

## From Imitation to Creation

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Looking at the current situation of Political Science in Japan, it is almost impossible to characterize the whole picture in a word. There are many different features from Political Theory through Comparative Politics. Even if it is so, there still exists a certain common feature among different fields of Political Science in Japan. With a few exceptions, most Japanese political scientists have been “the best and brightest” in borrowing various kinds of political theories invented in the Western World (including the Marxist School) and adapting them to a great variety of political affairs in Japan since the Meiji Restoration. This has resulted in lacking Japanese original theories.

It goes without saying that learning anything new and valuable from foreign countries is much more important than being satisfied with the present level of own academic knowledge. At the same time, one should try to create one's own theories or methodologies that can apply to other societies and countries. The achievement of Political Science in Japan seems to stand far behind from that in the West, especially in the United States. It is high time that Japanese political scientists were to make great efforts to invent their own frameworks, models, and theories so that they would be able to contribute themselves to the development of Political Science in the world. Even if Japanese scholars succeed in doing excellent researches based on their own methodologies, there still exists another problem. That is a language they use. If they write their research papers in Japanese, few people in the rest of the world can read them. From this viewpoint, it is significant to publish original research papers and works in English. This is one of the reasons we have started publishing this journal.