

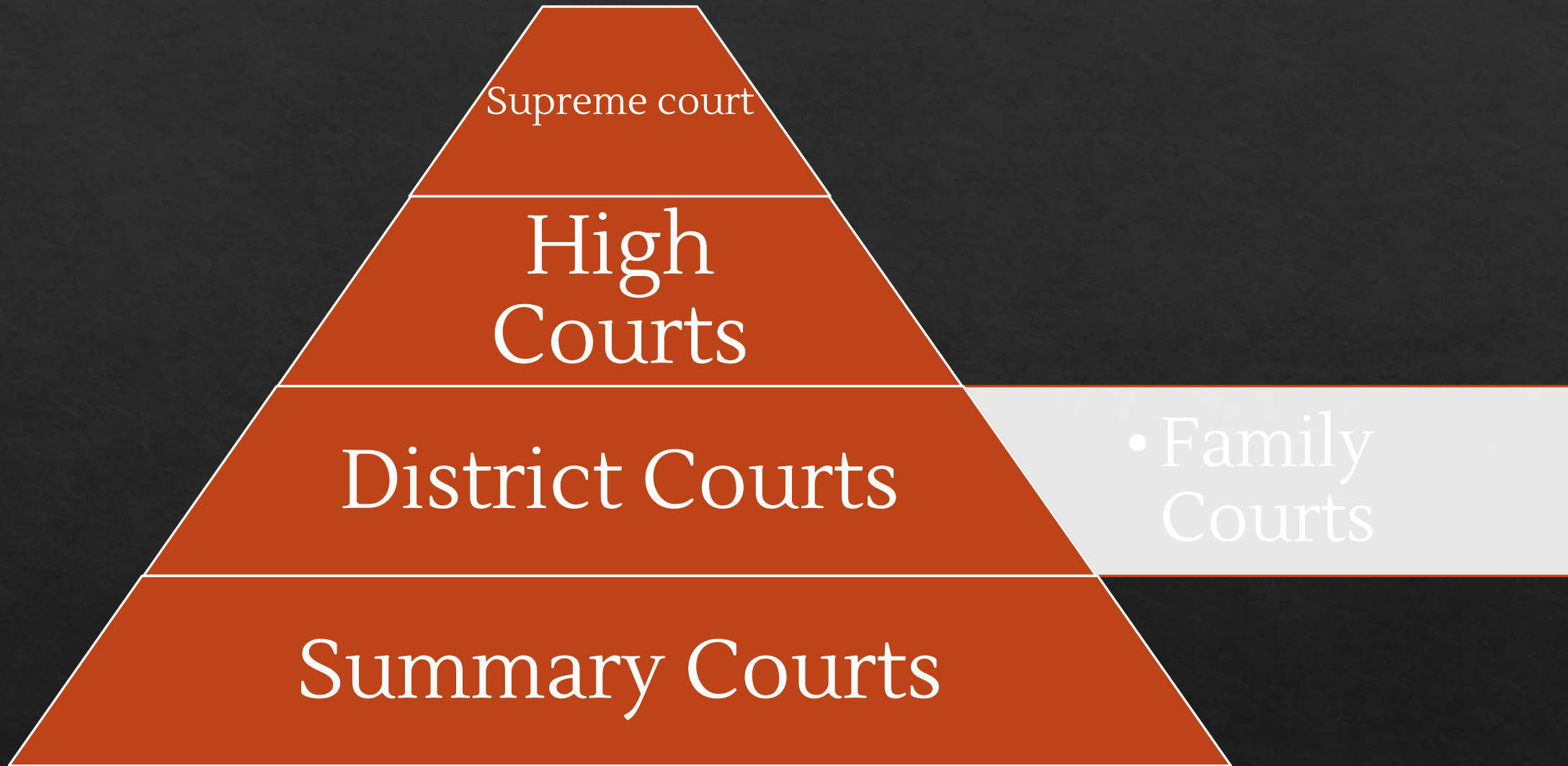
JAPAN

Administrative Division

- ❖ Japan is a unitary state
- ❖ Japan is divided into 47 prefectures
- ❖ The central government delegates many functions (such as education and the police force) to the prefectures and municipalities, but retains the overall right to control them.



Judicial Branch



The Emperor of Japan is the Head of State. His Functions Are:

- ❖ Promulgation of amendments of the constitution, laws, cabinet orders, and treaties.
- ❖ Convocation of the Diet.
- ❖ Dissolution of the House of Representatives.
- ❖ Proclamation of general election of members of the Diet.
- ❖ Attestation of the appointment and dismissal of Ministers of State and other officials as provided for by law, and of full powers and credentials of Ambassadors and Ministers.
- ❖ Attestation of general and special amnesty, commutation of punishment, reprieve, and restoration of rights.
- ❖ Awarding of honors.
- ❖ Attestation of instruments of ratification and other diplomatic documents as provided for by law.
- ❖ Receiving foreign ambassadors and ministers.
- ❖ Performance of ceremonial functions.
- ❖ Current Emperor is Akihito
- ❖ The Throne is inherited only by males

Constitutional Monarchy



The Cabinet

Functions:

- ❖ Execution of the law.
- ❖ Conduct of foreign affairs.
- ❖ Conclusion of treaties (with the consent of the Diet).
- ❖ Administration of the civil service.
- ❖ Drafting of the budget (which must be adopted by the Diet).
- ❖ Adoption of cabinet orders.
- ❖ Granting of general amnesty, special amnesty, commutation of punishment, reprieve, and restoration of rights.
- ❖ Signing of laws or cabinet orders by the relevant Minister of State and countersigned by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Appointment of the associate justices of the Supreme Court of Japan (except for the Chief Justice, who is designated by the Prime Minister and formally appointed by the Emperor).
- ❖ Appointment of vice-ministers (who are nominated by their respective Minister to whom they will report).

