NCTA Class App
The Constitution at 70. Parts One and Two
Classroom Lessons and Resources

The following resources can be used to supplement Professor Ethan Segal's two-part Class App presentation on the Constitution at 70 for a classroom unit of instruction.

Teaching Japan’s Current Constitutional Reform Campaign:

- Landeck, Melinda, trans. *The Honobono Family Asks: What Are Constitutional Revisions?* This *manga*, or comic book, is a powerful primary source document to help students consider (a) the constitutional changes that Japan’s LDP Party and the Abe government would like to adopt and (b) the persuasive strategies used to convince the Japanese people to support these changes.
  
  ➢ Have students analyze the comic (or sections of it) in terms of what the story is “selling.” What strategies does it use to appeal to its audience? Have students note (1) specific techniques, (2) selling points, and (3) specific issues about the constitution and its relationship to Japanese life and society. Use these as a basis of class discussion.
  
  ➢ Provide students with a copy of Japan’s 1947 Constitution and have them identify specific sections of the constitution that are addressed in this *manga* (comic book).
  
  ➢ Assign students to do online research to learn about and report on popular responses to the planned constitutional reforms.

  http://www.japantimes.co.jp/community/2015/07/15/issues/ldps-comic-appeal-constitutional-change-falls-flat/#.V9g2QzXZBrY. This article offers a detailed analysis of the LDP pro-constitutional change persuasive manga noted above—*The Honobono Family Asks: What Are Constitutional Revisions?*

Teaching about the Origins of Japan’s 1947 “MacArthur” Constitution:

and context on the U.S. Occupation of Japan and its goals for democratic reform.

  http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/japan/constitution_1947.pdf. This file provides excerpts of Japan’s 1947 Constitution with two sets of DBQ-type questions, one set focusing specifically on Article 9, the “no war” clause, and the other focusing on the origins of the document and its acceptance in Japan during the Occupation.


  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMbKZen7_UQ. Ten-minute video presenting basics of the U.S.-directed 1947 constitution, with interviews with chief American architects of the document.

- The Only Woman in the Room: Beate Sirota Gordon. Posted August 2007; recorded April 5, 2007. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TceZiTqyZXI. Gordon discusses her role as a young woman on MacArthur’s SCAP staff selected as the architect of the equal rights clause in Japan’s 1947 Constitution.


Japan’s Peace Constitution (Icarus Films, 2005) in the classroom. Even without access to the film, the reviewers provide useful strategies for teaching about Article 9.

Additional Online Resources:


