

**MAJOR CONSERVATIVE NATIONALIST
ORGANIZATIONS IN JAPAN**

源

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Conservative Nationalist Parliamentary Groups (Leagues)

There are many. Listed here are some of the prominent ones.

Bolded names in parentheses are our abbreviations.

LDP (Liberal Democratic Party), DPJ (Democratic Party of Japan)

Committee to Build a Correct Japan (Correct Japan)

[*Tadashii Nippon wo Tsukuru Kai*, 正しい日本を創る会]

Multi-partisan. Calls for a “correct” view of Japan’s history departing from the “distorted Tokyo Trial view.” Advocates a new constitution instead of the present one and education reforms providing for more governmental controls and greater emphasis on patriotic values; supports official visit to Yasukuni by the prime minister. Denounces criticism of visits to Yasukuni as interference; advocates admiration for the Imperial Family as unique, purely patriarchal entity in the world (i.e., no empresses). Promotes conventional gender roles.

Their guest speakers include Tsutomu Nishioka and Yoshiko Sakurai, who are signatories to the *Washington Post* advertisement

Website: <http://www.tadashii-nippon.org/index.html> (J)

Diet Members’ League for the Protection of the Tradition of the Imperial Household (Imperial)

[*Koushitsu no Dentou wo Mamoru Kokkaigiin no Kai*, 皇室の伝統を守る国会議員の会]

Multi-partisan. Est. October 17, 2006. Chairman Yoshinobu Shimamura, Secretary-General Takeshi Iwaya (of MOFA), Kozo Watanabe, and Takeo Hiranuma are among more the than 30 members. The League seeks to preserve the male lineage, to restore former Imperial family members and their descendants who were removed by GHQ in 1947, and to provide a budget for rituals of the Imperial household.

Website: N/A

Group to Examine the Truth About the Comfort Women Issue and the Nanjing Incident (Nanjing)

[*Ianfu Mondai to Nankin Jiken no Shinjitsu wo Kensho-suru Kai*, 慰安婦問題と南京事件の真実を検証する会]

DPJ. Established on March 9, 2007, to respond to House Resolution 121 and the 70th anniversary of the Nanjing Massacre "when many anti-Japanese propaganda movies will be circulated." Criticizes the depiction of pre-war Japan as the aggressor in World War II, calling it the "so-called Tokyo Trial View." Intends to review the 1993 Kono Statement.

Website: N/A

Diet Member's Group for the Shinto Association of Spiritual Leadership (Shinto)

[*Shinto Seiji Renmei Kokkai Giin Kondan-kai*, 神道政治連盟国会議員懇談会]

LDP, plus independents. Established in 1970 to work closely with the Shinto Association of Spiritual Leadership, this League aims to reconstruct the State of Japan with the Emperor and Shintoism at its core. Advocates eliminating "controversial" subjects from textbooks [e.g., facts of and reference to Japan's aggression in history, gender-blind education and government policies]. Opposes legislative efforts to allow married couples to keep their original surnames, denounces gender equality, and promotes the "traditional" values. Former Prime Minister Mori's speech about Japan being "a country of gods with the emperor in the central position" was made at the 30th anniversary celebration of this parliamentary group.

The present Minister of Education Bunmei Ibuki is Chief Secretary of the group. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is Secretary General. Twelve of the present 18 Cabinet Ministers and three of the five Advisers to Prime Minister Abe belong to this group. 223 of the LDP Diet members belong to this group.

Website: http://www.sinseiren.org/index_frame.html (J)

Committee To Promote The Revision Of Basic Education Act (Promote)

[*Kyoiku Kihonho Kaisei Sokushin Iinkai*, 教育基本法改正促進委員会]

Disbanded. Multi-partisan. Sharing Diet Member members with The Diet Members' Gathering for Japan League, this committee demands education reform including the strengthening patriotism; a values-oriented education system based on Shintoism; education based on traditional family values emphasizing gender differences. Under the Abe leadership, the Basic Education Act was replaced in December 2006 accordingly.

