

## **Danger of rapid rise of the Sanseito Party in the Upper House election**

**Let us fight against all attempts to revive fascism!**

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In the Upper House election on July 20, the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito lost a large number of seats, and the ruling coalition lost its majority, following the previous Lower House election. Underlying this was the prolonged stagnation of the Japanese economy, which led to the impoverishment of the people, the widening of income disparities, the sudden deterioration of living conditions due to the sharp rise in prices over the past one or two years, growing anxiety about the future, and the exposure of the LDP's slush fund scandal. These factors amplified public dissatisfaction and distrust toward the existing political forces (not only the ruling parties but also the established opposition parties), which failed to improve the situation. However, while the ruling and opposition parties have switched roles and the political landscape has become more multiparty (or multipolar), the parties that have gained ground are the National Democratic Party, a supplementary force to the LDP-Komeito coalition, and the far-right, fascist-leaning Sanseito (Party of Do It Yourself or DIY) (the two parties surpassed the Constitutional Democratic Party in proportional representation votes and ranked second and third after the LDP). This shift must be viewed as a highly dangerous development.

Regardless of political affiliation, anti-people and anti-labor forces, as well as forces promoting constitutional revision and war, have grown in strength. In particular, the rapid rise of the Sanseito is an extremely serious development in the political history of postwar Japan. First, this is because political forces that directly deny the three principles of the Japanese Constitution (people's sovereignty, fundamental human rights, and pacifism) have made significant inroads into national politics. The "Draft Plan of New Japanese Constitution" announced by the Sanseito states that sovereignty belongs to the state, with no mention of people's sovereignty, the Emperor is positioned as the head of state, the requirement for citizenship is "a heart that values Japanese people," and the obligation to defend the nation is imposed. On the other hand, there are no provisions whatsoever regarding the basic human rights of the people, making it an astonishing document that does not even resemble a modern constitution. The

party's claim of revisionism on history defending the "Nishida statement<sup>1</sup>," its overt anti-communist attacks, its opposition to separate surnames for married couples, its discriminatory remarks toward women, the elderly, and gender minorities, and its xenophobic rhetoric toward foreigners all reveal the essence of its extreme reactionary nature, which seeks to dismantle the Japanese Constitution.

Secondly, this party poses a qualitatively different danger from traditional right-wing parties in terms of its ability to attract the masses with its anti-communist strategy. Internationally, right-wing populist movements (Trump's MAGA, AfD of Germany, France's RN, etc.) share common orientations and policies (such as anti-immigrant sentiment, tax cuts, and attacks on financial capital), and historically, the same methods used by the Nazis to seize power are being employed. The Sanseito has clearly learned and is practicing the techniques to win over public opinion and seize power from these experiences.

Thirdly, this party faithfully follows the core strategy of Western imperialism to counter the rise of emerging countries such as the BRICS nations—namely, the creation of a containment ring around China—and implements its own policies accordingly. It repeatedly engages in xenophobic propaganda targeting foreigners through various means, with its primary focus directed at China (and Chinese people). The underlying philosophy of its economic and military policies also centers on viewing China as the primary enemy.

A force with a purely fascist nature, tasked with serving as the vanguard of international imperialism, has established a significant foothold not only in local politics but also in national politics. By securing 15 seats in the Upper House, Sanseito has strengthened its chances of obtaining the position of standing committee chair. Additionally, it has gained the ability to submit bills independently, and its representative, KAMIYA Sohei, revealed at a press conference on July 22 that the party aims to submit an anti-spy bill during the extraordinary session of the Diet in the fall. In the unstable parliamentary situation with a minority ruling party, there is an increasing risk that Sanseito will wield influence in various situations and push Japanese politics in a more reactionary direction. Even before the election, an abnormal situation had already emerged in which various parties competed to propose xenophobic policies toward foreigners, led by Sanseito. Collaborations between Sanseito and the right-wing

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<sup>1</sup> Nishida statement: MP NISHIDA Shoji (1958-), from Kyoto Pref., stated that history of Okinawa as victim of Japanese imperialism during WWII is presented erroneously at a major war memorial site at a meeting in Okinawa for constitutional revision in Okinawa in May 2025. After a mass criticism on his revisionism he announced a partial apology.

factions of the LDP (such as TAKAICHI Sanae and the former Abe faction), or formation of a coalition government, are possible development.

Struggles against such movements have begun. More than 500 organizations quickly endorsed the “Emergency Joint Statement by NGOs Opposing the Incitement of Xenophobia” called for by the Solidarity Network with Migrants Japan and others. Based on the results of the Upper House election, in which parties inciting xenophobia made significant gains, the Tokyo Eastern Labor Union held an emergency station-front publicity event on July 22, saying “Do not tolerate discrimination against foreigners! Workers and the people must raise voices together against xenophobia.” Additionally, regarding the issue of Sanseito excluding ISHIKAWA Gaku, a reporter from the Kanagawa Shimbun who has continued critical reporting, from its regular press conference, the Japan Federation of Newspaper Workers’ Unions adopted a strongly worded protest statement at its annual conference on July 25, condemning the Sanseito’s actions.

Eighty years after the defeat of the Japanese, German, and Italian fascism, let us stand in solidarity with these struggles and will confront all schemes aimed at the resurgence of fascism and war!

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