke	Com.	20/4/27 23/5/28						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Ogawa Heikichi	Rail.	20/4/27 2/7/29						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Tanaka Giichi	Col.	10/6/29 2/7/29						

Privy	Civil			Upper	Lower
Coun.	Ser.	Army	Navy	House	House

## Reshuffles

Tanaka	Home	4/5/28			
Giichi		23/5/28			

Mochizuki	Home	23/5/28			
Keisuke		2/7/29			

Mitsuchi	Fin.	2/6/27			
Chūzō		2/7/29			

Mizuno	Edu.	2/6/27	Home	<u>Kōyū-</u>	<u>Seiyūkai</u>
Rentarō		25/5/28	Min.	Club	Member

Katsuda	Edu.	25/5/28	Fin.	<u>Kenkū-</u>	
Shukei		2/7/29	Min.	<u>kai</u>	

Kuhara	Com.	23/5/28			<u>Seiyūkai</u>
Fusanosuke		2/7/29			Elected

16th Election: February 20 1928.

## HAMAGUCHI MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Hamaguchi Osachi	P.M.	2/7/29 14/4/31		Fin. Min.				<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Shidehara Kijūrō	For.	2/7/29 13/12/31		For. Min.			<u>Dōwa-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Adachi Kenzō	Home	2/7/29 13/12/31						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Inoue Junnosuke	Fin.	2/7/29 13/12/31					<u>Dōsei-</u> <u>kai</u>	<u>Minseitō</u> Member
Ugaki Kazushige	Army	2/7/29 14/4/31			Gen.			
Takarabe Takeshi	Navy	2/7/29 3/10/30				Adm.		
Watanabe Chifuyu	Jus.	2/7/29 13/12/31					<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Kobashi Kazuta	Edu.	2/7/29 29/11/29		Home Min.				<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Machida Chūji	Agr. For.	2/7/29 13/12/31						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Tawara Magoichi	Com. Ind.	2/7/29 14/4/31		*				<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Koizumi Matajirō	Com.	2/7/29 13/12/31						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Egi Tasuku	Rail.	2/7/29 10/9/31		*			<u>Dōsei-</u> <u>kai</u>	<u>Minseitō</u> Member
Matsuda Genji	Col.	2/7/29 14/4/31						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Reshuffles								
Shidehara Kijūrō	Tem. P.M.	15/11/30 9/3/31						



## SECOND WAKATSUKI MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Wakatsuki Reijirō	P.M.	14/4/31 13/12/31		Fin. Min.			<u>Dōwa-</u> <u>kai</u>	President <u>Minseitō</u>
Shidehara Kijūrō	For.	2/7/29 13/12/31		For. Min.			<u>Dōwa-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Adachi Kenzō	Home	2/7/29 13/12/31						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Inoue Junnosuke	Fin.	2/7/29 13/12/31					<u>Dōsei-</u> <u>kai</u>	<u>Minseitō</u> Member
Minami Jirō	Army	14/4/31 13/12/31			Gen.			
Abo Kiyokazu	Navy	3/10/30 13/12/31				Adm.		
Watanabe Chifuyu	Jus.	2/7/29 13/12/31					<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Tanaka Ryūzō	Edu.	29/11/29 13/12/31		Agr. Min.				<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Machida Chūji	Agr. For.	2/7/29 13/12/31						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Sakurauchi Yukio	Com. Ind.	14/4/31 13/12/31						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Koizumi Matajirō	Com.	2/7/29 13/12/31						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Egi Tasuku	Rail.	2/7/29 10/9/31		*			<u>Dōsei-</u> <u>kai</u>	<u>Minseitō</u> Member
Hara Shūjirō	Col.	14/4/31 10/9/31		*				<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Reshuffles								
Hara Shūjirō	Rail.	10/9/31 13/12/31						



			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Wakatsuki	Col.	10/9/31						
Reijirō		13/12/31						