Established in 2004 with 318 Diet Members including 274 from the LDP and 40 from the DPJ, with Foreign Minister Taro Aso and Shoichi Nakagawa (Chairman of LDP Policy Research Council) as Advisors and Hakubun Shimomura (Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary) as Acting Chair.

Website: N/A

Diet Members League to Promote Research on the Constitution (Constitution)

[*Kenpo Chosa Suishin Giin Renmei*, 憲法調査推進議員連盟]

Multi-partisan. Established in 1997 to promote the revision of the Constitution. Advocates free discussion over the Constitution, claiming that this was not an attempt to revise it, and managed to lead to the setting up of the Parliamentary “Research Commission on the Constitution.” Although this League’s official statements do not refer to revising the Constitution, the activities of the members show that their main focus is making the Self-Defense Force the official military, with other focal points including promoting conventional gender roles and more control over free speech and freedom of assembly. The members include former Prime Minister Nakasone Yasuhiro, former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata and former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. Twelve of the present 18 Cabinet Ministers belong to this group including Prime Minister Abe, Foreign Minister Aso and Justice Minister Nagase.

Former Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who is the Chair of this Diet Member Constitution League, is simultaneously the head of the Parliamentary Commission on the Constitution—a seeming conflict of interest.

Website: <http://www1.sphere.ne.jp/KENPOU/> (J)

Parliamentary League to Worship Together at the Yasukuni Shrine (Yasukuni)

[*Minna de Yasukuni Jinja wo Sanpai-suru Kokkai Giin no Kai*, みんなで靖国神社に参拝する国会議員の会]

Multi-partisan. Established in April 1997 with the purpose of encouraging collective worship by Diet members at Yasukuni Shrine in order “to express respect and gratitude to the enshrined spirits of the fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives for the sake of national affairs,” particularly on the Shrine’s special days (namely, spring and autumn special ceremonies and August 15). Support the formal/official worship by the Prime Minister. Twelve of the present 18 Cabinet Ministers belong to this group. Eleven of them pay regular visits to the Shrine. Prime Minister Abe is a member of this group, and had been paying regular visits until he took office. 101 members paid formal visits to Yasukuni Shrine on October 18, 2005, and 39 members on April 23, 2007.

Website: N/A

Forum of Traditions and Creativity (Tradition)

[*Dento to Sozo no Kai*, 伝統と創造の会]

LDP. The most conservative (34) among those who were elected for the House of Representatives for the first time in the 2005 election. Established “for policy studies” on February 11, 2006, marking, as they saw it, the “2666th year” of Japan’s existence according to the pre-war calendar of the Japanese Empire. On April 28, 2006, they made their first collective official visit to the Yasukuni Shrine, celebrating the 54th anniversary of Japan’s restoration of sovereignty. Guest speakers to their study get-togethers have included Tokyo Governor Shintaro Ishihara, who recently denied the existence of state coercion in the forcible recruitment of “comfort women,” and Hisahiko Okazaki, a signatory to the *Washington Post* advertisement.

Website: <http://www.inada-tomomi.com/dento-souzou/seturitu.html> (J) (Under Diet Member Inada’s official site)

Diet Member's League to Consider Japan's Future and History Education (Japan's Future)

[*Nippon no Zento to to Rekishi Kyoiku wo Kangaeru Giin no Kai*, 日本の前途と歴史教育を考える議員の会]

LDP. Established in 1997 as the “Young Diet Members League to Consider Japan’s Future and History Education” by Shinzo Abe, Shoichi Nakagawa, Hakubun Shimomura (the current Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary) and about 100 other Diet Members. Pressured textbook publishers and authors over references to Japan’s aggression, “comfort women,” and other issues regarding the war. Condemned Mr. Yohei Kono for having accepted ‘coercion’ in his 1993 Kono Statement as “without solid grounds but only as demanded by some others.” Members including current Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (then Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary) and Mr. Shimomura advised NHK (Japan’s national broadcaster) to modify the program content of a TV documentary examining the issue of responsibility for the “comfort women.” NHK’s changes to the program resulted in the filing of a lawsuit and a January 2007 court decision denouncing the interference of members of this group in the free operations of NHK and the right to free speech of the program creators.

