



**PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY ON SOCIETY AND STATE**

**(SUMMARY)**

**BY**

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## Outline of Survey

### 1) Purpose of Survey

To survey trends in basic public opinion toward society and state, and to make the results widely available as basic data for government administration.

### 2) Topics of Survey

- (1) View of Public Responsibility
- (2) Impressions on Social Conditions
- (3) Attitude to State and Society
- (4) Opinions on International Problems
- (5) Image of Present-Day Japan
- (6) The Future of Japan

### 3) Subjects of Survey

- (1) People 20 years of age or over were selected nationwide
- (2) Number of people polled: 10,000
- (3) Sampling method: Two-step random sampling

### 4) Period of Survey

December 3-16, 1992

### 5) Method of Survey

Interview by pollsters

### 6) Results of Polling

Number and rate of effective replies: 7,184 persons (71.8%)

## PUBLIC OPINION ON SOCIETY AND STATE

### 1. View of Public Responsibility

When asked if they felt that public responsibility was being preserved in present-day Japan, 25.7% replied that public responsibility was being preserved, and 64.4% replied that it was not.

Compared to the results of the last survey (December 1991 survey; same hereinafter), a lower percentage of respondents felt that public responsibility was being preserved (28.6%→25.7%), and a higher percentage felt that public responsibility was not being preserved (59.7%→64.4%).

When considered by age, the highest percentage of respondents who felt that public responsibility was not being preserved was among respondents in their early 30's and late 50's.

Next, those who saw public responsibility as declining (4,627 persons) were asked to choose among specific examples of poor public behavior. The largest percentage, 58.7%, selected "discarded trash and empty cans at roadsides or in rivers." This was followed by "disregarding traffic regulations (poor driving manners, illegal parking, discarded bicycles)" (36.6%), "discarded trash and empty cans in recreational areas" (27.2%), and "littering the landscape with cigarette butts" (22.5%). (Respondents were asked to choose among multiple responses.)

Compared to results of the last survey, a lower percentage of respondents cited "disregarding traffic regulations (poor driving manners, illegal parking, discarded bicycles)" or "defacing of public facilities (graffiti in restrooms, etc.)" (41.0%→36.6%, 19.8%→15.8%).

Considered by gender, a higher percentage of men cited "disregarding traffic regulations (poor driving manners, illegal parking, discarded bicycles)."

Considered by age, respondents in their late 50's were more likely to cite "bad road manners."

## 2. Impressions on Social Conditions

### (1) Positive Impressions

When asked for an impression that summarized the positive side of social conditions in Japan, a large majority of 70.6% replied that "Japan was at peace". This was followed by those who cited "social stability" (27.7%), "a comfortable standard of living" (12.1%), and "a positive social outlook" (7.8%).

(multiple replies)

When compared to results of the last survey, the percentage of respondents for each response has declined.

Considered by gender, men were more likely to cite "social stability".

### (2) Negative Impressions

Next, when asked on the same basis for an impression that summarized the negative side of social conditions in Japan, the largest percentage, 57.5%, replied that "people were too inclined to put themselves first". This was followed by those who cited "a prevailing attitude of irresponsibility" (49.2%), "lack of a sense of solidarity" (22.9%), "lack of free time or money" (22.5%), "anxiety and widespread aggravations" (17.3%), and "present-day superficiality" (15.7%).

Compared to results of the last survey, the percentage who complained of "lack of spirit" and who expressed a "gloomy" outlook has increased (4.3%→6.9%, 2.8%→4.6%), while those who cited "self-centeredness", "lack of social solidarity", and "present-day superficiality" has decreased (59.5%→57.5%, 25.3%→22.9%, 17.3%→15.7%).

Considered by gender, a higher percentage of men complained of "lack of social solidarity" and "present-day superficiality".

Considered by age, respondents in their late 30's or early 40's were more likely to complain of "lack of free time or money".