## INUKAI MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Inukai Tsuyoshi	P.M.	13/12/31 16/5/32						<u>Seiyūkai</u> President
"	For.	13/12/31 14/1/32						
Nakahashi Tokugorō	Home	13/12/31 16/3/32		*				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Takahashi Korekiyo	Fin.	13/12/31 8/7/34		Fin. Min.				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Araki Sadao	Army	13/12/31 23/1/34			Lt. Gen.			
Ōsumi Mineo	Navy	13/12/31 26/5/32				Adm.		
Suzuki Kisaburō	Jus.	13/12/31 25/3/32		Jus. Min.			<u>Kēnkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	<u>Seiyūkai</u> Member
Hatoyama Ichirō	Edu.	13/12/31 3/3/34						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Yamamoto Teijirō	Agr. For.	13/12/31 26/5/32						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Maeda Yonezō	Com. Ind.	13/12/31 26/5/32						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Mitsuchi Chūzō	Com.	13/12/31 26/5/32						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Tokonami Takejirō	Rail.	13/12/31 26/5/32		*				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Hata Toyosuke	Col.	13/12/31 26/5/32		Home Min.				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Reshuffles								
Takahashi Korekiyo	Tem. P.M.	16/5/32 26/5/32						

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Yoshizawa Ken'kichi	For.	14/1/32 26/5/32		For. Min.				
Suzuki Kisaburō	Home	25/3/32 26/5/32						
Kawamura Takeji	Jus.	25/3/32 26/5/32		Home Min.			<u>Kōyū</u> Club	

18th Election: February 20 1932.

Appendix V. Cabinet Composition, 1932-1940

## SAITŌ MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Saitō Makoto	P.M.	26/5/32 8/7/34				Adm.		
"	For.	26/5/32 6/7/32						
Yamamoto Tatsuo	Home	26/5/32 8/7/34					<u>Kōyū Club</u>	<u>Minseitō Member</u>
Takahashi Korekiyo	Fin.	13/12/31 8/7/34		Fin. Min.				<u>Seiyūkai Member</u>
Araki Sadao	Army	13/12/31 23/1/34			Lt. Gen.			
Okada Keisuke	Navy	26/5/32 9/1/33				Adm.		
Koyama Matsukichi	Jus.	26/5/32 8/7/34		Jus. Min.				
Hatoyama Ichirō	Edu.	13/12/31 3/3/34						<u>Seiyūkai Elected</u>
Gotō Fumio	Agr.	26/5/32 8/7/34		Home Min.			<u>Musho- zoku</u>	
Nakajima Kumakichi	Com. Ind.	26/5/32 9/2/34		*			<u>Kōsei- kai</u>	
Minami Hiroshi	Com.	26/5/32 8/7/34		*			<u>Kōyū Club</u>	
Mitsuchi Chūzō	Rail.	26/5/32 8/7/34						<u>Seiyūkai Elected</u>
Nagai Ryutarō	Col.	26/5/32 8/7/34						<u>Minseitō Elected</u>

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Reshuffles								
Uchida Yasuya	For.	6/7/32 14/9/33		For. Min.			<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	
Hayashi Senjūrō	Army	23/1/34 5/9/35			Gen.			
Hirota Kōki	P.M.	14/9/33 9/3/36		For. Min.				
Ōsumi Mineo	Navy	9/1/33 9/3/36				Adm.		
Saitō Makoto	Edu.	3/3/34 8/7/34						
Matsumoto Jōji	Com. Ind.	9/2/34 8/7/34		Agr. Com.			<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	

## OKADA MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Okada Keisuke	P.M.	8/7/34 9/3/36				Adm.		
Hirota Kōki	For.	14/9/33 9/3/36		For. Min.				
Gotō Fumio	Home	8/7/34 9/3/36		Home Min.			<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	
Fujii Masanobu	Fin.	8/7/34 27/11/34		Fin. Min.				
Hayashi Senjūrō	Army	23/1/34 5/9/35			Gen.			
Ōsumi Mineo	Navy	9/1/33 9/6/36				Adm.		
Ohara Naoshi	Jus.	8/7/34 9/3/36		Jus. Min.				
Matsuda Genji	Edu.	8/7/34 1/2/36						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Yamazaki Tatsunosuke	Agr.	8/7/34 9/3/36		Edu. Min.				<u>Seiyūkai</u> Expelled
Machida Chūji	Com. Ind.	8/7/34 9/3/36						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Tokonami Takejirō	Com.	8/7/34 8/9/35			*			<u>Seiyūkai</u> Expelled
Uchida Nobuya	Rail	8/7/34 9/3/36						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Expelled
Okada Keisuke	Col.	8/7/34 25/20/34						