In December 2006, this group set up a subcommittee to examine the comfort women issue (Chairperson: Yasuhide Nakayama) to promote amendments to or withdrawal from the Kono Statement. This League criticizes the Government of Japan also for not asserting to the world that in the case of the abductions and entrapments of the comfort women there was “no coercion in the narrow sense” exerted by the Japanese Imperial Army or Japanese government officials. On March 8, 2007, this League officially made a proposal to the Cabinet that the Government should put diplomatic efforts to block H.Res.121 which is not “based on objective facts”; promote “correct understanding of the comfort women issue” in the U.S. House of Representatives and others; and re-conduct a full study into the historical facts “in order to fully resolve the comfort women issue.” This group is also known for their strong attitude against understanding what happened in Nanking [present Nanjing] in 1937 as anything other than a regular battle. On June 19, 2007, the group’s President Nariaki Nakayama and others including Toru Toida, the head of their Subcommittee on the Nanking Incident and a signatory to the *Washington Post* advertisement, openly stated that their careful examination of the historical record led to a conclusion that only 20,000 Chinese died as the result of the Japanese takeover of Nanjing. This conclusion in direct opposition to the results entered into evidence at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (“Tokyo Trials”).

Prime Minister Abe is a former Secretary General of this group. Seven of the present 18 Cabinet Ministers belong to this group. This group’s President Nakayama is a former Minister of Education, and is the husband of Kyoko Nakayama, Special Adviser to Prime Minister Abe for North Korean abductions who is a candidate for the Upper House on July 22.

The text of their March 8, 2007 proposal to the Government to re-conduct fact-finding studies into the history of comfort women can be found in the website of Nariaki Nakayama, their president, at: http://www.nakayamanariaki.com/katsudou/bkno_09.html (J)

The text of their 30- and 37-page reports, which they believe prove that the Nanking Massacre is a fabrication, can be found in the website of Toru Toida at:

<http://www.toidatoru.com/pdf/nankin.pdf> (J)

<http://www.toidatoru.com/pdf/nankin2.pdf> (J)

Website: N/A

Diet Member's Gathering for Japan League/Conference (Members' Japan League)

[*Nippon Kaigi Kokkai Giin Kondankai*, 日本会議国会議員懇談会]

Multi-partisan. Established in 1997 and is the largest organization demanding the revision of the constitution. The Japan League, often called the “Japan Conference” in English, denies that World War II was a war of aggression; it downplays the Nanjing Massacre; wants education reform with a strong central control and an education curriculum based on patriotic values; and rejects equality between the sexes. Diet Members’ Japan League was established to support and work with Japan League. The Diet Members’ Japan League has three main political goals: 1) history/education/family issues; 2) defense/diplomacy/territory issues (headed by current PM Abe Shinzo in 2002); and 3) Constitution/Imperial Family/Yasukuni Shrine issues. It has succeeded in producing a textbook on morality, *Notebook for Heart*.

LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Shoichi Nakagawa is the Acting Chair, Prime Minister Abe is the Deputy Chief Secretary, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hakubun Shimomura is the Secretary General and Foreign Minister Taro Aso is a Special Adviser (as of July 2006). Twelve of the present 18 Cabinet Ministers and four of the five Special Advisers to Prime Minister Abe belong to this group. The League’s President is Takeo Hiranuma, former METI minister, who is a signatory to the “Facts” advertisement in the *Washington Post*.

Website: <http://www.nipponkaigi.org/> (J),

[http://www.nipponkaigi.org/reidai02/newpage\(E\)1.htm](http://www.nipponkaigi.org/reidai02/newpage(E)1.htm) (E)

Diet Member's League to Promote Values-Based Foreign Policy (Values)

[*Kachikan Gaiko wo Suishin-suru Giin no Kai*, 価値観外交を推進する議員の会]

LDP. Established on May 17, 2007, to promote Prime Minister Abe’s foreign policy based on shared values in democratic, free market countries. This league emphasizes the importance of “freedom, democracy, basic human rights, and rule of law” in diplomacy.

