

Globalized Elections
Weekly Report
July 22, 2010 to July 27, 2010
Iffat Humayun Khan
Presentation on July 28, 2010

Week # 129

The 22nd Elections to the House of Councilors **for the upper house of the legislature of Japan** were held on **July 11, 2010**.

An indirect **presidential election** was held in **Germany on 30 June 2010**.

JAPAN

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Japan

Capital Tokyo (*de facto*)
(and largest city) 35°41'N 139°46'E / 35.683°N 139.767°E

Official language(s) None

Recognised regional languages Aynu itak, Eastern Japanese, Western Japanese, Ryukyuan, and several other Japanese dialects

National language Japanese

National Scripts Kanji
Hiragana
Katakana

Ethnic groups 98.5% Japanese,
0.5% Korean, 0.4% Chinese,
0.6% other

Demonym Japanese

Government Constitutional monarchy with
Parliamentary democracy

- Emperor Akihito
- Prime Minister Naoto Kan (DP)

Legislature National Diet

- Upper House House of Councillors
- Lower House House of Representatives

Formation

- National Foundation Day February 11, 660 BC
- Meiji Constitution November 29, 1890
- Current constitution May 3, 1947
- Treaty of San Francisco April 28, 1952

Area

- Total 377,944 km² (61st)
145,925 sq mi
- Water (%) 0.8

Population

- 2010 estimate 127,420,000 (10th)
- 2004 census 127,333,002
- Density 337.1/km² (36th)
873.1/sq Military Intelligence

GDP (PPP) 2009 estimate

- Total \$4.159 trillion (3rd)
- Per capita \$32,608 (23rd)

GDP (nominal) 2009 estimate

- Total \$5.068 trillion (2nd)
- Per capita \$39,731 (17th)

Japan is an island country in East Asia. Located in the Pacific Ocean, it lies to the east of the Sea of Japan, China, North Korea, South Korea and Russia, stretching from the Sea of Okhotsk in the north to the East China Sea and Taiwan in the south. The characters that make up Japan's name mean "sun-origin", which is why Japan is sometimes referred to as the "Land of the Rising Sun".

Japan is an archipelago of 6,852 islands.^[10] The four largest islands are Honshū, Hokkaidō, Kyūshū and Shikoku, together accounting for 97% of Japan's land area. Most of the islands are mountainous, many volcanic; for example, Japan's highest peak, Mount Fuji, is a volcano. Japan has the world's tenth-largest population, with over 127 million people. The Greater Tokyo Area, which includes the *de facto* capital city of Tokyo and several surrounding prefectures, is the largest metropolitan area in the world, with over 30 million residents.

Archaeological research indicates that people were living on the islands of Japan as early as the Upper Paleolithic period. The first written mention of Japan begins

with brief appearances in Chinese history texts from the first century A.D. Influence from the outside world followed by long periods of isolation has characterized Japan's history. Since adopting its constitution in 1947, Japan has maintained a unitary constitutional monarchy with an emperor and an elected parliament called the Diet.

A major economic power, Japan has the world's second-largest economy by nominal GDP and the third largest in purchasing power parity. It is also the world's fourth largest exporter and fifth largest importer. It is also the only Asian country in the G8 and is currently serving as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Although Japan has officially renounced its right to declare war, it maintains a modern and extensive military force which is employed in self-defense and peacekeeping roles. It is a developed country with very high living standards (10th highest HDI). Japan has the highest life expectancy of any country in the world (according to both the UN and WHO estimates) and the third lowest infant mortality rate.

History

The first signs of occupation on the Japanese Archipelago appeared with a Paleolithic culture around 30,000 BC, followed from around 14,000 BC by the Jōmon period, a Mesolithic to Neolithic semi-sedentary hunter-gatherer (possibly Ainu)^[16] culture of pit dwelling and a rudimentary form of agriculture. Decorated clay vessels from this period, often with plaited patterns, are some of the oldest surviving examples of pottery in the world.

The Yayoi period, starting around 500 BC, saw the introduction of many new practices, such as wet-rice farming, a new style of pottery^[18] and metallurgy^{[19][20]} brought by migrants from China and Korea.

The Japanese first appear in written history in China's *Book of Han*. According to the Chinese *Records of Three Kingdoms*, the most powerful kingdom on the archipelago during the third century was called Yamataikoku.

Buddhism was first introduced to Japan from Baekje, one of the Three Kingdoms of Korea, but the subsequent development of Japanese Buddhism and Buddhist sculptures were primarily influenced by China. Despite early resistance, Buddhism was promoted by the ruling class and eventually gained growing acceptance since the Asuka period.

The Nara period of the eighth century marked the first emergence of a strong central Japanese state, centered on an imperial court in the city of Heijō-kyō, or modern-day Nara. In addition to the continuing adoption of Chinese administrative practices, the Nara period is characterized by the appearance of a nascent written literature with the completion of the massive chronicles *Kojiki* (712) and *Nihon Shoki* (720). (Nara was not the first capital city in Japan, though. Before Nara, Fujiwara-kyō and Asuka served as capitals of the Yamato state.) The smallpox epidemic of 735-737 is believed to have killed as many as one-third of Japan's population.

In 784, Emperor Kammu moved the capital from Nara to Nagaoka-kyō for a brief ten-year period, before relocating it to Heian-kyō (modern-day Kyoto) in 794, where it remained for more than a millennium.^[25] This marked the beginning of the Heian period, during which time a distinctly indigenous Japanese culture emerged, noted for its art, poetry and literature. Lady Murasaki's *The Tale of Genji* and the lyrics of modern Japan's national anthem, *Kimi ga Yo* were written during this time.

Japan's feudal era was characterized by the emergence of a ruling class of warriors, the samurai. In 1185, following the defeat of the rival Taira clan, Minamoto no Yoritomo was appointed Shogun and established a base of power

in Kamakura. After Yoritomo's death, the Hōjō clan came to rule as regents for the shoguns. Zen Buddhism was introduced from China in the Kamakura period (1185–1333) and became popular among the samurai class.

The Kamakura shogunate managed to repel Mongol invasions in 1274 and 1281, aided by a storm that the Japanese interpreted as a *kamikaze*, or Divine Wind. The Kamakura shogunate was eventually overthrown by Emperor Go-Daigo, who was soon himself defeated by Ashikaga Takauji in 1336.^[27] The succeeding Ashikaga shogunate failed to control the feudal warlords (*daimyō*), and a civil war erupted (the Ōnin War) in 1467 which opened a century-long Sengoku (“Warring States”) period.

During the sixteenth century, traders and Jesuit missionaries from Portugal reached Japan for the first time, initiating active commercial and cultural exchange between Japan and the West (*Nanban trade*).

Oda Nobunaga conquered numerous other daimyo by using European technology and firearms and had almost unified the nation when he was assassinated in 1582. Toyotomi Hideyoshi succeeded Nobunaga and united the nation in 1590. Hideyoshi invaded Korea twice, but following several defeats by Korean and Ming China forces and Hideyoshi's death, Japanese troops were withdrawn in 1598.

After Hideyoshi's death, Tokugawa Ieyasu utilized his position as regent for Hideyoshi's son Toyotomi Hideyori to gain political and military support. When open war broke out, he defeated rival clans in the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600. Ieyasu was appointed shōgun in 1603 and established the Tokugawa shogunate at Edo (modern Tokyo).^[30] The Tokugawa shogunate enacted a variety of measures such as *Buke shohatto* to control the autonomous daimyo.

In 1639, the shogunate began the isolationist *sakoku* (“closed country”) policy that spanned the two and a half centuries of tenuous political unity known as the Edo period. The study of Western sciences, known as *rangaku*, continued during

this period through contacts with the Dutch enclave at Dejima in Nagasaki. The Edo period also gave rise to *kokugaku*, or literally "national studies", the study of Japan by the Japanese themselves.^[31] According to one authority, there were at least 130 famines during the Edo period, of which 21 were particularly serious.