Privy	Civil			Upper	Lower
Coun.	Ser.	Army	Navy	House	House

## Reshuffles

Gotō	Tem.	26/2/36			
Fumio	P.M.	28/2/36			
Takahashi	Fin.	27/11/34	Fin.		<u>Seiyūkai</u>
Korekiyo		26/2/36	Min.		Member
Machida	Fin.	27/2/36			
Chūji		9/3/36			
Kawasaki	Edu.	2/2/36	*		<u>Dōwa-</u>
Takukichi		9/3/36			<u>kai</u> <u>Minseitō</u>
					Member
Okada	Com.	9/9/35			
Keisuke		12/9/35			
Mochizuki	Com.	12/9/35			<u>Seiyūkai</u>
Keisuke		9/3/36			Elected
Kodama	Col.	25/10/34	*		<u>Kenkyū-</u>
Hideo		9/3/36			<u>kai</u>
Kawashima	Army	5/9/35		Gen.	
Yoshiyuki		9/3/36			

19th Election: February 20 1936.

## HIROTA MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Hirota Kōki	P.M.	9/3/36 2/2/37		For. Min.				
"	For.	9/3/36 2/4/36						
Ushio Shigenosuke	Home	9/3/36 2/2/37		Home Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Baba Eiichi	Fin.	9/3/36 2/2/37		Fin. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Terauchi Hisaichi	Army	9/3/36 2/2/37			Gen.			
Nagano Osami	Navy	9/3/36 2/2/37				Adm.		
Hayashi Raisaburō	Jus.	9/3/36 2/2/37		Jus. Min.				
Ushio Shigenosuke	Edu.	9/3/36 25/3/36						
Shimada Toshio	Agr.	9/3/36 2/2/37						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Kawasaki Takukichi	Com. Ind.	9/3/36 27/3/36		Home Min.			<u>Dōwa-</u> <u>kai</u>	<u>Minseitō</u> <u>Member</u>
Tanomogi Keikichi	Com.	9/3/36 2/2/37						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Maeda Yonezō	Rail.	9/3/36 2/2/37						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Nagata Hidejirō	Col.	9/3/36 2/2/37		Home Min.			<u>Dōwa-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Reshuffles								
Arita Hachirō	For.	2/4/36 2/2/37		For. Min.				



			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Hirao	Edu.	25/3/36					<u>Musho-</u>	
Hassaburō		2/2/37					<u>zoku</u>	
Ogawa	Com.	28/3/36						<u>Minseitō</u>
Gōtarō	Ind.	2/2/37						Elected

## HAYASHI MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Hayashi Senjūrō	P.M.	2/2/37 4/6/37			Gen.			
"	For.	2/2/37 3/3/37						
Kawarada Kakichi	Home	2/2/37 4/6/37		Home Min.				
Yūki Toyotarō	Fin.	2/2/37 4/6/37					<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Nakamura Kōtarō	Army	2/2/37 9/2/37			Lt. Gen.			
Yonai Mitsumasa	Navy	2/2/37 30/8/39				Vice Adm.		
Shiono Suehiko	Jus.	2/2/37 30/8/39		Jus. Min.				
Hayashi Senjūrō	Edu.	2/2/37 4/6/37						
Yamazaki Tatsunosuke	Agr.	2/2/37 4/6/37		Edu. Min.			<u>Shōwakai</u> Elected	
Godō Takuo	Com. Ind.	2/2/37 4/6/37				Adm.		
Yamazaki Tatsunosuke	Com.	2/2/37 10/2/37						
Godō Takuo	Rail.	2/2/37 4/6/37						
Yūki Toyotarō	Col.	2/2/37 4/6/37						
Reshuffles								
Satō Naotake	For.	3/3/37 4/6/37		For. Min.				

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Sugiyama Gen	Army	9/2/37 3/6/38			Gen.			
Kodama Hideo	Com.	10/2/37 4/6/37		*			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	

20th Election: April 30 1937.

## FIRST KONOE MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Konoe Fumimaro	P.M.	4/6/37 5/1/39					Pres. 1933	
Hirota Kōki	For.	4/6/37 26/5/38		For. Min.			<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	
Baba Eiichi	Home	4/6/37 24/12/37		Fin. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Kaya Okinori	Fin.	4/6/37 26/5/38		Fin. Min.				
Sugiyama Gen	Army	9/2/37 3/6/38			Gen.			
Yonai Mitsumasa	Navy	2/2/37 30/8/39				Adm.		
Shiono Suehiko	Jus.	2/2/37 30/8/39		Jus. Min.				
Yasui Eiji	Edu.	4/6/37 22/10/37		Home Min.				
Arima Yoriyasu	Agr.	4/6/37 5/1/39					<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Yoshino Shinji	Com. Ind.	4/6/37 26/5/38		Agr. Com.				
Nagai Ryūtarō	Com.	4/6/37 5/1/39						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Nakajima Chikuhei	Rail.	4/6/37 5/1/39						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Ōtani Sonyū	Col.	4/6/37 25/6/38					<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Kido Kōichi	Wel.	11/1/38 5/1/39		*			<u>Kayō-</u> <u>kai</u>	

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Ugaki Kazushige	For.	26/5/38 30/9/38			Gen.			
Konoe Fumimarō	For.	30/9/38 29/10/38						
Arita Hachirō	For.	29/10/38 30/8/39		For. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Suetsugu Nobumasa	Home	14/12/37 5/1/39				Adm.		
Ikeda Seihin	Fin.	26/5/38 5/1/39						
Itagaki Seishirō	Army	3/6/38 30/8/39			Lt. Gen.			
Kido Kōichi	Edu.	22/10/37 26/5/38						
Araki Sadao	Edu.	26/5/38 30/8/39			Gen.			
Ikeda Seihin	Com. Ind.	26/5/38 5/1/39						
Ugaki Kazushige	Col.	25/6/38 30/9/38						
Konoe Fumimarō	Col.	30/9/38 29/10/38						
Hatta Yoshiaki	Col.	29/10/38 5/1/39		Rail. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	

## HIRANUMA MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Hiranuma Kiichirō	P.M.	5/1/39 30/8/39	Past Pres.	Jus. Min.				
Arita Hachirō	For.	20/10/38 30/8/39		For. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Kido Kōichi	Home	5/1/39 30/8/39		*			<u>Kayō-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Ishiwata Sōtarō	Fin.	5/1/39 30/8/39		Fin. Min.				
Itagaki Seishirō	Army	3/6/38 30/8/39			Lt. Gen.			
Yonai Mitsumasa	Navy	2/2/37 30/8/39				Adm.		
Shiono Suehiko	Jus.	2/2/37 30/8/39		Jus. Min.				
Araki Sadao	Edu.	26/5/38 30/8/39			Gen.			
Sakurauchi Yukio	Agr.	5/1/39 30/8/39					<u>Minseitō</u> <u>Elected</u>	
Hatta Yoshiaki	Com. Ind.	5/1/39 30/8/39		Rail. Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Shiono Suehiko	Com.	5/1/39 7/4/39						
Maeda Yonezō	Rail.	5/1/39 30/8/39					<u>Seiyūkai</u> <u>Elected</u>	
Hatta Yoshiaki	Col.	5/1/39 7/4/39						
Hirose Hisatada	Wel.	5/1/39 30/8/39		Home Min.				
Konoe Fumimarō	State	5/1/39 30/8/39	Pres. 1939				<u>Kayō-</u> <u>kai</u>	

Privy	Civil				
Coun.	Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House

## Reshuffles

Tanabe	Com.	7/4/39	
Harumichi		30/8/39	

Com.
Min.

Koiso	Col.	7/4/39	
Kuniaki		30/8/39	

Gen.
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## ABE MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Abe Nobuyuki	P.M.	30/8/39 16/1/40			Gen.			
"	For.	30/8/39 25/9/39						
Ohara Naoshi	Home	30/8/39 16/1/40		Jus. Min.			<u>Dōwa-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Aoki Kazuo	Fin.	30/8/39 16/1/40		Fin. Min.			<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	
Hata Shunroku	Army	30/8/39 16/1/40			Gen.			
Yoshida Zengo	Navy	30/8/39 5/9/40				Vice Adm.		
Miyagi Chōgorō	Jus.	30/8/39 16/1/40		Jus. Min.				
Kawarada Kakichi	Edu.	30/8/39 16/1/40		Home Min.			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Godō Takuo	Agr.	30/8/39 16/10/39				Adm.	<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Godō Takuo	Com. Ind.	30/8/39 16/10/39						
Nagai Ryūtarō	Com.	30/8/38 16/1/40						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Nagai Ryūtarō	Rail.	30/8/39 29/11/39						
Kanemitsu Tsuneo	Col.	30/8/39 16/1/40		*				<u>Seiyūkai</u> (ex) Elected
Ohara Naoshi	Wel.	30/8/39 16/1/40						



