

Abstract

The Japanese political party system has been a typical representative of the predominant party system in modern democratic society for a few decades now. Although its legitimacy was often criticized by academics as well as by the public, it was characterized by a remarkable endurance of the dominant Liberal Democratic Party of Japan. Even with the electoral reform in 1994, whose objective was to eliminate this particular system, it persisted, at least seemingly. It was not until 2009 when predictions of many political scientists came to pass through the influence of many neoliberal reforms, which resulted in an increased volatility of voters and thus there was a first real opportunity for shift of power and creation of a bipartism. Unfortunately it ended in a devastating failure tightly connected with an unsuccessful administration of the Democratic Party of Japan, which caused an increasing political mistrust among people and a rise of Liberal Democratic Party of Japan to power again. This thesis studies the development and specifics of the Japanese political party system through recent years and its determining factors. Part of this thesis therefore evaluates political and social theories in a context of the Japanese environment. Main focus of the thesis is to apply these theories to the Japanese political party system in key historical moments and to analyze and characterize it.