Most of the 43 Diet members of this group include those who worked with Abe on the history school textbook issues. Keiji Furuya heads the group and LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Shoichi Nakagawa assumed an advisory post. They do not see China as sharing the same common values with Japan. Abe mentioned Indonesia and Australia as countries with which Japan shared the same values. This new parliamentary group may play the main role of embodying the conservative policy in the LDP.

According to Rep. Keiji Furuya, the League was inspired by U.S. President Bush’s expression of common values of “respect for freedom, democracy, and human rights, and rule of law” between the U.S. and Japan. The League aims to strengthen the alliance among countries who share these common values.

Website: N/A

Diet Member's League to Claim Withdrawal of Unjust Photographs from China's Museums on Anti-Japanese Struggles (Photographs)

[*Chugoku no Konichi Kinen-kan kara Futo na Shashin no Tekkyo wo Motomeru Kokkai Giin no Kai*, 中国の抗日記念館から不当な写真の撤去を求める国会議員の会]

Multi-partisan. Established on June 13, 2007, with 42 parliamentarians from the ruling LDP and others, this new parliamentarian group aims at the withdrawal of the “false” exhibits in its some one hundred anti-Japanese war memorial museums throughout China, this so as to defend “the honor of our country.” Takeo Hiranuma, it's newly appointed President and a signatory to the *Washington Post* advertisement, is also the President of the Diet Members for the Japan League/Conference. He asserts that the education in today's China is anti-Japanese and that “planting wrong views of history is unforgivable.”

Tomomi Inada, the newly appointed Senior Managing Director and another signatory to the *Washington Post* advertisement, has highlighted the importance of this year, when the Museum in Nanjing will be re-opened in December to mark the 70th Anniversary of “the Fall of Nanking.” The group has demanded that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs look into the matter, conduct detailed research into the photographs on exhibit in China, and disclose the findings. Their official Advisers include LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Shoichi Nakagawa and former Minister of Education Yoshinobu Shimamura, who is also a signatory to the *Washington Post* advertisement. Two of their Vice Presidents, Shingo Nishimura and Yoshio Nakagawa are also signatories to the advertisement.

Website: N/A

Diet Member's Group to Examine the Nanking Incident (Nanking Only)

[*Nankin Jiken wo Kensho-suru Kai*, 南京事件を検証する会]

Multi-partisan. Formed by LDP (14) and DPJ (8) Diet Members and drawing largely from members of “Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform” and “Japan's Scholarly Society on Nanking.” The committee held its first meeting on February 26, 2007, with Tomomi Inada and Jin Matsubara, both signatories to the *Washington Post* advertisement attending among others. Matsubara summed up his position: “Using documents we need to make the Diet members aware that the massacre has no factual basis.” See: <http://www.sankei.co.jp/seiji/seisaku/070226/ssk070226003.htm> (J)

Website: N/A

Group of Legislators from the Liberal Democratic Party and the Democratic Party of Japan and Others, Concerned about the Comfort Women issue (CW Issue)

[*Jimintou · Minshutou Giin Yuushi Ichidou*, 自民党 · 民主党議員有志一同]

Multi-partisan. Willing Diet members, headed by Takeo Hiranuma, a signatory to the *Washington Post* advertisement, organized and issued a statement in reaction to the U.S. HCFA's adoption of H.Res.121 by an overwhelming majority. They say the resolution is “condemning Japan” and call on the U.S. to conduct a joint study on the “comfort women” issue, claiming that such a study will lead to the discovery that the

“comfort women” is a fabrication. The English-language translation of the Statement can be found below at Appendix 3.

Website: N/A

Japan’s Diet Member’s Group to Seek the Historical Truth of the Comfort Women Issue (Members’ CW)

[*Ianfu Mondai no Rekishiteki Shinjitsu o Motomeru Nippon Kokkai-Giin no Kai*, 慰安婦問題の歴史的真相を求める日本国会議員の会]

Multi-partisan. In reaction to the adoption of H.Res.121 by the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, a group consisting of 223 lawmakers, local assembly members, intellectuals, and others set up a group named “*Ianfu Mondai no Rekishiteki Shinjitsu o Motomeru Kokumin no Kai*” (National Council to Seek the Historical Truth of the Comfort Women Issue; representative director Satoru Mizushima, the president of Nippon Bunka Channel Sakura). It lodged a letter of protest with the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on July 13th calling for the withdrawal of the resolution. The message was: “The resolution was based on incorrect information that is not in line with the truth. We hope you will verify it once again.” The letter was signed by 12 Diet members. The group said it planned to send the same letter of protest to all members of the House of Representatives.