Privy	Civil			Upper	Lower
Coun.	Ser.	Army	Navy	House	House

## Reshuffles

Nomura	For.	25/9/39		Adm.	
Kichisaburō		16/1/40			
Sakai	Agr.	16/10/39			<u>Kenkyū-</u>
Tadamasa		16/1/40			<u>kai</u>
Nagata	Rail.	29/11/39	Home		<u>Dōwa-</u>
Hidejirō		16/1/40	Min.		<u>kai</u>
Akita	Wel.	29/11/39			<u>Seiyūkai</u>
Kiyoshi		16/1/40			Elected

## YONAI MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Yonai Mitsumasa	P.M.	16/1/40 22/7/40				Adm.		
Arita Hachirō	For.	16/1/40 22/7/40		For. Min.				
Kodama Hideo	Home	16/1/40 22/7/40		*			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Sakurauchi Yukio	Fin.	16/1/40 22/7/40						<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Hata Shunroku	Army	16/1/40 22/7/40			Gen.			
Yoshida Zengo	Navy	30/8/39 5/9/40				Adm.		
Kimura Shōtatsu	Jus.	16/1/40 22/7/40		Jus. Min.				
Matsuura Shigejirō	Edu.	16/1/40 22/7/40		*	Edu. Min.			
Shimada Toshio	Agr.	16/1/40 22/7/40						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Fujihara Ginjirō	Com. Ind.	16/1/40 22/7/40					<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Katsu Masanori	Com.	16/1/40 22/7/40		Fin. Min.				<u>Minseitō</u> Elected
Matsuno Tsuruhei	Rail.	16/1/40 22/7/40						<u>Seiyūkai</u> Elected
Koiso Kuniaki	Col.	16/1/40 22/7/40			Gen.			
Yoshida Shigeru	Wel.	16/1/40 22/7/40		For. Min.				

## SECOND KONOE MINISTRY

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Konoe Fumimaro	P.M.	22/7/40 18/7/41	Past Pres.				<u>Kayō-</u> <u>kai</u>	Leader New Order
Matsuoka Yōsuke	For.	22/7/40 18/7/41		For. Min.				
Yasui Eiji	Home	22/7/40 21/12/40		Home Min.			<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	
Kawada Isao	Fin.	22/7/40 18/7/41		Fin. Min.			<u>Musho-</u> <u>zoku</u>	
Tōjō Hideki	Army	22/7/40 22/7/44			Lt. Gen.			
Yoshida Zengo	Navy	30/8/39 5/9/40				Vice Adm.		
Kazami Akira	Jus.	22/7/40 21/12/40						<u>Minseitō(ex)</u> Elected
Hashida Kunihiko	Edu.	22/7/40 20/4/43		Tōdai				
Ishiguro Tadaatsu	Agr.	24/7/40 11/6/41		Agr. Min.				
Kobayashi Ichizo	Com. Ind.	22/7/40 4/4/41					Industry (1941)	
Murata Shōzō	Com.	22/7/40 18/10/41					<u>Dōwa-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Murata Shōzō	Rail.	22/7/40 28/9/40						
Matsuoka Yōsuke	Col.	22/7/40 28/9/40						
Yasui Eiji	Wel.	22/7/40 28/9/40						

			Privy Coun.	Civil Ser.	Army	Navy	Upper House	Lower House
Hiranuma Kiichirō	Home	21/12/40 18/7/41	Past Pres.	Jus. Min.				
Oikawa Koshirō	Navy	5/9/40 18/10/41				Adm.		
Yanagawa Heisuke	Jus.	21/12/40 18/7/41			Lt. Gen.			
Ino Tetsuya	Agr. For.	11/6/41 20/4/43		Agr. Min.				
Kawada Isao	Com. Ind.	31/8/40 2/11/40						
Toyoda Teijirō	Com, Ind.	4/4/41 18/7/41				Adm.		
Ogawa Gōtarō	Rail.	28/9/40 18/7/41						<u>Minseitō</u> (ex) Elected
Akita Kiyoshi	Col.	28/9/40 18/7/41						<u>Seiyūkai</u> (ex) Elected
Kanemitsu Tsuneo	Wel.	28/9/40 18/7/41		*				<u>Seiyūkai</u> (ex) Elected
Hiranuma Kiichirō	State	6/12/40 21/12/40						
Hoshino Naoki	State	6/12/40 4/4/41		Fin. Min.				
Ogura Masatsune	State	2/4/41 18/7/41		*			<u>Kenkyū-</u> <u>kai</u>	
Suzuki Teiichi	State	4/4/41 8/10/43			Lt. Gen.			