On March 31, 1854, Commodore Matthew Perry and the "Black Ships" of the United States Navy forced the opening of Japan to the outside world with the Convention of Kanagawa. Subsequent similar treaties with the Western countries in the Bakumatsu period brought Japan into economic and political crises. The abundance of the prerogative and the resignation of the shogunate led to the Boshin War and the establishment of a centralized state unified under the name of the Emperor (Meiji Restoration).

Adopting Western political, judicial and military institutions, the Cabinet organized the Privy Council, introduced the Meiji Constitution, and assembled the Imperial Diet. The Meiji Restoration transformed the Empire of Japan into an industrialized world power that embarked on a number of military conflicts to expand the nation's sphere of influence. After victories in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905), Japan gained control of Taiwan, Korea, and the southern half of Sakhalin.^[33] Japan's population increased from 35 million in 1873 to 70 million in 1935.

20th century

The early twentieth century saw a brief period of "Taishō democracy" overshadowed by the rise of expansionism and militarization. World War I enabled Japan, which joined the side of the victorious Allies, to expand its influence and territorial holdings. Japan continued its expansionist policy by occupying Manchuria in 1931. As a result of international condemnation for this occupation, Japan resigned from the League of Nations two years later. In 1935, local assemblies were established in Taiwan.^[35] In 1936, Japan signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Nazi Germany, joining the Axis powers in 1941.^[36] In 1941,

Japan signed the Soviet–Japanese Neutrality Pact with Soviet Union, respecting both Manchukou and Mongolian People's Republic territories.

In 1937, the Empire of Japan invaded other parts of China, precipitating the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945). In 1940, the Empire then invaded French Indochina, after which the United States placed an oil embargo on Japan.^[37] On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the United States naval base in Pearl Harbor and declared war on the United States, the United Kingdom and Netherlands. This act brought the United States into World War II and, on December 8, these three countries declared war on Japan.^{[38][39]} After the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, along with the Soviet Union joining the war against it, Japan agreed to an unconditional surrender of all Japanese forces on August 15 (Victory over Japan Day).

The war cost Japan and countries part of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere millions of lives and left much of the country's industry and infrastructure destroyed. The Allied powers repatriated millions of ethnic Japanese from colonies throughout Asia. The International Military Tribunal for the Far East, was convened by the Allies (on May 3, 1946) to prosecute some Japanese leaders for war crimes. However, all members of the bacteriological research units and members of the imperial family involved in the conduct of the war were exonerated from criminal prosecutions by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces.

In 1947, Japan adopted a new pacifist constitution emphasizing liberal democratic practices. The Allied occupation ended by the Treaty of San Francisco in 1952 and Japan was granted membership in the United Nations in 1956. Japan later achieved spectacular growth to become the second largest economy in the world, with an annual growth rate averaging 10% for four decades. This ended in the mid-1990s when Japan suffered a major recession. Positive growth in the early twenty-first century has signaled a gradual recovery.

Government and politics

Japan is a constitutional monarchy where the power of the Emperor is very limited. As a ceremonial figurehead, he is defined by the constitution as "the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people". Power is held chiefly by the Prime Minister of Japan and other elected members of the Diet, while sovereignty is vested in the Japanese people. The Emperor effectively acts as the head of state on diplomatic occasions. Akihito is the current Emperor of Japan. Naruhito, Crown Prince of Japan, stands as next in line to the throne.

Japan's legislative organ is the National Diet, a bicameral parliament. The Diet consists of a House of Representatives, containing 480 seats, elected by popular vote every four years or when dissolved and a House of Councillors of 242 seats, whose popularly elected members serve six-year terms. There is universal suffrage for adults over 20 years of age, with a secret ballot for all elective offices. In 2009, the social liberal Democratic Party of Japan took power after 54 years of the liberal conservative Liberal Democratic Party's rule.

The Prime Minister of Japan is the head of government. The position is appointed by the Emperor of Japan after being designated by the Diet from among its members and must enjoy the confidence of the House of Representatives to remain in office. The Prime Minister is the head of the Cabinet (the literal translation of his Japanese title is "Prime Minister of the Cabinet") and appoints and dismisses the Ministers of State, a majority of whom must be Diet members. Naoto Kan has been designated by the Diet to replace Yukio Hatoyama as the Prime Minister of Japan. He is awaiting confirmation from the Emperor before he will officially be Prime Minister.

Historically influenced by Chinese law, the Japanese legal system developed independently during the Edo period through texts such as *Kujikata Osadamegaki*. However, since the late nineteenth century, the judicial system has been largely based on the civil law of Europe, notably France and Germany.

For example, in 1896, the Japanese government established a civil code based on the German model. With post-World War II modifications, the code remains in effect in present-day Japan. Statutory law originates in Japan's legislature, the National Diet of Japan, with the rubber stamp approval of the Emperor. The current constitution requires that the Emperor promulgates legislation passed by the Diet, without specifically giving him the power to oppose the passing of the legislation. Japan's court system is divided into four basic tiers: the Supreme Court and three levels of lower courts. The main body of Japanese statutory law is a collection called the Six Codes.

Elections in Japan

The Japanese political system has **three types of elections**: general elections to the House of Representatives held every four years (unless the lower house is dissolved earlier), elections to the House of Councillors held every three years to choose one-half of its members, and local elections held every four years for offices in prefectures, cities, and villages. Elections are supervised by election committees at each administrative level under the general direction of the Central Election Administration Committee, an attached organization to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC). The minimum voting age is twenty years; voters must satisfy a three-month residency requirement before being allowed to cast a ballot. For those seeking office, there are two sets of age requirements: twenty-five years of age for admission to the House of Representatives and most local offices, and thirty years of age for admission to the House of Councillors and the prefectural governorship. Each deposit for candidacy is 3 million yen (30 thousand dollars) for single-seat constituency and 6 million yen (60 thousand dollars) for proportional representation.

National elections

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) <i>Jimintō</i> – 自民党	39	▲ 16	12	▼ 2	19,496,083	33.4	14,071,438	24.1
New Komeito Party (NKP) <i>Kōmeitō</i> – 公明党	3	▲ 1	6	▲ 1	2,265,818	3.9	7,639,437	13.1
New Renaissance Party (NRP) <i>Kaikaku</i> – 改革	0	—0	1	▲ 1	625,431	1.1	1,172,394	2.0
LDP–NKP–NRP Coalition	42	▲ 17	19	▼ 3	22,387,332	38.4	21,883,269	39.2
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) <i>Minshutō</i> – 民主党	28	▼ 12	16	▼ 4	22,755,999	39.0	18,450,138	31.6
People's New Party (PNP) <i>Kokuminshintō</i> – 国民新党	0	▼ 1	0	▼ 1	167,555	0.3	1,000,034	1.7

New Party Nippon (NPN) (counted as independent government supporter by NHK) <i>Shintō</i> – 新党日本	0	—0	0	▼1	<i>included in others</i>			
DPJ–PNP Coalition	28	▼13	16	▼5	22,923,554	39.3	19,450,172	33.3
Your Party (YP) <i>Minna no Tō</i> – みんなの党	3	▲3	7	▲7	5,977,390	10.2	7,943,875	13.6
Japanese Communist Party (JCP) – <i>Kyōsantō</i> – 共産党	0	—0	3	—0	4,256,400	7.3	3,563,554	6.1%
Social Democratic Party (SDP) – <i>Shamintō</i> – 社民党	0	—0	2	—0	602,684	1.0	2,242,735	3.8%

Sunrise Party of Japan (SPJ) <i>Tachini – たち日</i>	0	—0	1	▲1	328,475	0.6	1,232,207	2.1%
Happiness Realization Party (HRP) <i>Kōfuku – 幸福</i>	0	—0	0	—0	<i>included in others</i>		229,024	0.4%
Other independents, including Keiko Itokazu of Okinawa Social Mass Party	0	▼7	0	—0				
73	—	48	—		100.0%		100.0%	▲2 121

