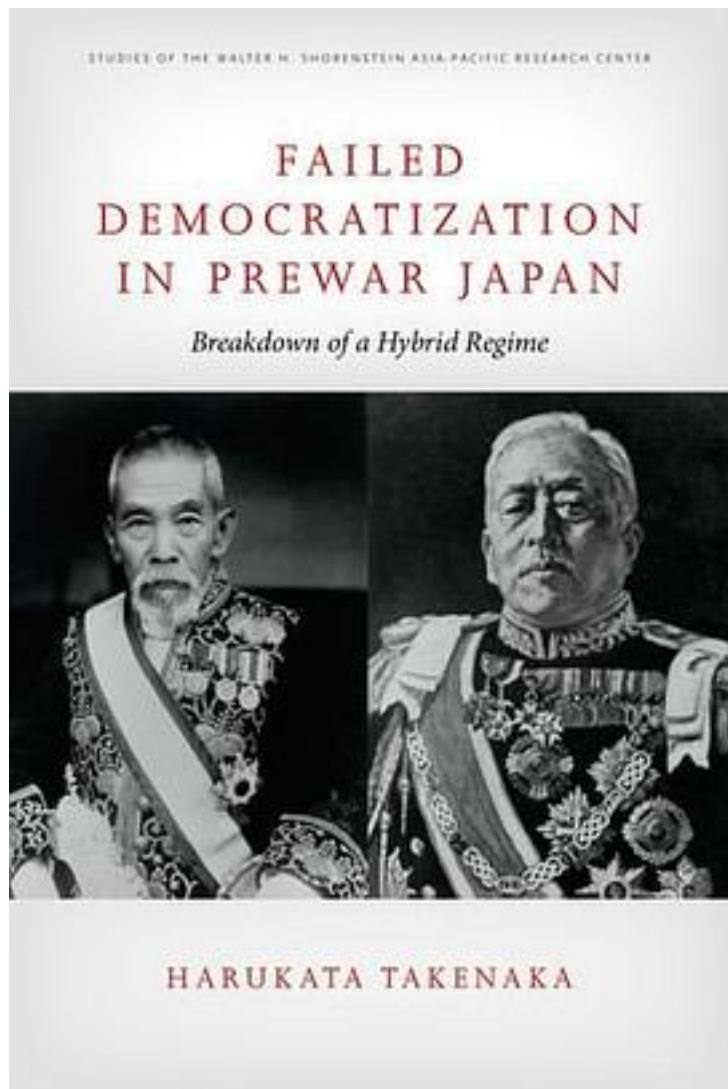


Failed Democratization in Prewar Japan



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Failed Democratization in Prewar Japan presents a compelling case study on change in political regimes through its exploration of Japan's transition to democracy. Within a broad-ranging examination of Japan's "semi-democratic" political system from 1918 to 1932, when political parties tended to dominate the government, the book analyzes in detail why this system collapsed in 1932 and discusses the implications of the failure.

By reference to comparable cases—prewar Argentina, prewar Germany, postwar Brazil, and 1980s Thailand—Harukata Takenaka reveals that the factors responsible for the breakdown of the Taisho democracy in Japan replicated those that precipitated the collapse of democracy in Europe, Latin America, and elsewhere in Asia.

While most literature on these transitions focuses on successful cases, Takenaka explores democratic failure to answer questions about how and why political parties and their leaders can behave in ways that undermine the democratic institutions that serve as the basis for their formal authority.

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目录:

[Failed Democratization in Prewar Japan 下载链接1](#)

标签

比较政治

日本政治

日本

政治学

日本史

政治史

历史

评论

Tanenaka在Stanford导师是Diamond，据说作者3年多一点的时间就拿到博士毕业了，从他先前在通产省到学者的转行经历来看，的确体现了东大高才生们“决断和实施”的一贯果断的风格。现在的非民主政治的比较研究，通常把非民主政治分为，君主制，军人专制，个人统治和政党独裁。然而就历史上，至少是二战之前的经验来看，相当多的民主制度，都与日本一样，有着Hybrid Regime的历史。有着经由限制性选举产生的议会，受到限制的君主的权力，影响力巨大的军人集团和贵族与地主群集的上议院。或者，被直接称作Oligarchy Regime，这样非民主的政治寡头共同统治的政体。Hybrid Regime过渡到民主制，退化为军人政体或者被革命推翻。但是这一政体在历史上有很长的历史，此书还是很不错的研究

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书评

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