### 3. Attitude to State and Society

#### (1) Public Affairs versus Private Affairs

Some Japanese feel that "more attention should be paid to affairs of state and society," while others feel that "there should be more emphasis on individual fulfillment." When asked which of these two views best reflected their own opinion, 52.6% replied that more attention should be paid to affairs of state and society (referred to below as "public affairs"), and 26.8% replied that more emphasis should be placed on individual fulfillment (referred to below as "private affairs"). 16.9% replied that they could not say which was more important.

When compared to results of the last survey, the percentage emphasizing private affairs has decreased (29.7%→26.8%).

#### (2) Contribution to Society

When asked if they felt that they would like to be a more useful member of society on a daily basis, 61.7% replied that they felt this way, and 33.9% replied that they did not particularly feel this way.

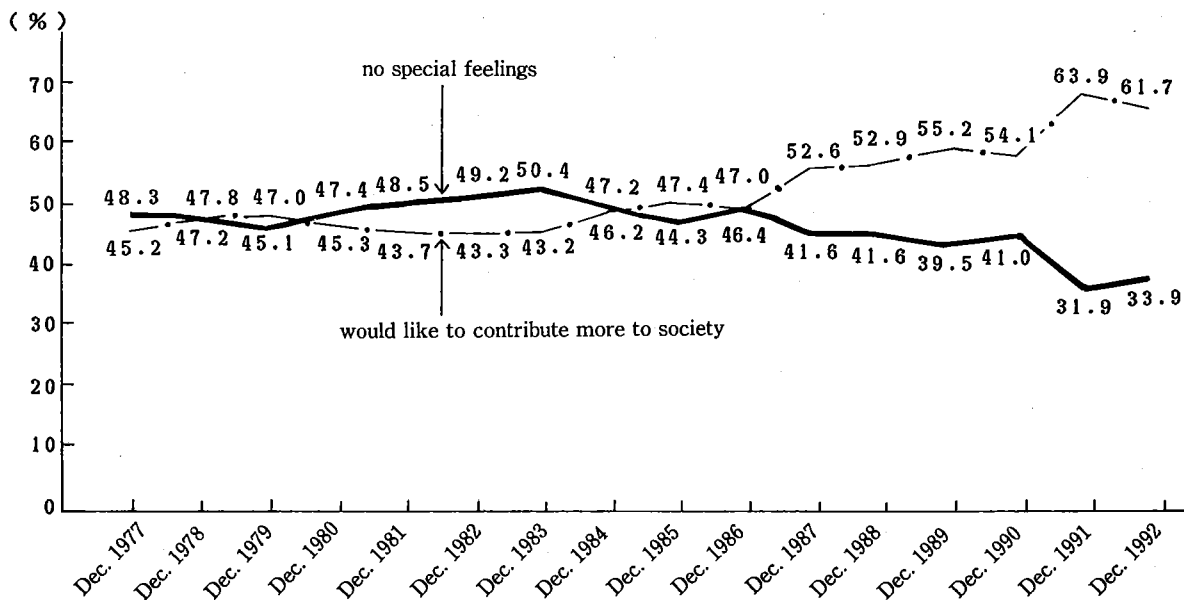
Compared to the results of the last survey, a lower percentage felt they wanted to contribute more to society

(63.9%→61.7%), and a higher percentage replied that they did not feel this way (31.9%→33.9%).

Considered by gender, men were more likely to reply that they wanted to contribute more to society.

Considered by age, the highest percentage of those who felt they wanted to contribute more were in their late 40's to 60's. Those who did not particularly feel that way were more likely to be in their 20's.

### Contribution to Society



Considered by gender, men were more likely to emphasize public affairs.

When both gender and age were considered, the highest percentage of respondents emphasizing public affairs were men in their early 50's or over 60, while the highest percentage of respondents emphasizing private affairs were men in their late 20's, or women in their early 20's or early 30's.

Public Affairs versus Private Affairs

	Number of Respondents	More attention on the state and society	More emphasis on individual fulfillment	Cannot say which is more important	No opinion
		(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Total (by sex)	7,184	52.6	26.8	16.9	3.6
Male	3,255	54.3	26.8	16.9	2.0
Female	3,929	51.1	26.9	17.0	5.0



### (3) Pride in Japan

When asked which of several aspects of Japan and its people they most took pride in, the largest group, 49.4%, selected "the high state of public order", followed by those who selected "Japan's natural beauty" (36.5%), "the long history and traditions of Japan" (35.1%), "the diligence and native talents of the people" (34.1%), "the high level of education" (29.1%), "Japan's superior culture and artistic accomplishments" (27.2%), and Japan's "free and peaceful society" (26.1%), (multiple replies).