The Prime Minister

- ❖ Current Prime Minister is Shinzo Abe
- ❖ To become The Prime Minister you need to be: 1) member of the National Diet; 2) At Least 25 years old; 3) Japanese by nationality
- ❖ Main Functions:
- ❖ Appointment of all Cabinet ministers
- ❖ Commander in chief of the Japan Self-Defense Forces
- ❖ “Control and supervision” over the entire executive branch
- ❖ Signs laws and Cabinet orders (along with other members of the Cabinet)
- ❖ Etc.



Japanese Parliament (722 Seats)

The National
Diet
(parliament)



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graph TD; A["The National Diet (parliament)"] --> B["The House of Representatives (lower house)"]; A --> C["The House of Councillors (upper house)"]
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The diagram is an organizational chart showing the structure of the Japanese Parliament. At the top is a box labeled 'The National Diet (parliament)'. A vertical line descends from this box and splits into two horizontal lines, each leading to a box below. The box on the left is labeled 'The House of Representatives (lower house)' and the box on the right is labeled 'The House of Councillors (upper house)'. All boxes are orange with white text.

The House of
Representatives (lower
house)

The House of
Councillors
(upper house)

The House of Councillors

- ◆ Consists of 242 members
- ◆ Cannot be dissolved
- ◆ Members are elected
- ◆ Members need to be at least 30 years old
- ◆ Members serve six-year terms
- ◆ But elections happen every 3 years (only half of the members are elected each time)
- ◆ 73 members are elected from prefectural districts
- ◆ 48 members are elected from nationwide list by proportional representation



The House of Representatives

- ◆ Consists of 475 members
- ◆ Can be dissolved by the Prime Minister
- ◆ Members need to be at least 25 years old
- ◆ Members serve four-year terms
- ◆ More powerful than the House of Councillors
- ◆ Parallel system of election



Political Parties

Conservative
s

- Liberal Democratic
- Komeito
- Democratic

Leftists

- Social Democratic Party
- Communist Party

- ◆ “...it has become all but impossible to distinguish the basic policy lines followed by the two parties. Differences between the LDP and DPJ have been blurred by Abe and Noda.”

Takamitsu Sawa© president of Shiga University

(2013)

Major Differences Between Political Parties

	Conservatives	Leftists
Emperor	Emperor must preserve his status	Imperial court must disappear (but changed their mind in 2000)
Militarism	Promote strengthening of self-defense forces. In 2015 Japanese military legislation	Wish the military disappear in distant future. In 2015 strongly opposed Japanese military legislation
Terrorism	Consider anti-ISIS military participation	Say that military actions can't stop terrorism. It must be stop by economic measures and international solidarity
Business	Business-oriented (especially large business)	Social-oriented
Japan-US alliance	The alliance must be preserved and developed. West-focused diplomacy	The alliance must be abolished. Asia-focused diplomacy
WW2	Not eager to take responsibility for Japanese WW2 crimes Promote nationalism	Japan must further apologize for WW2 crimes and take full responsibility for them. Oppose nationalism

Breakdown of the House Representatives (2014 elections)

■ Liberal Democratic(294)

■ Komeito(35)

■ Democratic(96)

