

THE JAPANESE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND  
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 1979

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The Japanese Political System

The National Diet of Japan is bicameral, consisting of the 511-member House of Representatives and the 252-member House of Councillors. The term of office for Representatives is four years, while that for Councillors is six years. The Diet sits in ordinary session once a year and in extraordinary and special session as occasions demand. The current ruling party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), holds a narrow numerical majority in both houses. The major opposition party is the Japan Socialists Party. The overall party distribution in the Lower House as of October 30, 1979, is as follows:

1) LDP	258
2) Socialist	107
3) Komeito (Buddhist)	58
4) Democratic Socialist	36
5) Communist	41
6) New Liberal Club (reformist Conservative)	4