

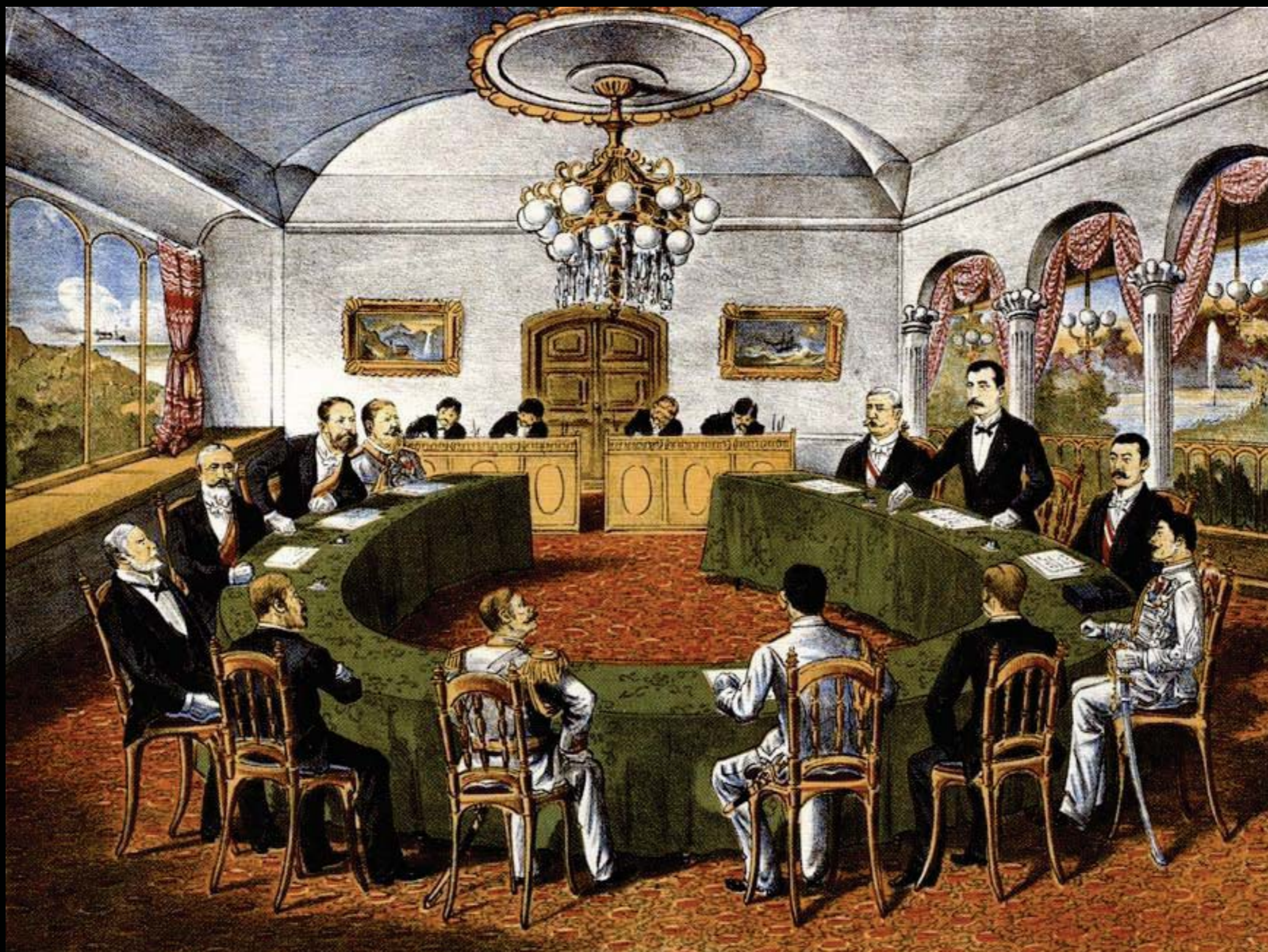
Japan's "Imperial Democracy"