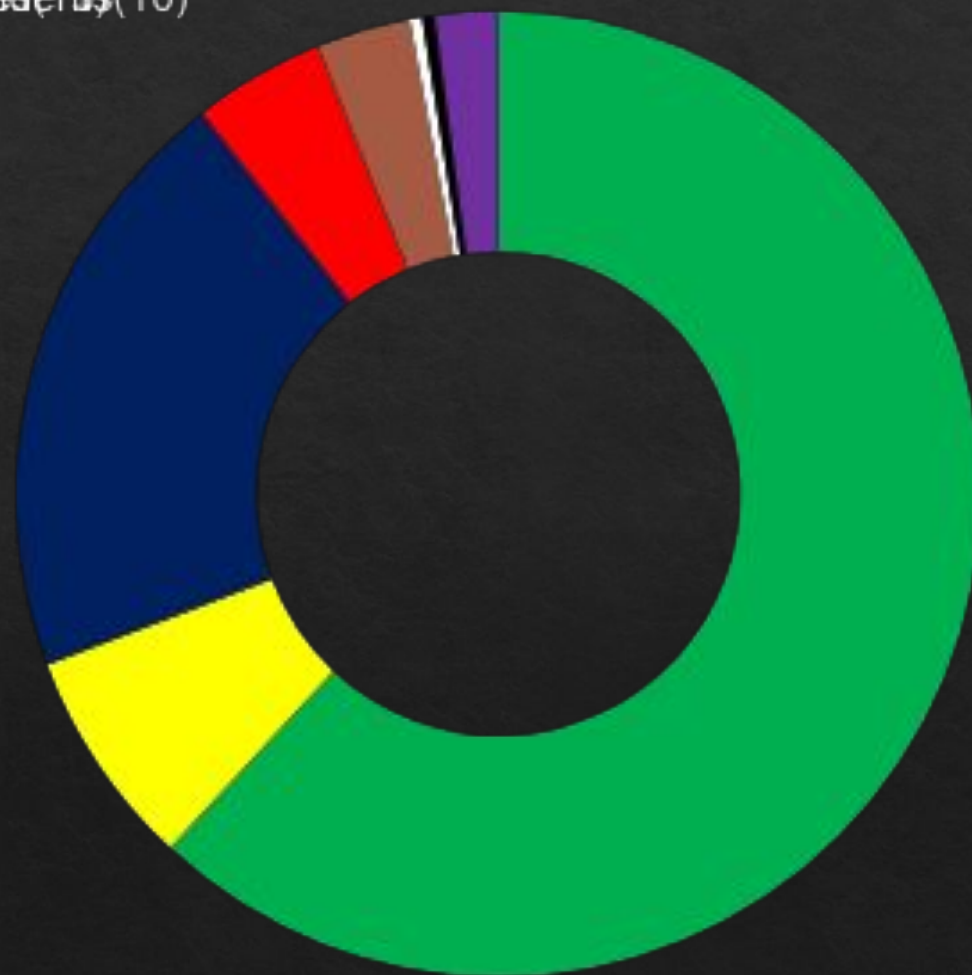
■ Communist(21)

■ Others(10)

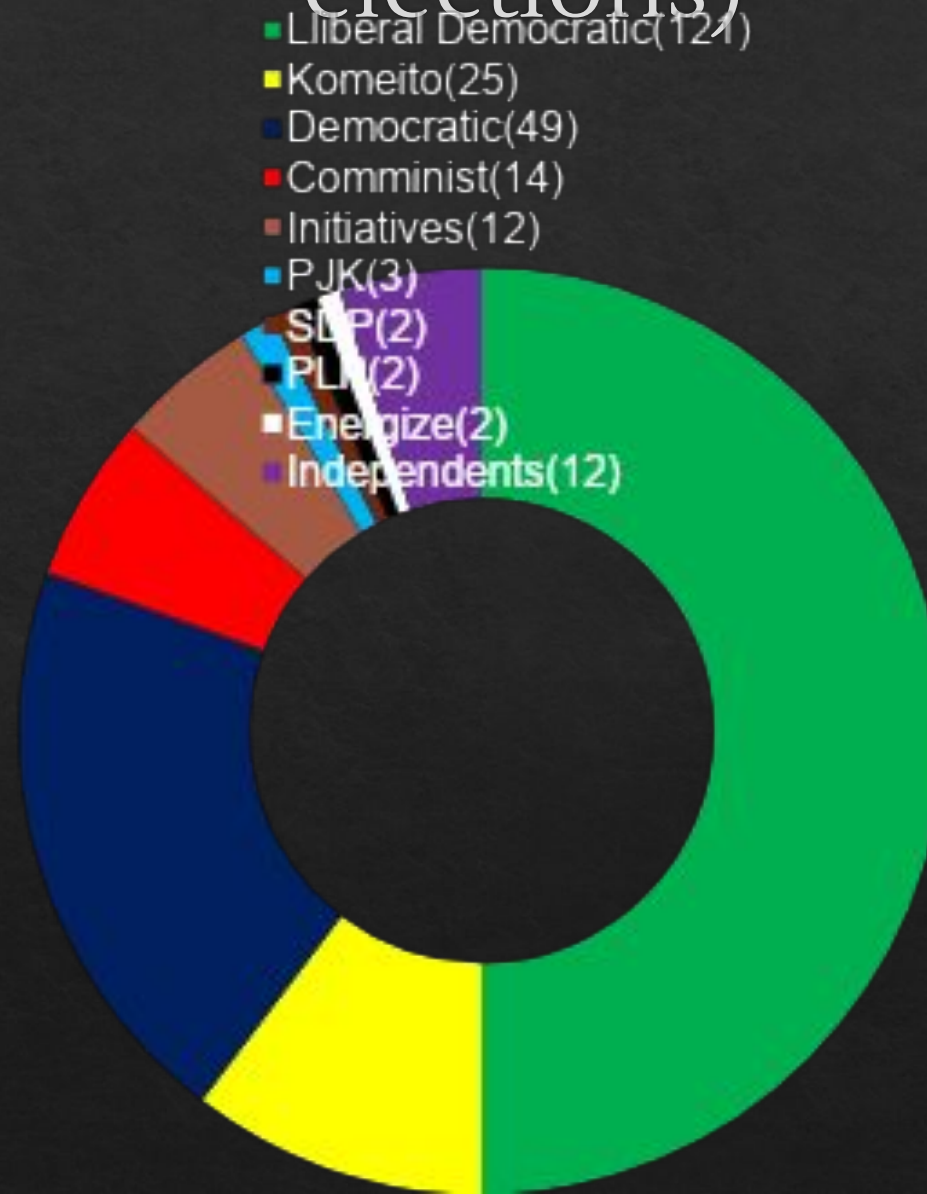
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Breakdown of House of Councillors (2016 elections)