2009 General election

Local seats	+/-	Block seats	+/-	Votes ^[8]	%	PR votes	block	%	+/-	Total seats	+/- (dissoluti
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) <i>Minshutō</i> – 民主党		221	+169	87	+26	33,475,334	47.43%	29,844,799	42.41%	+11.4	

Social Democratic Party (SDP) <i>Shamintō</i> – 社民党	3	+2	4	-2	1,376,739	1.95%	3,006,160	4.27%	-1.2
People's New Party (PNP) <i>Kokuminshintō</i> – 国民新党	3	+1	0	-2	730,570	1.04%	1,219,767	1.73%	±0.0
New Party Nippon <i>Shintō Nippon</i> – 新党日本	1	±0	0	±0	220,223	0.31%	528,171	0,75%	
New Party Daichi <i>Shintō Daichi</i> – 新党大地	0	±0	1	±0	<i>included in others</i>		433,122	0.62%	
DPJ–SDP–PNP Coalition	228	+172	92	+22	35,802,866	50.73%	35,032,019	48.4%	+10.2
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) <i>Jimintō</i> – 自民党	64	-155	55	-22	27,301,982	38.68%	18,810,217	26.73%	-11.45

New Komeito Party (NKP) <i>Kōmeitō</i> – 公明党	0	-8	21	-2	782,984	1.11%	8,054,007	11.45%	-1.80		
Japan Renaissance Party <i>Kaikaku Club</i> – 改革クラブ	0	—	0	—	36,650	0.05%	58,141	0.08%	—		
LDP–NKP Coalition	64	-163	76	-24	28,121,613	39.84%	26,922,365	38.2%	-13.3		
Japanese Communist Party (JCP) <i>Kyōsantō</i> – 共産党	0	±0	9	±0	2,978,354	4.22%	4,943,886	7.03%	-0.22		
Your Party (YP) <i>Minna no Tō</i> – みんなの党	2	—	3	—	615,244	0.87%	3,005,199	4.27%	—		
Others	0	±0	0	±0	1,077,543	1.53%	466,786 ^[9]	0.66%			
Independents ^[10]	6	-12	—	—	1,986,055	2.81%	—	—	—		
300	—	180	—		70,581,679	100.0%	70,370,255	100.0%	—	480	+2

2007 House of Councillors election

Summary of the 29 July 2007 Japanese House of Councillors election results

Parties	Prefectural votes ^[12]	%	Proportional votes	%	Prefectural seats 2007	Proportional seats 2007	+/- ^[13]
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) <i>Minshutō</i>	24,006,817.693	40.45	23,256,242	39.5	40	20	+28
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) <i>Jiyū Minshutō</i>	18,606,193.000	31.35	16,544,696	28.1	23	14	-27
New Komeito Party (NKP) <i>Shin Kōmeitō</i>	3,534,672.000	5.96	7,762,324	13.2	2	7	-3
Japanese Communist Party (JCP) <i>Nihon Kyōsantō</i>	5,164,572.184	8.70	4,407,937	7.5	0	3	-2

Social Democratic Party (SDP) <i>Shakai Minshutō</i>	1,352,018.000	2.28	2,637,716	4.5	0	2	-1
People's New Party (PNP) <i>Kokumin Shintō</i>	1,111,005.000	1.87	1,269,220	2.2	1	1	0
New Party Nippon (NPN) <i>Shintō Nippon</i>	-	-	1,770,697	3.0	0	1	+1
Others	477,182.472	0.80	1,264,841	2.1	0	0	0
Independents	5,095,168.460	8.59	-	-	7	0	+6
Total	59,347,628.809	100.00	58,913,700.007	100.00	73	48	+2 (vacancies)

Malapportionment

In the 1980s, apportionment of electoral districts still reflected the distribution of the population in the years following World War II, when only one-third of the

people lived in urban areas and two thirds lived in rural areas. In the next forty-five years, the population became more than three-quarters urban, as people deserted rural communities to seek economic opportunities in Tokyo and other large cities. The lack of reapportionment led to a serious underrepresentation of urban voters. Urban districts in the House of Representatives were increased by five in 1964, bringing nineteen new representatives to the lower house; in 1975 six more urban districts were established, with a total of twenty new representatives allocated to them and to other urban districts. Yet great inequities remained between urban and rural voters.

In the early 1980s, as many as five times the votes were needed to elect a representative from an urban district compared with those needed for a rural district. Similar disparities existed in the prefectural constituencies of the House of Councillors. The Supreme Court had ruled on several occasions that the imbalance violated the constitutional principle of one person-one vote. The Supreme Court mandated the addition of eight representatives to urban districts and the removal of seven from rural districts in 1986. Several lower house districts' boundaries were redrawn. Yet the disparity was still as much as three urban votes to one rural vote.

After the 1986 change, the average number of persons per lower house representative was 236,424. However, the figure varied from 427,761 persons per representative in the fourth district of Kanagawa Prefecture, which contains the large city of Yokohama, to 142,932 persons in the third district of largely rural and mountainous Nagano Prefecture.

The 1993 reform government under Hosokawa Morihiro introduce a new electoral system whereby 200 members (reduced to 180 beginning with the 2000 election) are elected by proportional representation in multi-member districts or "blocs" while 300 are elected from single-candidate districts.

Still, according to the October 6, 2006 issue of the Japanese newspaper Daily Yomiuri, "the Supreme Court followed legal precedent in ruling Wednesday that the House of Councillors election in 2004 was held in a constitutionally sound way despite a 5.13-fold disparity in the weight of votes between the nation's most densely and most sparsely populated electoral districts".

Prefectural and local elections

Prefectural parliaments and governors, as well as mayors and assemblies in municipalities are elected for four year terms. Many of these elections are held at the same time in the "unified local elections" (*tōitsu chihō senkyo*); in the last unified local election on April 6, 2007, 13 governors, 44 prefectural parliaments and mayors or assemblies in more than 1,000 cities, special wards, towns and villages were up for election.

- Tokyo gubernatorial election, 2003
- Tokyo gubernatorial election, 2007
- Tokyo prefectural election, 2001
- Tokyo prefectural election, 2005
- Tokyo prefectural election, 2009

Ballots, voting machines and early voting

Votes in national and most local elections are cast by writing the candidate's or party's name on a blank ballot paper. In elections for the House of Representatives voters fill in two ballots, one with the name of their preferred district candidate and one with their preferred party in the proportional representation block. For the House of Councillors, the district vote is similar (In SNTV multi-member districts, several candidates can be elected, but every voter has only one vote). But in the proportional vote for the House of Councillors votes are cast for a party list (to determine how many proportional seats a party

receives) or a candidate (which additionally influences which candidates are elected from a party's list).

Ballots that cannot unambiguously be assigned to a candidate are not considered invalid, but are proportionally assigned to all potentially intended candidates. These so-called "proportional fractional votes" are rounded to the third decimal.

In 2002, passage of an electronic voting law allowed for the introduction of electronic voting machines in local elections. The first machine vote took place in Niimi, Okayama in June 2002. In 2003, a system for early voting was introduced. In the Japanese general election, 2009 a record number of more than 10 million Japanese voted early.

