

## **Appendix 10 – things cut for space reasons**

### **Opposition Confusion over How to Respond to Koizumi**

At first the LDP's efforts to try to weaken the clientelist system in the early 2000s caused the opposition great confusion in how to respond. In 2001, when Prime Minister Koizumi gained power and began pushing for reform of the system, then DPJ leader Hatoyama Yukio regularly aligned his party with the LDP leader. In part, the DPJ's plan involved demonstrating the differences between Koizumi and the LDP as a whole, and hoped to ride out the Koizumi wave (Yomiuri Shinbun, June 27, 2001). However, as Koizumi's efforts found less and less support within the LDP and relatively little success in the Diet, the opposition and Hatoyama began attacking the LDP leader.

### **Contrast between Rural Economies in Contemporary and Early Modern Times**

It is ironic that rural areas' economies are so inflexible and such a drag on the contemporary Japanese economy and that policy immobility is especially great toward such areas, because at one time rural areas' economies were extremely flexible and important to Japanese economic growth. During the Meiji period of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, agriculture was taxed for the purpose of state and economic development. During the early modern economic development of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, agricultural areas provided cheap labor for urban factories when workers were needed (much like Marx's "reserve army of labor"). But these workers could also go back to the farms during times of unemployment and the flexibility of this dual economy helped Japan's economic development.

### **1998 Bank Reforms**

Ultimately, the reforms did little to undercut the LDP's position in power, as the event was largely forgotten by the next election, but their passage indicates the impact that a different party alternative could have in the policy process.

### **How the Opposition Might Undercut Itself**

"[T]he opposition's success in highlighting the problems of the clientelist system could hurt its ability to challenge the LDP electorally." As Manin, Przeworski, and Stokes write, a critical role of the opposition in any democracy is to "monitor the performance of the government and inform citizens" (1999: 48). "By stimulating LDP policy reform, the opposition might make itself appear somewhat superfluous."