These replies show no major changes from the last survey.

Considered by gender, men were more likely to cite "the high state of public order", "diligence and native talents", "high educational level", "economic prosperity", "high level of science and technology", and "social stability". Women were more likely to cite "natural beauty" and "Japan's superior culture and artistic accomplishments".

Considered by age, respondents in their late 60's or older were more likely to cite "Japan's long history and traditions", respondents in their late 30's or 40's were more likely to cite "the diligence and native talents of the people", and respondents in their late 40's or early 50's were more likely to cite "the high level of education".

#### (4) Feelings of Love of Country

##### A. Degree of Love of Country

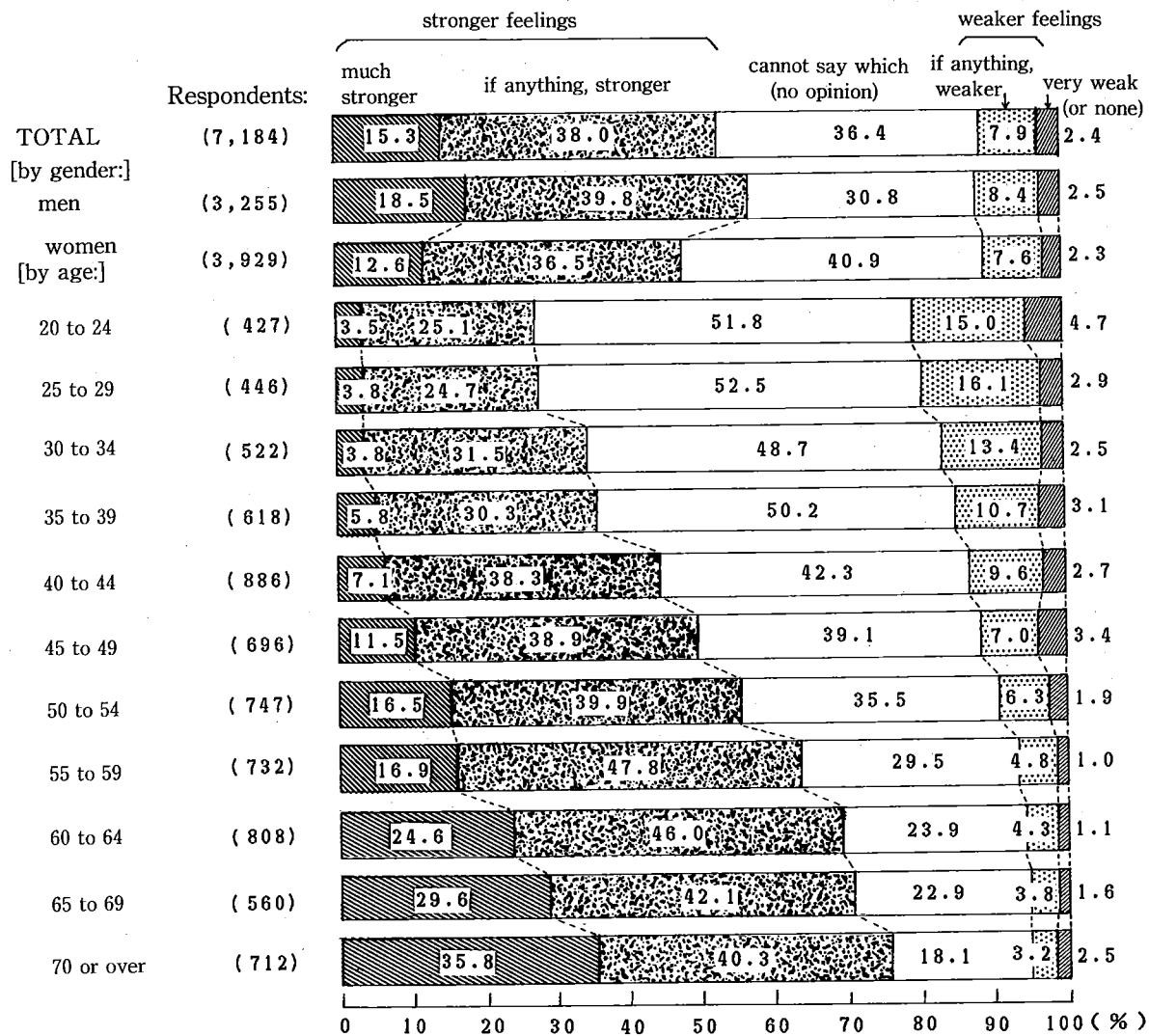
When asked whether they felt that they "loved their country" more or less than people of other nations, 53.3% replied that they had a stronger feeling of love of country (15.3% "much stronger" + 38.0% "if anything, stronger"), 10.3% replied that they had a weaker sense of love of country (7.9% "if anything, weaker" + 2.4% "much weaker (no love of country at all)"), and 36.4% replied that they "did not know which was stronger (no opinion)."