## GLOSSARY

The Japanese characters for the almost 250 ministers in Appendices II-V are not given in this glossary. Most studies on the Japanese Cabinet include a list of Prime Ministers and their cabinets, and the reader can consult any one of them, for example, Naikaku Kanbō, Naikaku Seido Nanajūnenshi (Tokyo: Ōkurashō insatsukyoku, 1955), pp. 642-633. Only men who never served in cabinets, a few who did serve but were mentioned in other contexts, and Japanese terms used in the text and Appendices are listed here.

Chawakai (Tea Group)

茶話会

Chokunin (Imperial appointment)

勅任

Chōshū

長州

chōzen naikaku (transcendental cabinet)

超然内閣

Chūseikai (The Centrist Association)

中正会

Chūō Kurabu (The Centre Club)

中央俱樂部

Daidō Danketsu (Union of Like Thinkers)

大同團結

Dōseikai (Association of Like Thinkers)

同成会

Dōshikai (The Association of Friends)

同志会

Dōwakai (The Harmony Association)

同和会

Genkun naikaku (Cabinet of veteran statesmen)

元勲内閣

Genrō (Elder statesmen)

元老

Genrō kaigi (Conference of Elder statesmen)

元老会議

gun (district)

郡

Hamada Kunitatsu

hambatsu (Clan clique)

han (clan)

hannin (junior official)

chūseifuhen naikaku (strictly impartial cabinet)

Ichiki Kitokurō

Ishihara Kanji

Jiyū minken undō (Movement for Constitutional Government)

Jiyūtō (Liberal Party)

Jūshin (Senior Retainers)

Jūshin kaigi (Conference of Senior Retainers)

Kaishintō (Progressive Party)

Kakushin Kurabu (Renovationist Club)

Katsura-batsu naikaku (Katsura clique cabinet)

Kayōkai (Tuesday Association)

Kenkyūkai (Study Association)

Kenseikai (Constitutional Association)

Kenseitō (Constitutional Party)

Kenseihontō (Orthodox Constitutional Party)

Kido Takayoshi

Kikakuin (Planning Board)

Kōdōha (Imperial Way Faction)

Kokuhonsha (National Foundation Society)

浜田 国松

藩 閥

藩

判 任

中正不偏内閣

一木 喜徳郎

石原 莞爾

自由民権運動

自由党

重臣

重臣会議

改進黨

革新俱樂部

桂 閥 内閣

火曜会

研究会

憲政会

憲政党

憲政本党

木戸 孝允

企画院

皇道派

国本社

Kokumintō (People's Party)	国民党
Kokumin Kyōkai (The Nationalist Society)	国民協会
Kōyū Kurabu (Friendship Club)	交友俱樂部
Kuratomi Yūsaburō	倉富 勇三郎
kyokoku itchi (national unity)	興國一致
kyokoku itchi naikaku (national unity cabinet)	興國一致内閣
Makino Shinken	牧野 信顕
Matsui Iwane	松井 石根
Mazaki Jinzaburō	真崎 甚三郎
Minami Jirō	南 次郎
Minseitō (People's Political Party)	民政党
Mushozoku (Independent)	無所属
Nagata Tetsuzan	永田 鉄山
naikaku (cabinet)	内閣
Naikaku Shingikai (National Policy Deliberation Council)	内閣審議会
Nihon Rōdō Sōdōmei (Japan General Federation of Labour)	日本労働総同盟
Obata Toshishirō	小畑 敏四郎
Sangi (Councillors)	参議
Seiyūkai (Association of Political Friends)	政友会
Seiyūhontō (Orthodox Seiyūkai)	政友本党
Shakai Taishūtō (Social Masses Party)	社会大衆党
shikatsu (life and death)	死活
Shimpotō (Progressive Party)	進歩党

Shin sei-ji taisei (New political order)

Shiratori Toshio

sōnin (appointment made with Emperor's approval)

Suzuki Teiichi

Taisei Yokusan Kai (Imperial Rule Assistance Association)

Tani Masayuki

Tōgō Heihachirō

Tōseiha (Control Faction)

Uehara Yūsaku

zaibatsu (financial cliques)

zaikai (financial world)

新政治体制

白鳥 敏夫

奏任

鈴木 貞一

大政翼賛会

谷 正之

東郷 平八郎

統制派

上原 勇作

財閥

財界