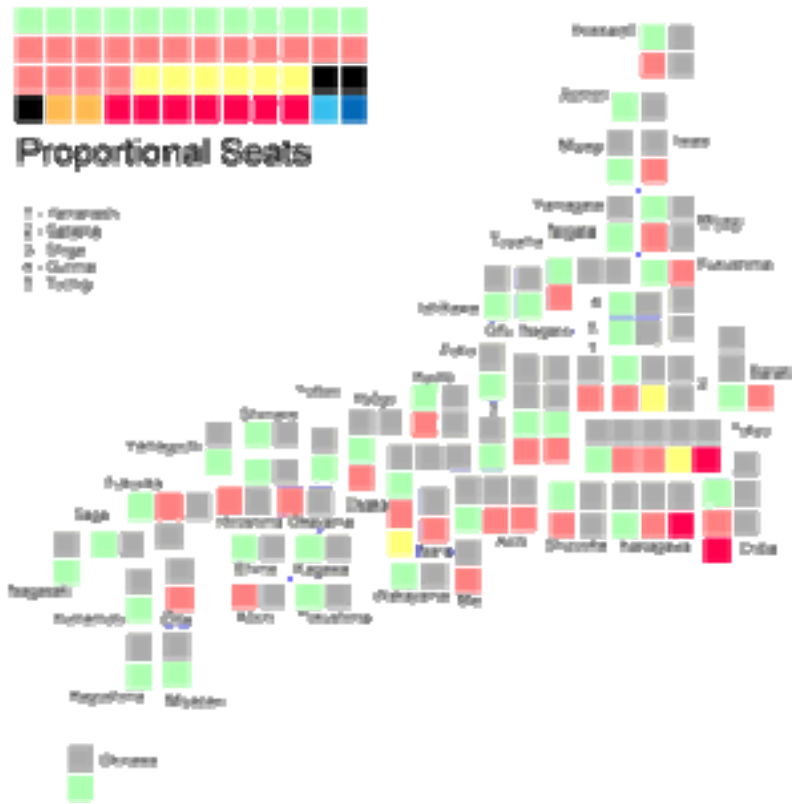
Japanese House of Councillors election, 2010

Japanese House of Councillors election, 2010

July 11, 2010

	First party	Second party
Leader	Sadakazu Tanigaki	Naoto Kan
Party	Liberal Democratic	Democratic
Last election	83 seats, 28.1%	109 seats, 37.8%
Seats before	70 (38 up)	122 (56 up)
Seats won	84	106
Seat change	▲ 14	▼ 16
Popular	14,071,438	18,450,138

vote (Proportional) (Proportional)
 19,496,083(Prefectural) **22,755,999**(Prefectural)
Percentage 24.1% (Proportional) **31.6%** (Proportional)



Seats won by

■ - LDP ■ - DPJ ■ - NKP ■ - JCP ■ - SDP ■ - YP ■ - SPJ ■ - NRP

Previous President of the House of Councillors

Satsuki Eda
Democratic

President of the House of Councillors-elect

TBD

The **22nd Elections to the House of Councillors** for the upper house of the legislature of Japan were held on July 11, 2010. In the last election in 2007, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lost its majority to the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), which managed to gain the largest margin since its formation in 1996.^[3] The House of Councillors is elected by halves to six year terms. The seats up for election in 2010 were last contested in the 2004 election.

Developments leading up to the House of Councillors Election

On 11 June 2008, a non-binding censure motion was passed by parliament's opposition-controlled House of Councillors against then Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda. Filed by the DPJ and two other parties, it was the first censure motion against a prime minister under Japan's post-war constitution. Ahead of the G8 summit, it attacked his handling of domestic issues including an unpopular medical plan and called for a snap election or his resignation. On 12 June a motion of confidence was passed by the lower house's ruling coalition to counter the censure. Fukuda abruptly announced he was retiring as leader. Taro Aso won the subsequent election, which was held on 22 September 2008.

In the 2009 lower house election, the DPJ gained an historic majority, being the first non-LDP party to hold a majority in that house since the LDP's formation and is scheduled to lead the second non-LDP government in the aforementioned time period (with upper house allies the Social Democratic Party of Japan and the People's New Party. Following the election, Aso resigned as LDP president. Sadakazu Tanigaki was elected the leader of LDP on September 28, 2009.

Election Results

The result of the House of Councilors election was declared on 12 July 2010. The ruling DPJ lost many of its seats and the opposition LDP gained more seats

in comparison to the last election, held in 2007. Your Party performed well in this election, while the DPJ's junior coalition partner, the People's New Party, performed poorly.

Prefectural seats 2010	+/-	Proportional seats 2010	+/-	Prefectural Votes	%	Proportional votes	%	+/-	Elected in 2010
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) <i>Jimintō</i> – 自民党	39	▲ 16	12	▼ 2	19,496,083	33.4	14,071,438	24.1	
New Komeito Party (NKP) <i>Kōmeitō</i> – 公明党	3	▲ 1	6	▲ 1	2,265,818	3.9	7,639,437	13.1	
New Renaissance Party (NRP) <i>Kaikaku</i> – 改革	0	— 0	1	▲ 1	625,431	1.1	1,172,394	2.0%	
LDP–NKP–NRP Coalition	42	▲ 17	19	▼ 3	22,387,332	38.4	21,883,269	39.2	
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) <i>Minshutō</i>	28	▼ 12	16	▼ 4	22,755,999	39.0	18,450,138	31.6	

– 民主党								
People's New Party (PNP) <i>Kokuminshintō</i> – 国民新党	0	▼1	0	▼1	167,555	0.3	1,000,034	1.7%
New Party Nippon (NPN) (counted as independent government supporter by NHK) <i>Shintō</i> – 新党日本	0	—0	0	▼1	<i>included in others</i>			
DPJ–PNP Coalition	28	▼13	16	▼5	22,923,554	39.3	19,450,172	33.3%
Your Party (YP) <i>Minna no Tō</i> – みんなの党	3	▲3	7	▲7	5,977,390	10.2	7,943,875	13.6%
Japanese Communist Party (JCP) <i>Kyōsantō</i> –	0	—0	3	—0	4,256,400	7.3	3,563,554	6.1%

共産党									
Social Democratic Party (SDP) <i>Shamintō</i> – 社民党	0	—0	2	—0	602,684	1.0	2,242,735	3.8%	
Sunrise Party of Japan (SPJ) <i>Tachini</i> – たち日	0	—0	1	▲1	328,475	0.6	1,232,207	2.1%	
Happiness Realization Party (HRP) <i>Kōfuku</i> – 幸福	0	—0	0	—0	<i>included in others</i>		229,024	0.4%	
Other independents, including Keiko Itokazu of Okinawa Social Mass Party	0	▼7	0	—0					
73	—	48	—		100.0%		100.0%	▲2	121

Germany

Capital (and largest city)	Berlin 52°31′N 13°23′E / 52.517°N 13.383°E
Official language(s)	German ^[1]
Ethnic groups	91.5% German, 8.5% other ^[1]
Demonym	German
Government	Federal Parliamentary republic

- President Christian Wulff (CDU)

- Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU)

- President of the Bundestag Norbert Lammert (CDU)

Formation

- Holy Roman Empire 2 February 962

- Unification 18 January 1871

- Federal Republic 23 May 1949

- Reunification 3 October 1990

EU accession 25 March 1957

Area

- Total 357,021 km² (63rd)
137,847 sq mi

- Water (%) 2.416

Population

- Jan. 1, 2010 estimate 81,757,600^[2] (16th)

- Density	229/km ² (55th) 593/sq mi
GDP (PPP)	2009 estimate
- Total	\$2.806 trillion
- Per capita	\$34,212
GDP (nominal)	2009 estimate
- Total	\$3.352 trillion
- Per capita	\$40,874

Germany officially the **Federal Republic of Germany** is a country in Central Europe. It is bordered to the north by the North Sea, Denmark, and the Baltic Sea; to the east by Poland and the Czech Republic; to the south by Austria and Switzerland; and to the west by France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The territory of Germany covers 357,021 square kilometers (137,847 sq mi) and is influenced by a temperate seasonal climate. With 81.8 million inhabitants in January 2010,^[2] it is the most populated country located entirely in Europe, has the largest population among member states of the European Union, and it is also home to the third-largest number of international migrants worldwide.

A region named Germania, inhabited by several Germanic peoples, has been known and documented before AD 100. Beginning in the 10th century, German territories formed a central part of the Holy Roman Empire, which lasted until 1806. During the 16th century, northern Germany became the centre of the Protestant Reformation. As a modern nation-state, the country was first unified amidst the Franco-Prussian War in 1871. In 1949, after World War II, Germany was divided into two separate states—East Germany and West Germany—along

the lines of Allied occupation. Germany was reunified in 1990. West Germany was a founding member of the European Community (EC) in 1957, which became the European Union in 1993. It is part of the Schengen zone and adopted the European currency, the euro, in 1999.