Japanese Self-Defense Forces

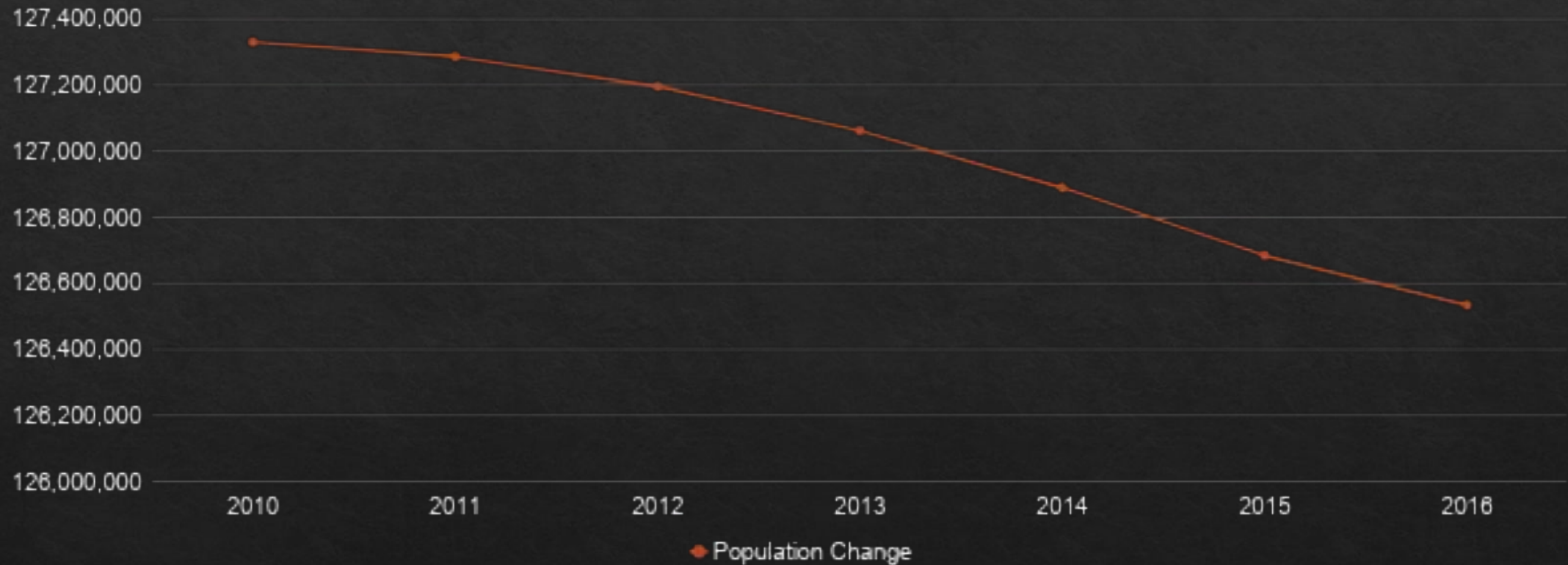
- ◆ According to the Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan the country has no army but “self-defense forces”, but....

An Army Which Does Not Exist

- ❖ Ranked 7 in the Global Firepower Ranking
- ❖ Active Frontline Personnel: 250000
- ❖ Tanks: 678
- ❖ Total Aircraft: 1590
- ❖ Total Naval Strength: 131
- ❖ Advanced military technology
- ❖ Growth of military expenditure