A part of the list of signatories to this letter including 12 Diet members, commentators and journalists on the national level can be found at:

<http://www.ch-sakura.jp/files/top/ianfu-sando.pdf> (J)

The full text of the letter is found at:

<http://www.ch-sakura.jp/files/top/ianfu-kogisho.pdf> (J)

Website: N/A

**Conservative Nationalist Groups
Not restricted to Parliamentarians**

There are many. Listed here are the more prominent ones.

Supporters of the Production of the Film, “The Truth of Nanking.” (Truth)

[Film “*Nankin no shinjitsu*”, 『*真実の南京*』]

The names of the supporters are found in the website of the Society for History Textbook Reform [label: Textbook; see description below] at:

http://www.tsukurukai.com/01_top_news/file_news/news_070126.htm (J)

Website: <http://www.nankinnoshinjitsu.com/> (J)

Japan League/Conference (Japan League)

[*Nippon Kaigi*, 日本会議]

The Japan League, often called the “Japan Conference” in English, is Japan's largest and probably most powerful conservative nationalist organization, whose influential members include Takeo Hiranuma (former METI minister and signatory to the *Washington Post* ad) and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe himself. It is an offspring of an earlier nationalist association, the National Conference to Protect Japan [*Nippon wo Mamoru Kokumin*

Kaigi, 日本を守る国民会議], formed in 1981 by Japan's first UN Ambassador Toshikazu Kase (now deceased) with former Imperial Military personnel, conservative commentators and others. Toshikazu Kase is the father of Hideaki Kase, a signatory to the *Washington Post* ad.

In 1997, the National Conference and another nationalist organization, the Network to Protect Japan [*Nippon wo Mamoru Kai*, 日本を守る会] whose members came from influential Shinto institutions and others, reformed themselves as the Japan Conference. The Japan Conference aims to set a conservative nationalist agenda for Japan that includes a conservative nationalist view of history that denies WWII was a war of aggression, calling it a "defense of the homeland." It rejects or downplays such infamous incidents as the Nanking Massacre in order to show the Imperial Japanese Army generally as an honorable and glorious institution. It also wants constitutional and education reform with a strong central control and an education curriculum based on patriotic values. It is against the idea of an Empress on the grounds that members of the Imperial Household are outside the human rights principles protected in the Constitution; and it rejects equality between the sexes.

The Japan Conference is the largest national, conservative network with an affiliated organization of some kind in all 47 prefectures in Japan. It has a strong influence on the Diet through its affiliated Diet Members' League, as well as over local councils through their local organizations. Its core members include influential members of the business establishment, journalists, and influential Shinto institutions.

Website: <http://www.nipponkaigi.org/> (J),
[http://www.nipponkaigi.org/reidai02/newpage\(E\)1.htm](http://www.nipponkaigi.org/reidai02/newpage(E)1.htm) (E)

Society for History Textbook Reform (Textbook)

[*Atarashii Kyokasho wo Tsukuru Kai*, 新しい教科書をつくる会]

In their official website, they explain about their group as follows:

"It was revealed in June 1996 that 'comfort women' would appear in all of the seven history textbooks [for junior high school] from the seven publishers. Intellectuals and conscientious nationals of Japan upon this abnormal [sic] occasion began to voice their clear views about the textbook issue. In August the same year, Cartoonist Yoshinori Kobayashi picked up the comfort women issue in his work and met with an unprecedented public response. [...] The voices of the nationals and intellectuals whose eyes were opened to the textbook issue grew stronger everyday, leading to willing members representing various circles of society get together to establish 'the Society for History Textbook Reform'."