Germany is a federal parliamentary republic of sixteen states (*Bundesländer*). The capital and largest city is Berlin. Germany is a member of the United Nations, NATO, G8, G20, OECD, and the WTO. It is a major power with the world's fourth largest economy by nominal GDP and the fifth largest in purchasing power parity. It is the second largest exporter and third largest importer of goods. In absolute terms, Germany allocates the second biggest annual budget of development aid in the world, while its military expenditure ranked seventh. The country has developed a high standard of living and established a comprehensive system of social security. It holds a key position in European affairs and maintains a multitude of close partnerships on a global level. Germany is recognised as a scientific and technological leader in several fields.

History

The English word "Germany" derives from the Latin word *Germania*. The name "Germania" came into use after Julius Caesar adopted it from a Gallic term for the peoples east of the Rhine that probably meant "neighbour" or "men of forests"

German Empire (1871–1918)

The state known as *Germany* was unified as a modern nation-state in 1871, when the German Empire was forged, with the Kingdom of Prussia as its largest constituent. After the French defeat in the Franco-Prussian War, the German Empire was proclaimed in Versailles on 18 January 1871. The Hohenzollern dynasty of Prussia ruled the new empire, whose capital was Berlin. The empire

was a unification of all the scattered parts of Germany except Austria (*Kleindeutschland*, or "Lesser Germany"). But internally the official political unification came rather sequentially: Germany had no national flag until 1892 and no national hymn until after WW I. Beginning in 1884, Germany began establishing several colonies outside of Europe.

In the *Gründerzeit* period following the unification of Germany, Emperor William I's foreign policy secured Germany's position as a great nation by forging alliances, isolating France by diplomatic means, and avoiding war. Under William II, however, Germany, like other European powers, took an imperialistic course leading to friction with neighbouring countries. Most alliances in which Germany had been previously involved were not renewed, and new alliances excluded the country. Specifically, France established new relationships by signing the Entente Cordiale with the United Kingdom and securing ties with the Russian Empire. Aside from its contacts with Austria-Hungary, Germany became increasingly isolated.

Germany's imperialism reached outside of its own country and joined many other powers in Europe in claiming their share of Africa. The Berlin Conference divided Africa between the European powers. Germany owned several pieces of land in Africa including German East Africa, South-West Africa, Togo, and Cameroon. The Scramble for Africa caused tension between the great powers that may have contributed to the conditions that led to World War I.

The assassination of Austria's crown prince on 28 June 1914 triggered World War I. Germany, as part of the unsuccessful Central Powers, suffered defeat against the Allied Powers in one of the bloodiest conflicts of all time. An estimated two million German soldiers died in World War I. The German Revolution broke out in November 1918, and Emperor William II and all German ruling princes abdicated. An armistice putting an end to the war was signed on 11 November and Germany was forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919. Its negotiation, contrary to traditional post-war diplomacy, excluded the

defeated Central Powers. The treaty was perceived in Germany as a humiliating continuation of the war. The treaty's harshness, is often cited as an influence, causing the later rise of Nazism in the country.

Weimar Republic (1919–1933)

At the beginning of the German Revolution, Germany was declared a republic and the monarchy collapsed. However, the struggle for power continued, with radical-left communists seizing power in Bavaria, but failing to take control of all of Germany. The revolution came to an end in August 1919, when the Weimar Republic was formally established. The Weimar Constitution came into effect with its signing by President Friedrich Ebert on 11 August 1919.

Suffering from the Great Depression, the harsh peace conditions dictated by the Treaty of Versailles, and a long succession of more or less unstable governments, the people of Germany increasingly lacked identification with their political system and the "Establishment Parties" in their parliamentary democracy. This was exacerbated by a widespread right-wing (monarchist, *völkisch*, and Nazi) *Dolchstoßlegende*, which promoted the view that Germany had lost World War I because of the efforts and influence of those who wanted to overthrow the government. The top brass of the Weimar government was accused of betraying the German Nation by signing the Versailles Treaty, while the radical left-wing communists, such as the Spartacist League, had wanted a revolution to abolish "capitalist rule" in favour of a *Räterepublik*, and were also targeted.

Discontentment with the new Weimar government helped fuel the growth of the German Communist Party. Many conservatives were drawn towards the reactionary/revolutionary right, particularly the National Socialist German Workers Party—the Nazi Party. By 1932, these two parties controlled the majority of parliament (296 total parliamentary seats by July 1932). After a series of unsuccessful cabinets, President Paul von Hindenburg made a crucial

decision: on 30 January 1933, seeing little alternative and pushed by right-wing advisors, von Hindenburg appointed Adolf Hitler as Chancellor of Germany, honoring Hitler's request.

Third Reich (1933–1945)

On 27 February 1933, the Reichstag building went up in flames, and a consequent emergency decree abrogated basic citizen rights. An Enabling Act passed in parliament gave Hitler unrestricted legislative power. Only the Social Democratic Party voted against it, while Communist MPs had already been imprisoned.^[25] Using his powers to crush any actual or potential resistance, Hitler established a centralised totalitarian state within months. Industry was revitalised with a focus on military rearmament.^[26] In 1935, Germany reacquired control of the Saar and in 1936 military control of the Rhineland, both of which had been lost by the Treaty of Versailles.

Leading to World War II and roughly in parallel with military rearmament, German foreign policy became more aggressive and expansionistic. In 1938 and 1939, Austria and Czechoslovakia were brought under control and the invasion of Poland prepared (Hitler-Stalin pact, Operation Himmler). On 1 September 1939, the German Wehrmacht launched a blitzkrieg on Poland, which was swiftly occupied by Germany and by the Soviet Red Army. The UK and France declared war on Germany marking the beginning of World War II in Europe. As the war progressed, Germany and its allies quickly gained control of much of continental Europe.

On 22 June 1941, Germany broke the Hitler-Stalin pact and invaded the Soviet Union. The same year, Japan attacked the American base at Pearl Harbor, and Germany declared war on the United States as a consequence of its alliance with Japan. Although the German army advanced into the Soviet Union quite rapidly, the Battle of Stalingrad marked a major turning point in the war. Subsequently, the German army started to retreat on the Eastern front. In September 1943,

Germany's ally Italy surrendered, and German forces were forced to defend an additional front in Italy. D-Day marked another major turning point in the war, opening up a Western front; the Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy and made advances towards German territory. Germany's defeat soon followed. On 8 May 1945, the German armed forces surrendered after the Red Army occupied Berlin. Approximately seven million German soldiers and civilians—including ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe—died during World War II.

In what later became known as The Holocaust, the Third Reich regime enacted governmental policies directly subjugating many dissidents and minorities. About seventeen million people were murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust, including six million Jews and a sizable number of Gypsies, Poles and other Slavs, including Soviet POWs, the mentally ill, homosexuals, and members of the political opposition.^[28] World War II and the Nazi genocide were responsible for more than 40 million dead in Europe. The Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals were held after World War II.

Division and reunification (1945–1990)

Post-WWII occupation zones of Germany, in its 1937 borders, with territories east of the Oder-Neisse line shown as annexed by Poland and the Soviet Union, plus the Saar protectorate and divided Berlin. East Germany was formed by the Soviet Zone, while West Germany was formed by the American, British, and French zones in 1949 and the Saar in 1957.

The war resulted in the death of over five million German soldiers and civilians; large territorial losses; the expulsion of about 15 million Germans from the eastern areas of Germany and other countries; mass rape of German women;^[31] and the destruction of multiple major cities. The remaining national territory and Berlin were partitioned by the Allies into four military occupation zones.

The western sectors, controlled by France, the United Kingdom, and the United States, were merged on 23 May 1949, to form the *Federal Republic of Germany* (*Bundesrepublik Deutschland*); on 7 October 1949, the Soviet Zone became the *German Democratic Republic* (*Deutsche Demokratische Republik*, or DDR). They were, mainly outside Germany, informally known as "West Germany" and "East Germany", and the two parts of Berlin as "West Berlin" and "East Berlin". East Germany selected East Berlin as its capital, while West Germany chose Bonn. However, West Germany declared the status of its capital Bonn as provisional, in order to emphasise its stance that the two-state solution was an artificial *status quo* that was to be overcome one day.

