

Appendix 2 – Things cut for space reasons from Chapter 2

LDP Split

For various analyses of the LDP split, see Cox and Rosenbluth (1995), Kato (1998), Kohno (1995), Otake (1996), Reed and Scheiner (2003) and Wolfe (1995). In the Reed and Scheiner analysis, support for reform is measured by politicians' willingness to sign specific reform petitions and participation in particular reform-oriented study groups.

Non-LDP Coalition Government

This coalition is usually reported as having contained eight parties. The first six were *Shinseitō*, *Sakigake*, the JNP, JSP, DSP, and *Kōmeitō*. The seventh was the tiny Social Democratic League (SDL) and the eighth was a small group in the House of Councillors.

1996 HR Election

The election was the first under the new system, thereby making it less certain how any given candidate would fare under the new rules. Cooperative pacts between the two parties behind jointly endorsed candidates were difficult to arrange as (1) the DPJ was made up of a large number of Socialists, the group that had previously defected from the coalition government that members of the NFP had led, and (2) the DPJ was formed in the last month prior to the election, thereby giving the two parties almost no time to work out any cooperative arrangements.

2000 HR Election

The low overall vote share won by the LDP reflects its weakness in districts it *did not* win. The party won 52 percent of the vote in the 177 districts it won, but only 26 percent in the others. In short, the LDP's low aggregate vote total in the SMD component did not come from winning its SMDs with a bare plurality margin over a divided opposition. With a 62.4 percent turnout rate and 28.31 percent support in the PR race, the LDP as a party was supported by only 17.66 percent of the electorate in the June 2000 election.

Immediately after the election, the DPJ had a national support rating of approximately 20 percent (to roughly 25-30 for the LDP), but by early August, the support rate had dropped to 13 percent (Nihon Keizai Shinbun, July 27, 2000; Yomiuri Shinbun, August 9, 2000).

Kōmeitō

While conceivably apocryphal, I have also heard the following story from two journalist sources: For years, Kōmeitō feared LDP threats to eliminate Sōka Gakkai's tax free status as an organized religion (which also protected it from having its records audited). Part of the reason that Kōmeitō joined with the NFP was to maintain the group's tax free status. However, beginning in the mid-1990s Sōka Gakkai needed the blessing of the national ruling LDP to ensure this status.