Compared to the last survey, the percentage of those who had a stronger feeling has declined (55.4%→53.3%).

Considered by gender, a higher percentage of men felt they had a stronger love of country than people in other nations.

Considered by age, the percentage who replied that they had a stronger love of country tends to rise with each older age group.

### Comparative Degree of Love of Country



## B. Specific Areas of Love of Country

With the exception of those who replied that they had "little love of country (or none at all)", respondents (7,013) were asked to choose up to two statements that best expressed their feelings of "love of country". The largest percentage, 46.6%, selected "love of Japan's land and nature." This was followed by "pride in Japan's history and traditions" (27.2%), "the keeping of social order in Japan" (26.6%), and "upholding the Constitution" (19.4%). (multiple replies)

When compared to the results of the last survey, the percentage citing "the keeping of social order in Japan" has increased (22.2%→26.6%).

Considered by gender, women were more likely to choose "love of Japan's land and nature" and "love of Japan's culture and arts." Men were more likely to choose "the keeping of social order in Japan," "upholding the Constitution," "preserving the independence and safety of Japan," "the efforts made to ensure national prosperity," and "the efforts made to improve Japan's international position."

When both gender and age were considered, the highest percentage of respondents selecting "love of Japan's land and nature" were women in their late 20's or 30's, the highest percentage selecting "upholding the Constitution" were men in their late 50's or older, the highest percentage selecting "preserving the independence and safety of Japan" were men in their later 40's, early 50's, or 60's, the highest percentage selecting "love of Japan's culture and arts" were women in their

late 20's or early 30's, the highest percentage selecting "the efforts made to ensure national prosperity" were men in their early 50's, and the highest percentage selecting "the efforts made to improve Japan's international position" were men in their early 30's or early 50's.

#### C. Is It Necessary to Foster a Feeling of Love of Country?

When asked if there is a need to foster a greater feeling of "love of country" among Japanese today, 76.6% of those polled agreed that there is, and 11.5% disagreed.

This result shows no major change from last year's survey.

Considered by age, with each older age group, respondents were more likely to feel that there is a need to foster love of country. Likewise, the younger the age group, the higher the percentage that did not agree that there is such a need.

#### (5) State Interests Versus Private Interests

Respondents were asked whether Japanese in the future should emphasize the interests of the state over private interests, or whether, on the contrary, they should emphasize private interests over state interests. 43.5% replied that state interests should take priority over private interests (hereinafter, "state interests"), 23.5% replied that private interests should take priority over state interests (hereinafter, "private interests"), and 28.6% could not say which should take priority.

#### 4. Opinions on International Problems

##### (1) Awareness of Foreign News

Respondents were asked if they had an interest or concern for learning news about foreign countries when they heard or read news reports by the media, whether by television, radio, or newspapers. 83.1% replied that they are interested in foreign news (40.9% "much interested" + 42.2% "sometimes interested"), and 16.9% replied that they were not interested (13.6% "not very interested" + 3.3% "virtually no interest (or none at all)").