West Germany, established as a federal parliamentary republic with a "social market economy", was allied with the United States, the UK and France. The country came to enjoy prolonged economic growth beginning in the early 1950s (*Wirtschaftswunder*). West Germany joined NATO in 1955 and was a founding member of the European Economic Community in 1957. On 1 January 1957, Saarland gave in its adhesion to West Germany by virtue of article 23 *Grundgesetz*.

East Germany was an Eastern bloc state under political and military control by the USSR via the latter's occupation forces and the Warsaw Pact. While claiming to be a democracy, political power was solely executed by leading members (*Politburo*) of the communist-controlled SED (*Socialist Unity Party of Germany*). Their power was ensured by the Stasi, a secret service of immense size, and a variety of SED suborganizations controlling every aspect of society. In return, the basic needs of the population were satisfied at low cost by the state. A Soviet-style command economy was set up; later, the GDR became a Comecon state. While East German propaganda was based on the benefits of the GDR's social programs and the alleged constant threat of a West German invasion, many of her citizens looked to the West for political freedoms and economic prosperity.^[33] The Berlin Wall, built in 1961 to stop East Germans from escaping to West Germany, became a symbol of the Cold War.

Tensions between East and West Germany were somewhat reduced in the early 1970s by Chancellor Willy Brandt's *Ostpolitik*, which included the *de facto* acceptance of Germany's territorial losses in World War II.

In the summer of 1989, Hungary decided (May 2) to dismantle the Iron Curtain and open the borders (August 23), causing an exodus of thousands of East Germans (September 11) going to West Germany via Hungary. The effects of the Hungarian events had devastating effects on the GDR, with mass demonstrations. The East German authorities unexpectedly eased the border restrictions in November, allowing East German citizens to travel to the West. Originally intended as a pressure valve to retain East Germany as a state, the opening of the border actually led to an acceleration of the *Wende* reform process in East Germany, which finally concluded with the *Two Plus Four Treaty* a year later on 12 September 1990, under which the four occupying powers renounced their rights under the Instrument of Surrender, and Germany regained full sovereignty. This permitted German reunification on 3 October 1990, with the accession of the five re-established states in the former GDR (New states or "neue Länder").

Berlin Republic and EU integration (1990–)

Based on the Bonn-Berlin Act, adopted by the parliament on 10 March 1994, Berlin once again became the capital of the reunified Germany, while Bonn obtained the unique status of a *Bundesstadt* (federal city) retaining some federal ministries.^{[34][35]} The relocation of the government was completed in 1999.

Since reunification, Germany has taken a more active role in the European Union and NATO. Germany sent a peacekeeping force to secure stability in the Balkans and sent a force of German troops to Afghanistan as part of a NATO effort to provide security in that country after the ousting of the Taliban.^[36] These deployments were controversial, since after the war, Germany was bound by domestic law only to deploy troops for defence roles. Deployments to foreign

territories were understood not to be covered by the defence provision; however, the parliamentary vote on the issue effectively legalised the participation in a peacekeeping context.

In 2005 Angela Merkel was elected the first female Chancellor of Germany. From 2005 to 2009 she led a grand coalition with the Christian Social Union (CSU), its Bavarian sister party, and the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD). Following general elections on September 27, 2009, Merkel built the current coalition government replacing the Social Democrats with Free Democratic Party (FDP).

State division

Germany comprises 16 states (*Bundesländer*), which are further subdivided into 439 districts (*Kreise*) and cities (*kreisfreie Städte*).



-  Bremen
-  Hamburg
-  Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
-  Saxony-Anhalt
-  Saxony
-  Brandenburg
-  Berlin
-  Thuringia
-  Hesse
-  North Rhine-Westphalia
-  Rhineland-Palatinate
-  Bavaria
-  Baden-Württemberg
-  Saarland
-  Schleswig-Holstein

Rhine-

State	Capital	Area (km ²)	Population
Baden-Württemberg	Stuttgart	35,752	10,717,000
Bavaria	Munich	70,549	12,444,000
Berlin	Berlin	892	3,400,000
Brandenburg	Potsdam	29,477	2,568,000
Bremen	Bremen	404	663,000
Hamburg	Hamburg	755	1,735,000
Hesse	Wiesbaden	21,115	6,098,000
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	Schwerin	23,174	1,720,000

Lower Saxony	Hanover	47,618	8,001,000
North Rhine-Westphalia	Düsseldorf	34,043	18,075,000
Rhineland-Palatinate	Mainz	19,847	4,061,000
Saarland	Saarbrücken	2,569	1,056,000
Saxony	Dresden	18,416	4,296,000
Saxony-Anhalt	Magdeburg	20,445	2,494,000
Schleswig-Holstein	Kiel	15,763	2,829,000
Thuringia	Erfurt	16,172	2,355,000

Government

Germany is a federal, parliamentary, representative democratic republic. The German political system operates under a framework laid out in the 1949 constitutional document known as the *Grundgesetz* (Basic Law). By calling the document *Grundgesetz*, rather than *Verfassung* (constitution), the authors expressed the intention that it would be replaced by a proper constitution once Germany was reunited as one state. Amendments to the *Grundgesetz* generally require a two-thirds majority of both chambers of the parliament; the fundamental principles of the constitution, as expressed in the articles guaranteeing human dignity, the separation of powers, the federal structure, and the rule of law are valid in perpetuity. Despite the initial intention, the *Grundgesetz* remained in effect after the German reunification in 1990, with only minor amendments.

The Chancellor—currently Angela Merkel—is the head of government and exercises executive power, similar to the role of a Prime Minister in other parliamentary democracies. Federal legislative power is vested in the parliament consisting of the *Bundestag* (Federal Diet) and *Bundesrat* (Federal Council), which together form a unique type of legislative body. The *Bundestag* is elected through direct elections, by proportional representation (mixed-member). The members of the *Bundesrat* represent the governments of the sixteen federal

states and are members of the state cabinets. The respective state governments have the right to appoint and remove their envoys at any time.

The President, Christian Wulff, is the head of state and invested primarily with representative responsibilities and powers. He is elected by the *Bundesversammlung* (federal convention), an institution consisting of the members of the *Bundestag* and an equal number of state delegates. The second highest official in the German order of precedence is the *Bundestagspräsident* (President of the *Bundestag*), who is elected by the *Bundestag* and responsible for overseeing the daily sessions of the body. The third-highest official and the head of government is the Chancellor, who is appointed by the *Bundespräsident* after being elected by the *Bundestag*. The Chancellor can be removed by a constructive motion of no confidence by the *Bundestag*, where constructive implies that the *Bundestag* simultaneously has to elect a successor.

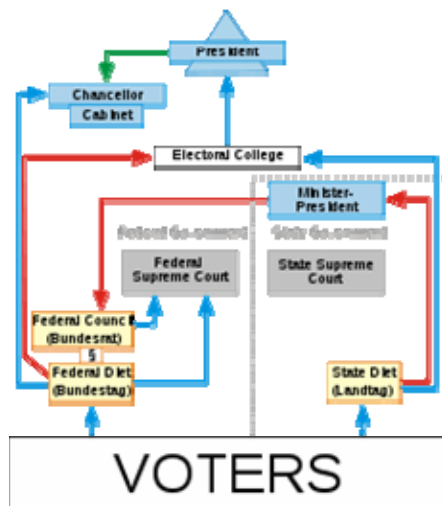
Since 1949, the party system has been dominated by the Christian Democratic Union and the Social Democratic Party of Germany with all chancellors hitherto being member of either party. However, the smaller liberal Free Democratic Party (which has had members in the *Bundestag* since 1949) and the Alliance '90/The Greens (which has controlled seats in parliament since 1983) have also played important roles, as they are regularly the smaller partner of a coalition government.

