

Hatoyama, the Politics of Change in Tokyo and Its Impact

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Introduction

One of my areas of specialization is American politics, so I tend to associate the word “revolution” with the American Revolution. A more-recent revolution, of course, was the “Gingrich revolution,” which began with the mid-term election of 1994, when the Republicans regained a majority in the Congress for the first time since 1953, ending more than 40 years of Democratic control.

Will the newly-installed Hatoyama Administration have as profound an effect on Japan as the “Gingrich Revolution” had on the United States? To me, it seems likely that if Prime Minister Hatoyama is able to follow through on one key pledge central to his party’s platform (or “Manifesto” as it is known in Japanese) in the general election, his administration will be viewed in retrospect as having been revolutionary. The promise that Mr. Hatoyama’s party made was that it would shift the center of political power in Japan from the bureaucrats back to the politicians.

- ① Would the “Hatoyama Revolution” Succeed?
- ② What is a “bureaucrat-led” to “politician-led” politics?

1. The weakness of the Hatoyama Administration

- ① Concerning the Dual Structure of Power···Concerning Ozawa
- ② Invisible Cracks within the Democratic Party of Japan(DPJ)

2. Is the Hatoyama administration anti-America?

3. Liberal Democratic Party(LDP) struggle in vain to rebuild

- ① Stuck in a rut with no ideology
- ② Conservative in Japan···Small Government vs. Big Government

Conclusion