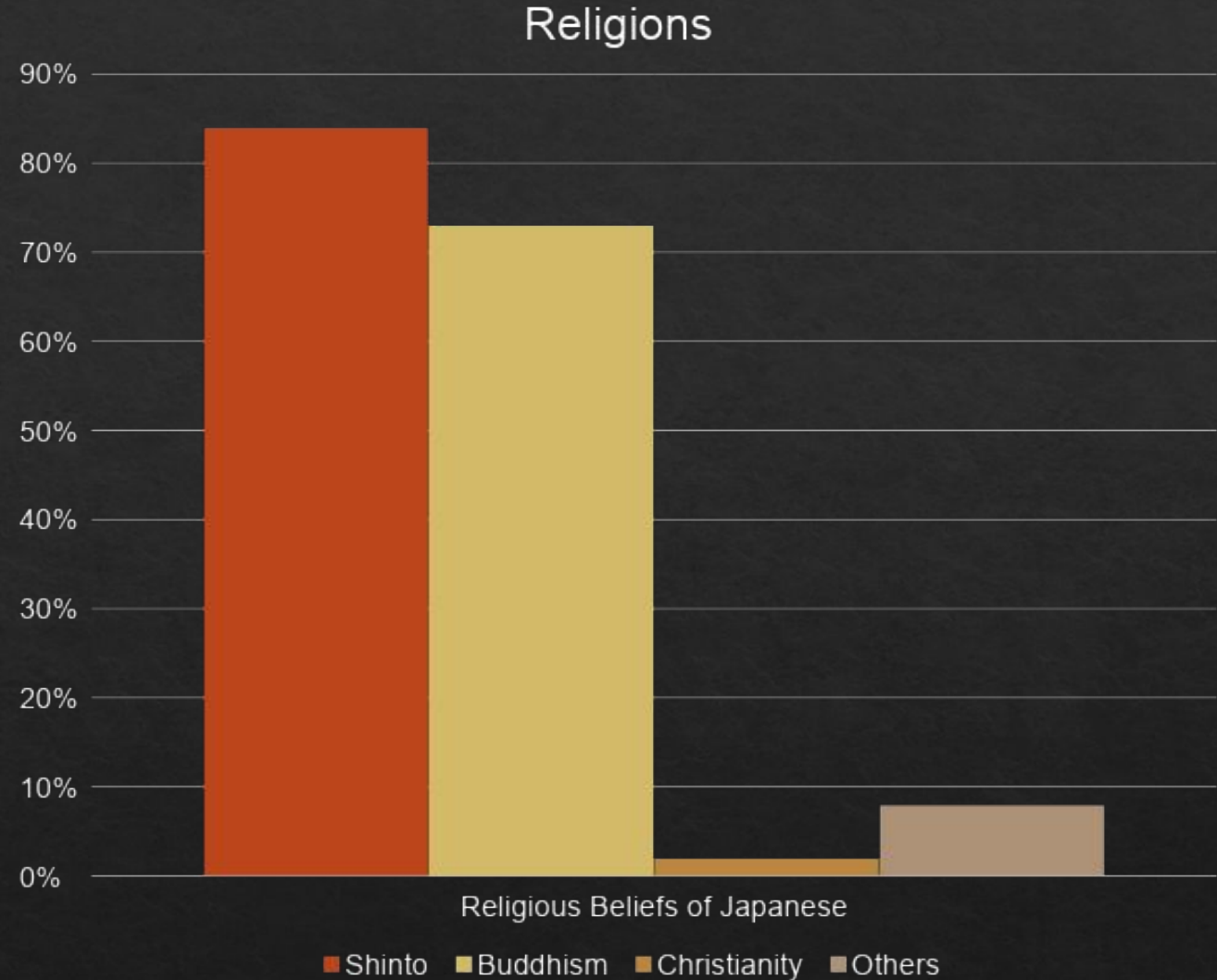


Population Decline in Japan

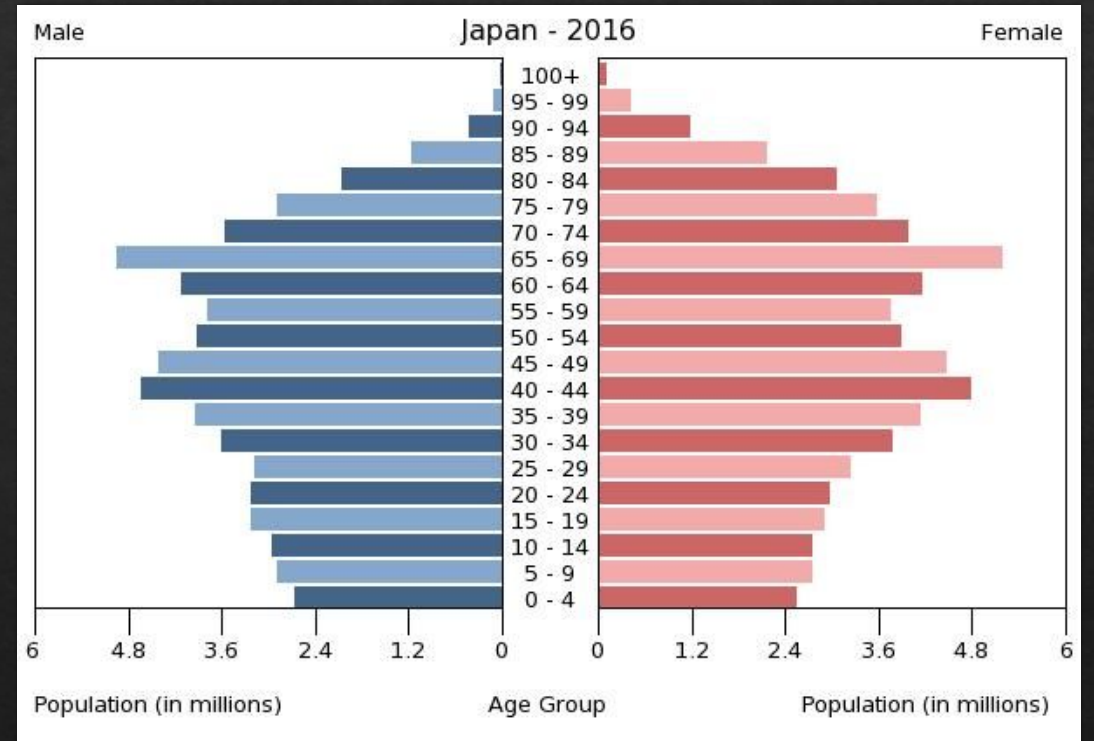
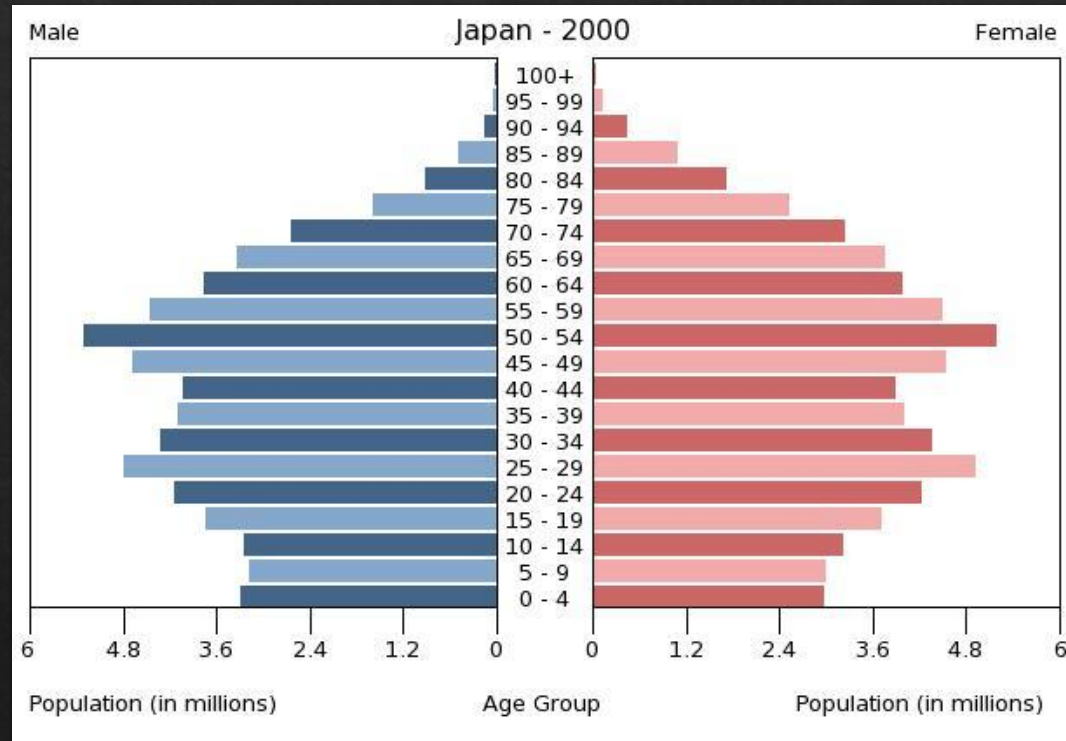