##### (2) Japanese Interests Versus World Interests

When asked how Japanese interests should be balanced with overall world interests when approaching the problems that face the world today, 14.2% felt that "Japanese interests should come first", while 11.5% felt that "consideration for how best to contribute to the international community" should come first. The majority of those polled, 64.6%, felt that "today's problems should be approached by striking a balance between Japanese interests and overall world interests".

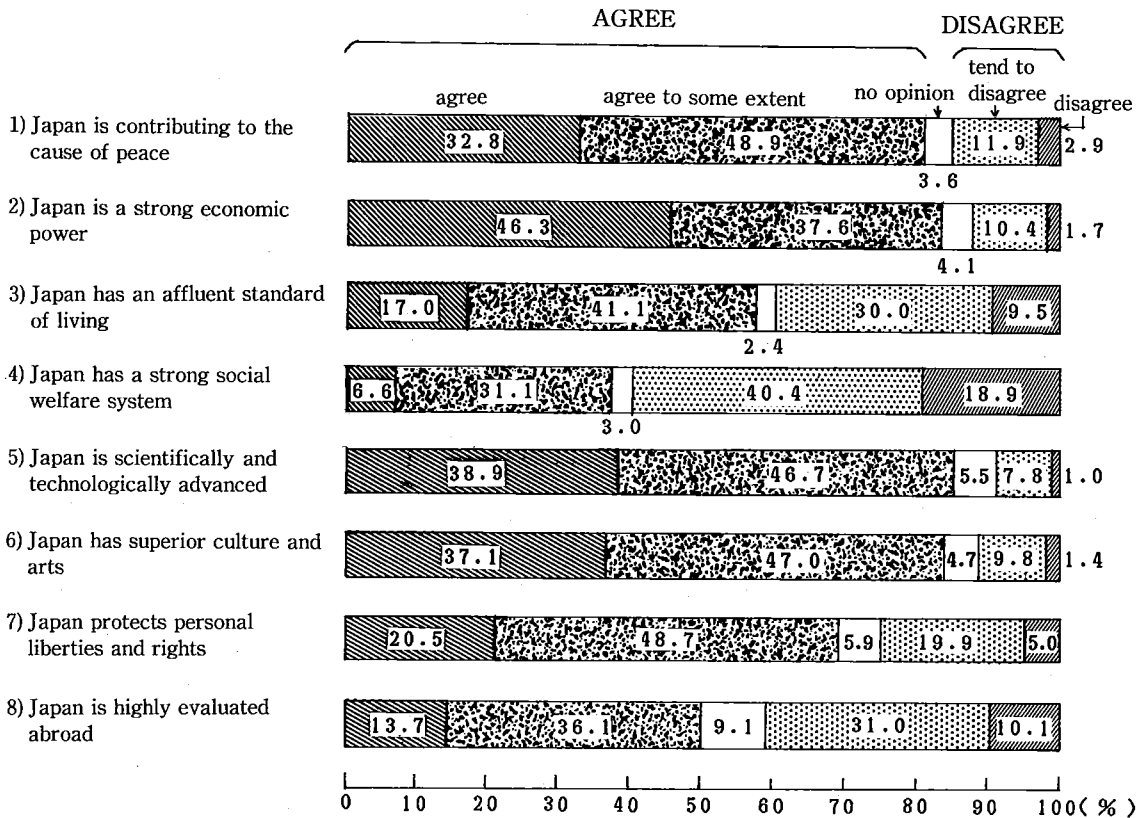
When considered by age, respondents over 60 were more likely to feel that "Japanese interests should come first", and respondents in their 20's, 30's, or 40's were more likely to feel that "today's problems should be approached by striking a balance between Japanese interests and overall world interests".

5. Image of Present-Day Japan

(1) What Kind of Country is Japan Today?

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with each of eight statements relating to what kind of country Japan is today. Results are shown below.