Elections in Germany

German elections since 1949

Federal Republic of Germany

Election system



The German political system

Germany elects on federal level a legislature. The parliament has one chamber; the Bundesrat, or Federal Council, represents the regions, is not considered a chamber, and its members are not elected. The Federal Diet (*Bundestag*) nominally has 598 members, elected for a four year term, 299 members elected in single-seat constituencies according to first-past-the-post, while a further 299 members are allocated from statewide party lists to achieve a proportional distribution in the legislature, conducted according to a system of proportional representation called the Mixed member proportional representation system. Voters vote once for a constituency representative, and a second time for a party, and the lists are used to make the party balances match the distribution of second votes. In the parliament elected in 2009 there are 24 overhang seats, giving a total of 622. This is caused by larger parties winning additional single-member districts above the totals determined by their proportional party vote.




Germany has a multi-party system, with two strong parties and some other third parties that are electorally successful. Since 1990 five parties (CDU and CSU counted as one) are represented in the *Bundestag*.

Elections are conducted approximately every 4 years, resulting from the constitutional requirement for elections to be held 46 to 48 months after the assembly of the Federal Diet.^[1] The exact date of the election is chosen by the President and must be a Sunday or public holiday. Should the Bundestag be dismissed before the four year period has ended, elections must be held within 60 days.

German nationals over the age of 18 are eligible to vote, including most Germans resident outside Germany, and eligibility for candidacy is essentially the same as eligibility to vote.

Latest election results

Summary of the 27 September 2009 German Bundestag election results

Parties	Constituency					Party list					Total seats	
	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-	Votes	%	+/-	Seats	+/-	Seats	+/-
 Christian Democratic Union ^[A]	13,852,743	32.0	-0.6	173	+67	11,824,794	27.3	-0.5	21	-53	194	+14
 Christian Social Union of Bavaria ^[A]	3,190,950	7.4	-0.9	45	+1	2,830,210	6.5	-0.9	0	-2	45	-1
 Social Democratic	12,077,437	27.9	-10.5	64	-81	9,988,843	23.0	-11.2	82	+5	146	-76

Party												
Free Democratic Party	4,075,115	9.4	+4.7	0	±0	6,313,023	14.6	+4.8	93	+32	93	+32
The Left	4,790,007	11.1	+3.1	16	+13	5,153,884	11.9	+3.2	60	+9	76	+22
Alliance '90/The Greens	3,974,803	9.2	+3.8	1	±0	4,641,197	10.7	+2.6	67	+17	68	+17

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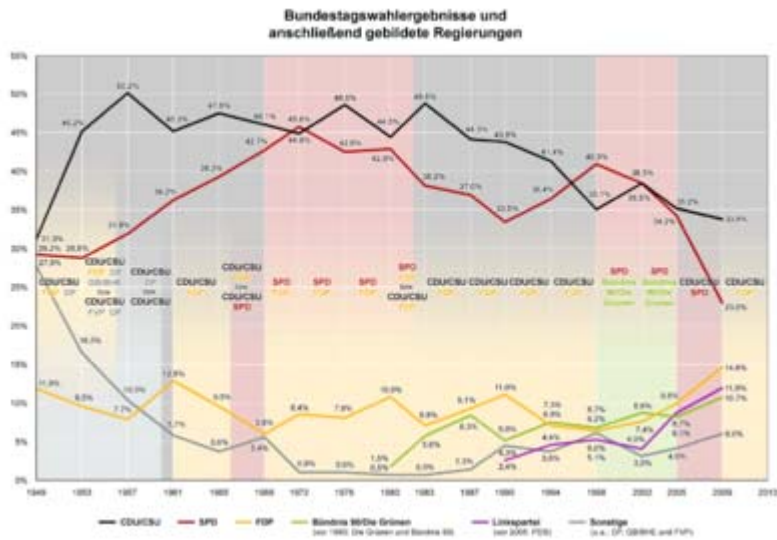
Pirate Party	46,750	0.1	+0.1	0	±0	845,904	2.0	+2.0	0	±0	0	±0
National Democratic Party	768,175	1.8	-0.0	0	±0	635,437	1.5	-0.1	0	±0	0	±0
Human Environment Animal Welfare	16,881	0.0	+0.0	0	±0	230,572	0.5	+0.3	0	±0	0	±0
The Republicans	30,045	0.1	-0.0	0	±0	193,473	0.4	-0.1	0	±0	0	±0

Ecological Democratic Party	105,276	0.2	+0.2	0	±0	132,395	0.3	+0.3	0	±0	0	±0
Family Party	17,837	0.0	-0.1	0	±0	120,716	0.3	-0.1	0	±0	0	±0
Others	289,798	0.7	+0.2	0	±0	447,094	1.0	-0.2	0	±0	0	±0
Totals	43,235,817	100.0	±0.0	299	±0	43,357,542	100	±0.0	323	+8	622	+8

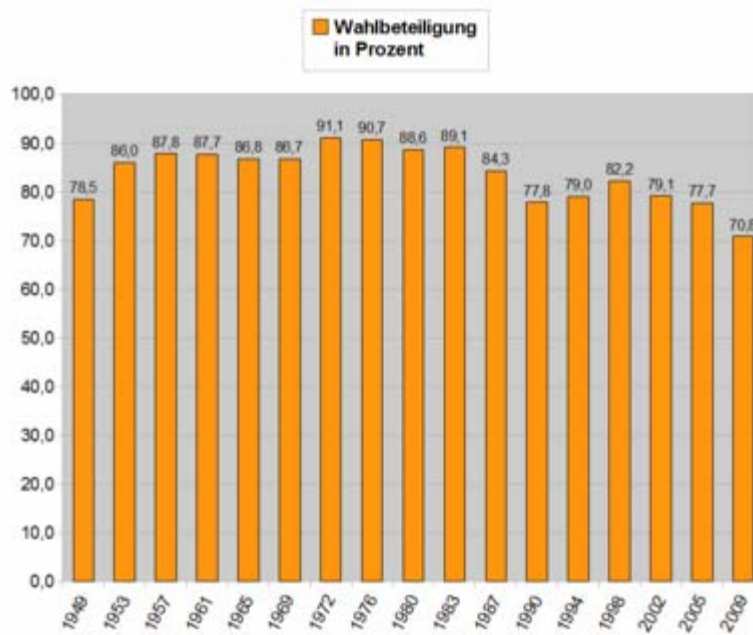
^A The Christian Democratic Union and the Christian Social Union of Bavaria call themselves sister parties. They do not compete against each other in the same geographical regions and they form one group within the Bundestag.

In July 2008, the constitutional court decided, that the practice of calculating the *relative proportion* in the mixed member proportional representation system — given by the *2nd* vote — is inaccurate. The *first* vote is directly voting for a candidate. The *second* vote depicts the proportion the voted party gets in parliament. The recent verdict suggests more direct democracy. It means that it is not relevant anymore if a party has a certain number of candidates depicted by the first vote and gets the proportion of seats in parliament on top by the 2nd vote. It meant before that the absolute number of mandates in parliament is changed with more *overhang seats*. This practice will be reduced in the future. The *second* vote will be more important thus.^[3]

List of Federal election results



German parliamentary election results



Voter turnout in German federal elections (percentage)

- 17th German federal election, 2009
- 16th German federal election, 2005
- 15th German federal election, 2002

- 14th German federal election, 1998
- 13th German federal election, 1994
- 12th German federal election, 1990 (1st of the re-united Germany)
- 11th German federal election, 1987
- 10th German federal election, 1983
- 9th German federal election, 1980
- 8th German federal election, 1976
- 7th German federal election, 1972
- 6th German federal election, 1969
- 5th German federal election, 1965
- 4th German federal election, 1961
- 3rd German federal election, 1957
- 2nd German federal election, 1953
- 1st German federal election, 1949

State elections in the Federal Republic of Germany

State elections are conducted under various rules set by the Länder. In general they are conducted according to some form of party list proportional representation, either the same as the federal system or some simplified version. The election period is generally four to five years, and the dates of elections vary from state to state.

German Democratic Republic

In the German Democratic Republic, elections between multiple parties to the *Volkskammer* took place, but were effectively controlled by the SED/state hierarchy, even if multiple parties existed pro forma. On 18 March 1990, the only free elections in the history of the GDR were held, producing a government whose major mandate was to negotiate an end to itself and its state.

German elections 1871 to 1945

From the unification of Germany under Emperor Wilhelm I in 1871 to the Nazi accession to power and the abolition of elections following the Enabling Act of 1933, elections were held to the German Reichstag or "Imperial Assembly", which supplanted its namesake, the Reichstag of the Norddeutscher Bund. The Reichstag could be dissolved by the Kaiser, and after the abdication of Wilhelm II in 1918 by the Reichspräsident. With the Weimar constitution of 1919, the voting system changed from single-member constituencies to proportional representation. Election age was reduced to 20 years. Women's suffrage had already been established by a new electoral law in 1918, following the November revolution of that year.

Elections in Nazi Germany

The 9th German election in 1933 was the last free election. In the Third Reich, several elections were conducted, leading to unanimous support of the NSDAP (Nazi Party) and their politicians, because other parties were dissolved or banned.

Weimar Republic elections

- 9th German election, 1933 (Weimar Republic)
- 8th German election, November 1932 (Weimar Republic)
- 7th German election, July 1932 (Weimar Republic)
- 6th German election, 1930 (Weimar Republic)
- 5th German election, 1928 (Weimar Republic)
- 4th German election, December 1924 (Weimar Republic)
- 3rd German election, May 1924 (Weimar Republic)
- 2nd German election, 1920 (Weimar Republic)
- 1st German election, 1919 (Weimar Republic)

Imperial elections

- 13th German election, 1912

- 12th German election, 1907
- 11th German election, 1903
- 10th German election, 1898
- 9th German election, 1893
- 8th German election, 1890
- 7th German election, 1887
- 6th German election, 1884
- 5th German election, 1881
- 4th German election, 1878
- 3rd German election, 1877
- 2nd German election, 1874
- 1st German election, 1871

German presidential election, 2010

30 June 2010

Nominee	Christian Wulff	Joachim Gauck
Party	CDU	Independent
Electoral vote	625	494

Previous

Jens
SPD

President

Böhrnsen

President-elect

Christian
CDU

Wulff

An indirect **presidential election** was held in Germany on 30 June 2010 following the resignation of Horst Köhler as President of Germany on 31 May 2010. Christian Wulff, the candidate nominated by the three governing parties,

the Christian Democratic Union, the Christian Social Union of Bavaria and the Free Democratic Party, was elected President in the third ballot. His main contender was the candidate of two opposition parties, the Social Democratic Party and the Alliance '90/The Greens, independent anti-communist human rights activist Joachim Gauck.

Christian Wulff (CDU, CSU and FDP)

On 3 June 2010, Christian Wulff (CDU), the incumbent Premier of Lower Saxony, was nominated as the candidate of the government parties (CDU, CSU, FDP). Prior to this, Federal Minister of Labour Ursula von der Leyen (CDU) had been considered the front-runner for the nomination of the government parties.

Because the Constitution of Germany forbids the President to hold other offices, Christian Wulff resigned from his seat in the Landtag of Lower Saxony on 11 June 2010 and announced to leave the supervisory board of Volkswagen the following week. He resigned from his post as Premier of Lower Saxony upon being elected as President on 30 June.

Joachim Gauck (SPD and Greens)

On 3 June 2010, the Social Democratic Party and the Greens, nominated independent Joachim Gauck, an anti-communist civil rights activist from East Germany and the first Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Archives, as their presidential candidate.

In the days following the official nominations, several FDP and CDU politicians expressed their support for Gauck, among them former Brandenburg CDU chairman Jörg Schönbohm and Oliver Möllenstädt, chairman of Bremen's FDP.^[10] Gauck is viewed as a liberal conservative, enjoying respect across political parties. Also Bavaria's Free Voters, who send 10 delegates to the

Federal Convention, said they would not nominate a candidate of their own, expressing sympathy for Gauck.

Philipp Freiherr von Brandenstein (CSU) argued that the election of Joachim Gauck would prevent any cooperation between SPD, Greens and the Left Party for years to come: "Gauck has likely made it perfectly clear to Gabriel that he will never appoint any of the apologists of the communist tyranny as government members".

While co-chairman of the Left Party Klaus Ernst initially indicated that his party might support Gauck in a possible second or third ballot, Gregor Gysi, chairman of the Left's parliamentary group in the Bundestag and Oskar Lafontaine, former co-chairman of the party, voiced their opposition to voting for Gauck, criticizing his support of the War in Afghanistan and the Hartz welfare reforms. Katja Kipping, a member of parliament for the Left Party, claimed Gauck was a "man of the past". Kipping lauded Gauck's role in investigating Stasi injustice but criticized "equating Hitler-fascism and the GDR", which she perceives as a "trivialisation of fascism". Klaus Ernst subsequently retracted his statements, stating that the Left will not vote for Gauck. Gauck himself warned the SPD and Greens against cooperating with the Left. Sigmar Gabriel, the SPD chairman, described Lafontaine's reaction as "bizarre and embarrassing", stating that he was "shocked" the party would declare Joachim Gauck their main enemy due to his investigation of communist injustice. Gabriel also said that the "reform forces" in the Left Party should stop "backing down" and "start enforcing their views".

Minor candidates

The far-left party The Left nominated Luc Jochimsen, a member of parliament and former editor-in-chief of public broadcaster Hessischer Rundfunk. After her nomination, Jochimsen opined that the German Democratic Republic was, according to the legal definition of the term, not a "state of injustice", despite

"committing inexcusable injustice towards its citizens". She withdrew after the second ballot, and urged her party members to abstain in the third ballot.

The far-right NPD nominated nationalist singer-songwriter Frank Rennicke. He withdrew after the second ballot.

Electoral assembly

Party	Seats
Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union of Bavaria	496
Social Democratic Party	333
Free Democratic Party	148
Alliance '90/The Greens	129
The Left	124
Free Voters	10
National Democratic Party	3
South Schleswig Voter Federation	1
	1,244

Source: wahlrecht.de

Parties do not only send politicians as delegates, but also celebrities, among them Olympic champion Georg Hettich. The Greens sent Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, the libertarian FDP's candidate in the 1994 presidential election, as one of their delegates.

Results

After the first two ballots, Christian Wulff led vote totals but could not win an absolute majority of 623 votes. It was notable that 45 delegates belonging to the governing coalition either voted for Gauck or abstained altogether during the first

round. Thus, the vote went to a decisive third round, where only a plurality of votes was required to win. The election is the third to require three ballots since the current system was introduced in 1949.

Candidate	Nominating Party/ies	Round One		Round Two		Round Three	
		Votes	Percentage	Votes	Percentage	Votes	Percentage
Christian Wulff	CDU, CSU, FDP	600	48.3	615	49.7	625	50.2
Joachim Gauck	SPD, Grüne	499	40.2	490	39.6	494	39.7
Luc Jochimsen	Linke	126	10.1	123	9.6	<i>Withdrawn</i>	
Frank Renniecke	NPD	3	0.2	3	0.2		
<i>Abstentions</i>		13	1.0	7	0.6	121	9.7
Valid votes		1241	99.8	1238	99.5	1240	99.7
Turnout		1242	99.8	1239	99.6	1242	99.8

Aftermath

A day after the election, a statement by Left Party politician Diether Dehm comparing the choice between Wulff and Gauck to a choice between Hitler and Stalin sparked controversy and drew critique from Greens politician Renate Künast. Dehm subsequently apologized for his choice of words. Künast also stated that any future cooperation with the Left was "miles away", particularly in light of the party's rejection of Gauck. The SPD and Greens also blamed The Left for the election of Christian Wulff. Gysi, on the other hand, blamed the SPD for the failed cooperation and again pointed out differences in political positions between Gauck and the Left.

On 2 July 2010 Wulff was sworn into office as President of Germany.