Religions

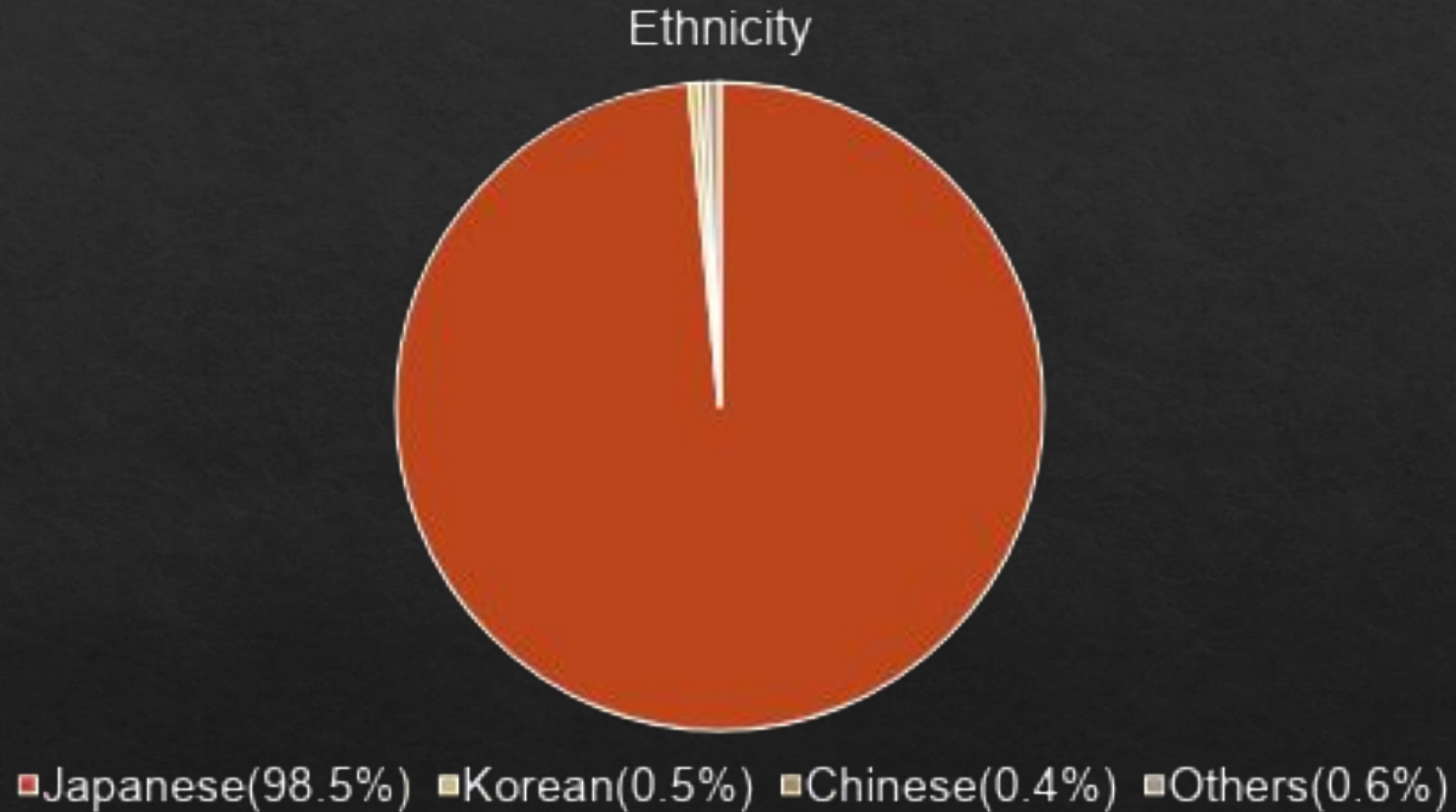
- ❖ More believers than people?!
- ❖ No, Shinto and various sects of Buddhism peacefully coexist: “sad” events (funeral, etc.) are “responsibility” of Buddhism, “happy” events (child birth etc.) are “responsibility” of Shinto
- ❖ Many people are Buddhists and Shintoists at the same