Image of Present-Day Japan



1) Japan is contributing to the cause of peace

When asked if they agreed with the statement, "Japan is contributing to the cause of peace," 81.6% of respondents agreed (32.8% "agree completely" + 48.9% "agree somewhat") and 14.8% did not agree (11.9% "tend to disagree" + 2.9% "disagree completely").

Considered by age, the highest percentage of respondents who disagreed was among those in their 20's.

2) Japan is a strong economic power

When asked if they agreed with the statement, "Japan is a strong economic power," 83.9% of respondents agreed (46.3% "agree completely" + 37.6% "agree somewhat") and 12.0% did not agree (10.4% "tend to disagree" + 1.7% "disagree completely").

Considered by gender, men were more likely to agree that Japan is a strong economic power.

3) Japan has an affluent standard of living

When asked if they agreed with the statement, "Japan has an affluent standard of living," 58.0% of respondents agreed (17.0% "agree completely" + 41.1% "agree somewhat") and 39.5% did not agree (30.0% "tend to disagree" + 9.5% "disagree completely").

When both age and gender were considered, the highest percentage of respondents who agreed was among men over 70 and women in their 20's. The highest percentage of those who disagreed was among men in their 40's or 50's and women in their 40's.



4) Japan has a strong social welfare system

When asked if they agreed with the statement, "Japan has a strong social welfare system", 37.7% of respondents agreed (6.6% "agree completely" + 31.1% "agree somewhat") and 59.3% did not agree (40.4% "tend to disagree" + 18.9% "disagree completely").

When both age and gender were considered, the highest percentage of respondents who agreed was among men over 60. The highest percentage of those who disagreed was among men in their 30's or 40's.

5) Japan is scientifically and technologically advanced

When asked if they agreed with the statement, "Japan is scientifically and technologically advanced," 85.7% of respondents agreed (38.9% "agree completely" + 46.7% "agree somewhat") and 8.8% did not agree (7.8% "tend to disagree" + 1.0% "disagree completely").

Considered by gender, men were more likely to agree that Japan is scientifically and technologically advanced.

6) Japan has superior culture and arts

When asked if they agreed with the statement, "Japan has superior culture and arts," 84.1% of respondents agreed (37.1% "agree completely" + 47.0% "agree somewhat") and 11.2% did not agree (9.8% "tend to disagree" + 1.4% "disagree completely").

7) Japan protects personal liberties and rights

When asked if they agreed with the statement, "Japan protects personal liberties and rights," 69.2% of respondents agreed (20.5% "agree completely" + 48.7% "agree somewhat") and 25.0% did not agree (19.9% "tend to disagree" + 5.0% "disagree completely").

When compared to results of the last survey, the percentage agreeing with this statement has decreased (71.2%→ 69.2%).

Considered by gender, men were more likely to agree that Japan protects personal liberties and rights.

When both gender and age were considered, the highest percentage of respondents who agreed was among men over 50. The highest percentage of those who disagreed was among both men and women in their 20's.

8) Japan is highly evaluated abroad

When asked if they agreed with the statement, "Japan is highly evaluated abroad," 49.8% of respondents agreed (13.7% "agree completely" + 36.1% "agree somewhat") and 41.1% did not agree (31.0% "tend to disagree" + 10.1% "disagree completely").

This result shows no major change from last year's survey.

Considered by gender, men were more likely to disagree with this statement.

When both gender and age were considered, the highest percentage of respondents who agreed was among men over 70 and women in their 20's. The highest percentage of those who disagreed was among men in their 20's, 30's, or 40's.

(2) Does Government Reflect the Will of the People?

A. When asked how well the government reflects the will of the people, 23.4% felt that government did well or fairly well (3.0% "fairly well reflects the will of the people" + 20.5% "reflects the will of the people to some extent"), and 70.1% felt government did a poor job (49.3% "does not reflect the will of the people very well" + 20.8% "hardly reflects the will of the people at all").

Considered by gender, men were more likely to respond that government reflects the will of the people.

Considered by age, respondents over 60 were more likely to feel that government reflects the will of the people, and respondents in their 20's, 30's, or 40's were more likely to feel that government does not reflect the will of the people.

