

## Japan's Modern Foreign Policy under the Impact of Interest Groups and Chaebol Politics: Collusion, Characteristics and Consequences

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From the period after the Meiji Restoration to the outbreak of World War II, Japan's political system fluctuated between the constitutional monarchy and the cabinet system until the fascist dictatorship was established. After August 15, 1945, Japan, as a defeated country, fully accepted democratic transformation and an internal reform plan formulated by the United States. Under the leadership of GHQ, the United States and the Allied Supreme Command carried out a series of political, military, social, cultural and educational reforms in Japan. While retaining the original old civil service system and hierarchical civil society, it not only gave birth to a new Japanese Constitutional government, party system and diplomatic decision-making process, and the profound institutional symbol and path dependence of system transformation have played an important role in the rapid development of Japan's economy. The most representative phenomenon in this process is the power of the old chaebol restoration and the emergence of new interest groups (including religious groups such as those that were absolutely banned during the imperial period), as well as the continuous adaptation and transformation of their own identities and political positions under the new system.

This article's research finds that, unlike the traditional strategies of cultivating one's own lobbying power by funding politicians and sending agents to political parties, in the context of an increasingly sophisticated legal system for the supervision of political funds, Japanese financial groups and emerging interest groups are more likely to by transforming themselves into collaborators in domestic governance to make up for the government's lack of resource extraction capacity, and by engaging in collusive behavior in the ruling party's cover-up or reform of electoral promises and social issues, in exchange for a favorable position in the negotiation of foreign economic and trade relations and intervention in diplomatic decision-making, which have given rise to major consequences such as the increasing convergence of reform forces and conservative forces in party politics, the stagnation of the democratization process, and the politicization of economic issues and the securitization of political issues reflected in foreign policy.

Key Words: Chaebol politics, Interest groups, Japan, Foreign policy

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