Japanese Population Is Getting Older

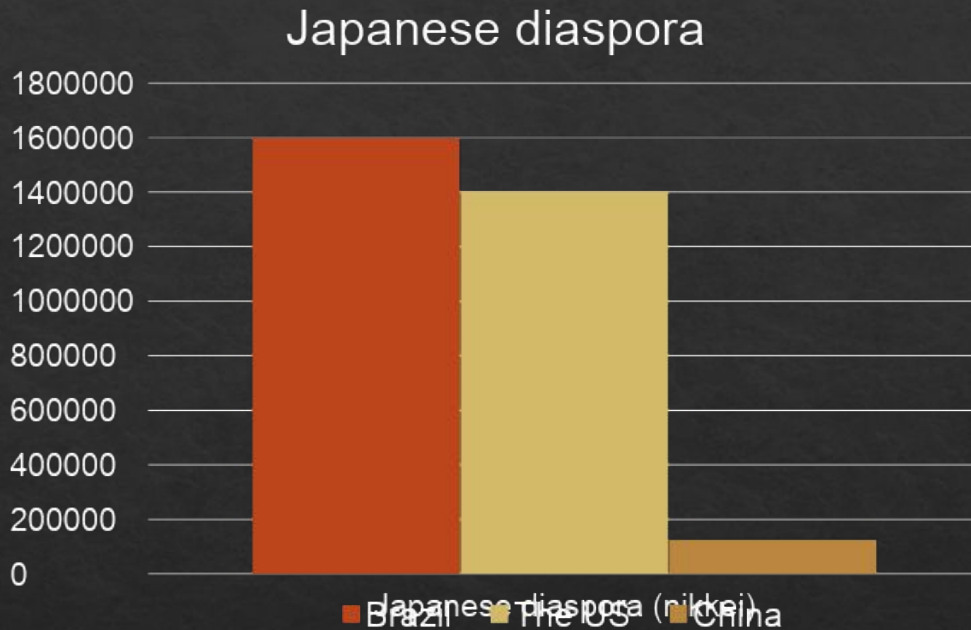


Japan Is a Monoethnic Country



Migration

Current Emigration is Insignificant. But
historically it was relatively large



Immigration

- ◇ Estimated number of illegal immigrants – 60000 (2015)
- ◇ Number of foreign residents – 2.23 millions
- ◇ Ethnicity is difficult to estimate, as Japanese official statistics do not distinguish between nationality and racial background

Ainu People

- ❖ Indigenous people of Japan
 - ❖ Inhabit mainly the island Hokkaido
- ❖ The Ainu have historically suffered from economic and social discrimination throughout Japan that continues to this day.
- ❖ The situation is getting better today due to government's and activists' attention
- ❖ Ainu culture is preserved and even developing



Burakumin People

- ❖ Causes of discrimination:
- ❖ Religion (they murdered animals and because of that they would never be saved by Buddha)
- ❖ Descendants of Burakumin in previous centuries (they had “unclean” work, belong to the lowest caste)