B. What can be done so that government would better reflect the will of the people?

Respondents who replied that the government "reflects the will of the people only somewhat", "not very well", or "hardly at all" were asked what can be done so that government would better reflect the will of the people. The most popular response, selected by 28.8%, was that "politicians should listen to the voice of the people." This was followed by "people should be aware of and vote in elections" (21.9%) and "people should take more of an interest in national policies" (18.8%).

When compared to results of the last survey, a higher percentage selected "people should be aware of and vote in elections" (18.9%→21.9%), and a lower percentage selected "people should take more of an interest in national policies" has decreased (20.5%→18.8%).

Considered by gender, women were more likely to select "politicians should listen to the voice of the people," and men were more likely to select "people should be aware of and vote in elections."

Considered by age, respondents over 60 were more likely to feel that "politicians should listen to the voice of the people," and respondents in their early 50's were more likely to feel that "people should be aware of and vote in elections." Also, the younger the age group, the higher the percentage that felt that "opportunities for people to participate should be expanded."

Considered by occupation, the highest percentage selecting "politicians should listen to the voice of the people" was found among those engaged in agriculture, forestry, or fishing (self-employed) and among housewives (unemployed). The highest percentage selecting "people should take more of an interest in national policies" was found among administrators, specialists, and office workers.

## 6. The Future of Japan

Respondents were asked whether, on the whole, they felt that Japan was headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction. 31.4% of those polled felt Japan is moving in the right direction, and 44.3% felt Japan is moving in the wrong direction.

When compared to results of the last survey, a lower percentage feel that Japan is moving in the right direction (40.1%→31.4%) and a higher percentage feel that Japan is moving in the wrong direction (35.5%→44.3%).

Considered by gender, men were more likely to respond that Japan is moving in the right direction.

When both gender and age were considered, the highest percentage who replied that Japan is moving in the right direction was among men over 50, and the highest percentage who replied that Japan is moving in the wrong direction was among both men and women in their 20's, 30's, or 40's.

### (1) Those Who Feel Japan is Moving in the Right Direction

Those who felt Japan is moving in the right direction were asked to select specific areas on a multiple-choice basis. 36.6% selected "education", followed by "public order" (36.3%), "economic power" (34.7%), "health and welfare" (33.9%), "science and technology" (28.3%), and "foreign relations" (25.2%).

(multiple replies)

(2) Those Who Feel Japan is Moving in the Wrong Direction

Those (3,180) who felt Japan is moving in the wrong direction were asked to select specific areas on a multiple-choice basis. The highest percentage, 53.3%, selected "business conditions". This was followed by "the natural environment" (51.9%), "foreign relations" (38.5%), "prices" (36.4%), "social trends" (28.3%), "land and housing" (27.5%), and "employment and labor conditions" (27.2%). (multiple replies)

When compared to results of the last survey, a higher percentage cited "business conditions", "employment and labor conditions", "national finance", and "economic power" (35.7%→53.3%, 22.1%→27.2%, 19.9%→23.7%, and 11.8%→14.8%). At the same time, a lower percentage cited "the natural environment", "foreign relations", "land and housing", "defense", "living conditions", and "food supplies" (58.9%→51.9%, 45.2%→38.5%, 39.2%→27.5%, 32.9%→22.3%, 27.5%→20.5%, and 24.8%→15.3%).

When responses were compared by the size of the town or city in which the respondent dwelled, there was a tendency for "land and housing" to elicit a higher response as the city size increased.

Considered by gender, men were more likely to cite "foreign relations", "unfair regional differences", and "internationalization", while women were more likely to cite "prices", "health and welfare", and "living conditions".

When both gender and age were considered, the highest percentage who cited "business conditions" was among men in their 50's and women in their 40's. The highest percentage who cited "the natural environment" was among women in their 20's and 30's. The highest percentage who cited "foreign relations" was among men in their 20's, 30's, and 40's. The highest percentage who cited "prices" was among women in their 30's. The highest percentage who cited "land and housing" was among both men and women in their 20's, 30's, and 40's. The highest percentage who cited "health and welfare" was among women in their 30's. The highest percentage who cited "living conditions" or "education" was among women in their 30's and 40's.