See: http://www.tsukurukai.com/02_about_us/06_supp_01.html (J)

Their own English translation of their history textbook can be found here:

http://www.tsukurukai.com/05_rekisi_text/rekishi_English/English.pdf

Set up in 1996, this group has had a major impact, setting the national revisionist agenda. Key members like Kanji Nishio, its co-founder and a signatory to in the *Washington Post* advertisement, still influence opinion. This group's rise in the late 1990s parallels the rise of nationalist forces in the political world. Their common agenda includes drastically revising public views of history; reforming institutions, including the Constitution; and redefining Japan's role in the world.

Japan Education Rebuilding Organization (JERO) (Rebuild)

[*Nippon Kyouiku Saisei Kikou*, 日本教育再生機構]

Officially established October 2006. Based on the view that the problems found in today's Japanese society stem out of the "post-war education," which is "child-centered," it aims at advocating the "beautiful Japanese mind," promotes a patriotic moral education, traditional family values and gender roles.

Officially established October 2006, by a faction that split off from the Textbook group. Bases its views on the theory that the problems in today's Japanese society stem out of the "post-war education" which is "child-centered"—a code phrase for education reforms along U.S. lines. Aims at advocating "the beautiful Japanese mind"—a code phrase for pre-1945 national values. Promotes a patriotic moral education, patriarchal family values, and traditional gender roles.

Chairman Hidetsugu Yagi organized this group as a think tank to support Prime Minister Abe's reform plans. The group seems to be working with the publisher *Fusosha* to publish a second revisionist history textbook after this publisher gave up on the Textbook group. Yagi, a professor of law from Takasaki City University of Economics, was formerly the president of the Textbook group before the group succumbed to infighting. He is a member of Prime Minister Abe's Brain Trust, and advises him on educational issues and on the "beautiful country" aspect of Abe's policy. Yagi wants to toughen school education as well as revise textbooks.

Website: <http://www.kyoiku-saisei.jp/kiko/kiko.html> (J)

Committee for the Examination of the Facts about the Nanking Incident (Examination)

[*Nankin Jiken no Shinjitsu wo Kensho-suru Kai*, 南京事件の真実を検証する会]

Started on March 13, 2007 as an offshoot to "Diet Member's Group to Examine the Nanking Incident" shortly after its first meeting, the committee has 13 members (non-Diet Member). Chairman Hideaki Kase (also chairman of "Society for the Dissemination of Historical Fact") and Nobukatsu Fujioka, another signatory to the *Washington Post* advertisement, who testified at the Diet Member's Group's first hearing that the photos in Iris Chang's *Rape of Nanking* were fakes, are among the notables.

Website: N/A

National Council to Seek the Historical Truth of the Comfort Women Issue (CW)

[*Ianfu Mondai no Rekishiteki Shinjitsu o Motomeru Kokumin no Kai*, 慰安婦問題の歴史的な真実を求める会]

Established in reaction to the passage of H.Res.121 by the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, a group consisting of 223 lawmakers, local assembly members, intellectuals, and others set up this group, headed by Satoru Mizushima, president of Nippon Bunka Channel Sakura and the director of the film "Truth of

Conservative Nationalist Organizations

Nanking.” Submitted a letter of protest to the U.S. Ambassador calling for the withdrawal of the resolution. Held a protest rally outside the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on July 13, 2007. The message was: “The resolution was based on incorrect information that is not in line with the truth. We hope you will verify it once again.” The signatories to this letter included: 12 Diet members; 2 local governors; 128 local council members; and 75 commentators, journalists and others, at least 18 members of whom are also signatories to “The Facts” *Washington Post* advertisement. They plan to send the same letter of protest to all the members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The text of the protest letter can be found at:

<http://www.ch-sakura.jp/files/top/ianfu-kogisho.pdf> (J)

The list of signatories including the Diet members and commentators is found at:

<http://www.ch-sakura.jp/files/top/ianfu-sando.pdf> (J)

The list of signatories who are local council members is found at:

<http://www.ch-sakura.jp/files/top/ianfu-giin.pdf> (J)

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