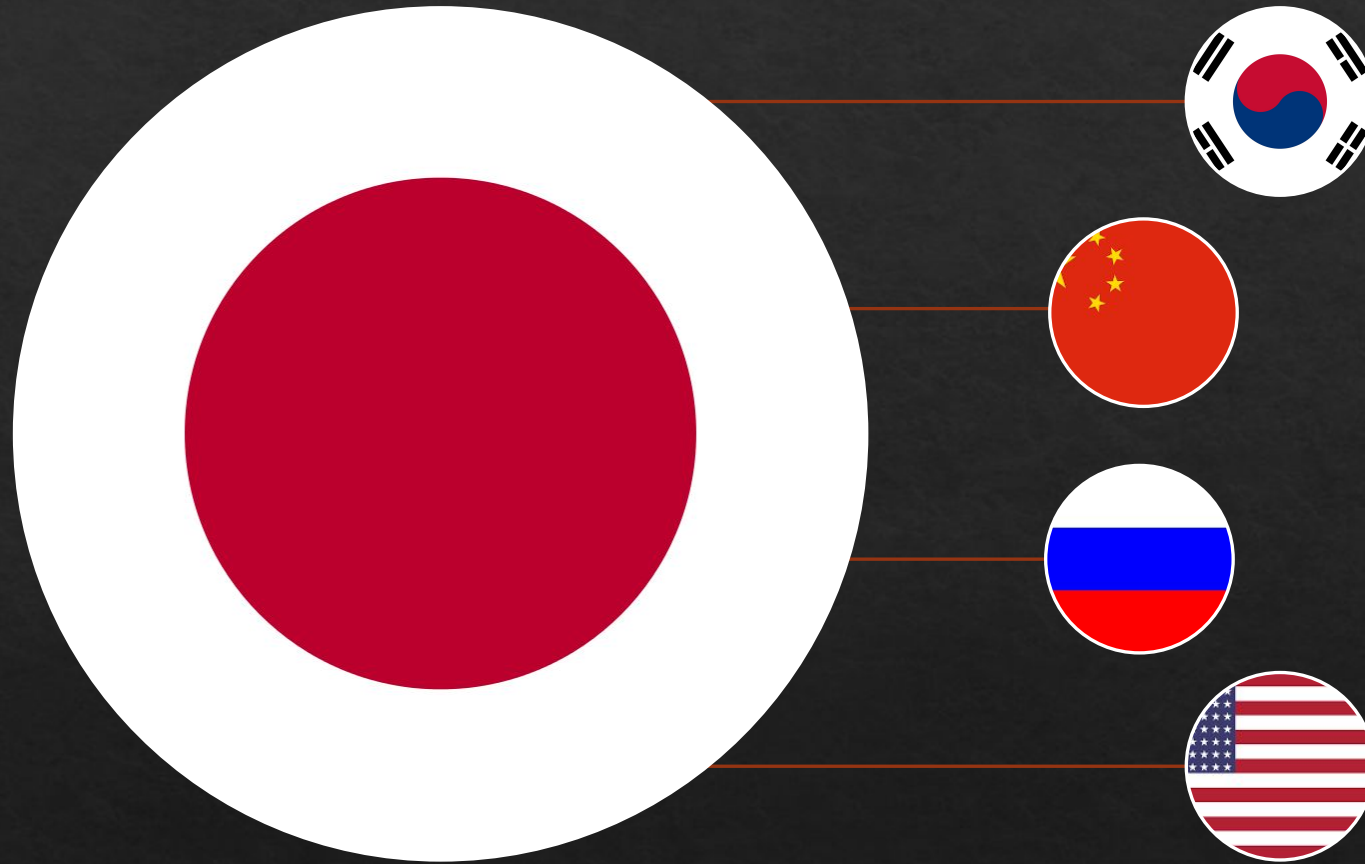
Foreign Policy Priorities

- ❖ Strengthening Japan-US alliance
- ❖ Enhancing relations with neighboring countries
 - ❖ Solvation of territorial issues
- ❖ Strengthening economic diplomacy

Economic Diplomacy

Economic diplomacy is when the government uses full spectrum of economic tools to promote its agenda on international stage

Foreign Relations



Japan-US Relations

Despite Japan's defeat and subsequent occupation by Americans, relations with the United States have been friendly and close except for intermittent bouts of trade friction beginning in the 1970s. The United States sponsored Japan's membership in various international organizations.

Japanese Relations with Southeast Asia

In World War II Japan went to war partly to gain control of this region's resources. The harsh occupation of many Southeast Asian countries left resentment and bitterness, and the Japanese government is today making efforts to improve the relationship with those countries. Taken as a whole, the countries of Southeast Asia make up Japan's second largest export market

● National Capital

● Major Cities

Azimuthal Equal-Area Projection

0 800 Kilometer
0 800 Miles

Indian

Japanese-Korean Relations

Japan's harsh colonization of Korea in the early twentieth century has left relations strained between the two countries and we're not mended yet.

Relations with China

After WWII under U.S. pressure, Japan did not establish relations with the People's Republic of China until after President Nixon surprised the world (and Japan) by establishing relations in 1972. Japan quickly followed suit and is now involved in assisting the Chinese in their efforts to develop their economy. Japan has been the largest source of official development assistance (ODA) to China.

Relations with Russia

Russia. Japan's relations with Russia have been strained throughout the postwar period. In the last days of World War II, the Soviets occupied South Sakhalin Islands and the Kurile islands, including a few islands close to Hokkaidô that the Japanese claim as part of their native land. The issue of these islands is under negotiation between the two countries. They have set a goal to resolve the conflict and sign a peace treaty by the year 2000.

Trade has gradually developed between the two countries and Japanese business has participated modestly in certain development projects.

Major Export Partners

- ❖ China (131 billion \$)
- ❖ The US (128 billion \$)
- ❖ South Korea (52 billion \$)

Membership in International Organizations

- ❖ UN
- ❖ IMF
- ❖ World Bank
- ❖ WTO
- ❖ ADB (Asian Development Bank)
 - ❖ G20
 - ❖ IOC

References:

- ◆ <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2013/01/21/commentary/japan-commentary/a-nagging-japanese-riddle-whos-left-and-whos-right/#.WE8m8IOaLRPY>
- ◆ http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/pp/page24e_000157.html
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- ◆ <http://countrysimeters.info/ru/Japan>