Visualizing Imperial Wars



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Portsmouth Treaty, 1905



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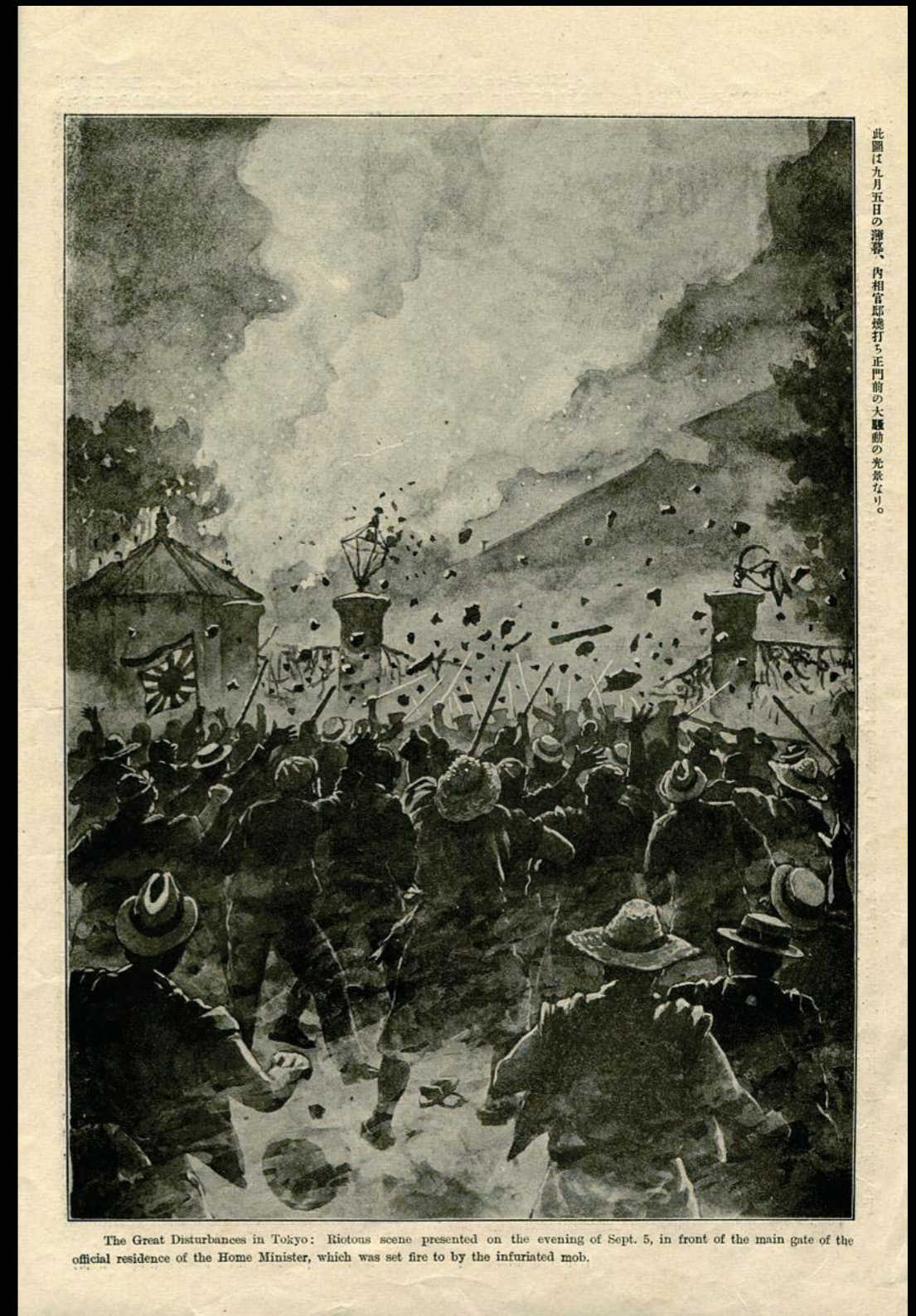
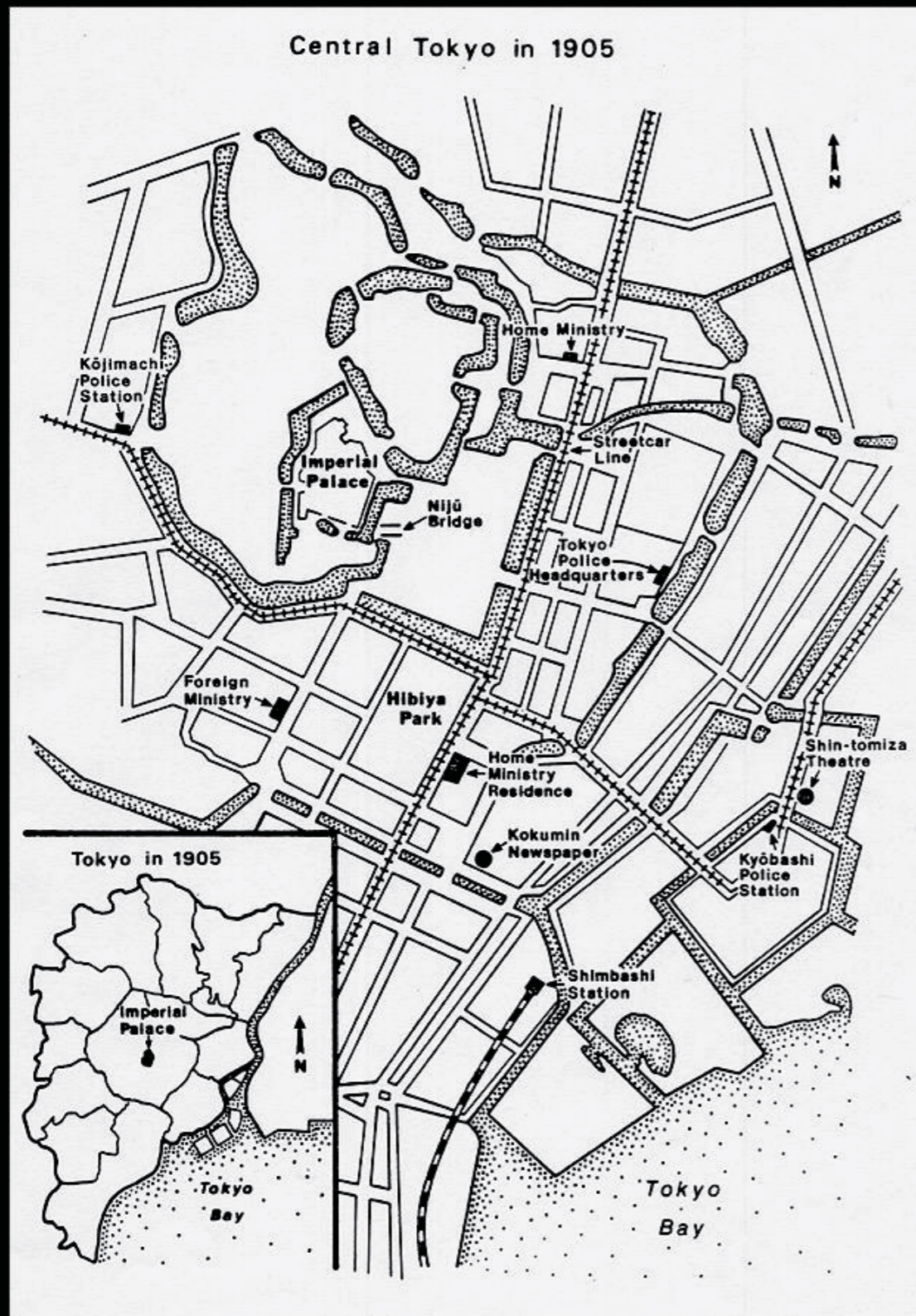
Japan's Arrival as Great Power

- July 1905, Taft-Katsura Agreement
- August, Anglo-Japanese Treaty extended
- November 1905: Korea becomes protectorate
 - 1909, Ito assassinated
 - August 1910, Korea formally annexed

Domestic Consequences

- 1/5 of men directly mobilized: 1 million men to the war (100,000 deaths)
- Industrial base
- x8~x10 cost of Sino-Japanese War
- Unprecedented level of heightened political awareness
 - awareness of war
 - rising expectations > riots when betrayed

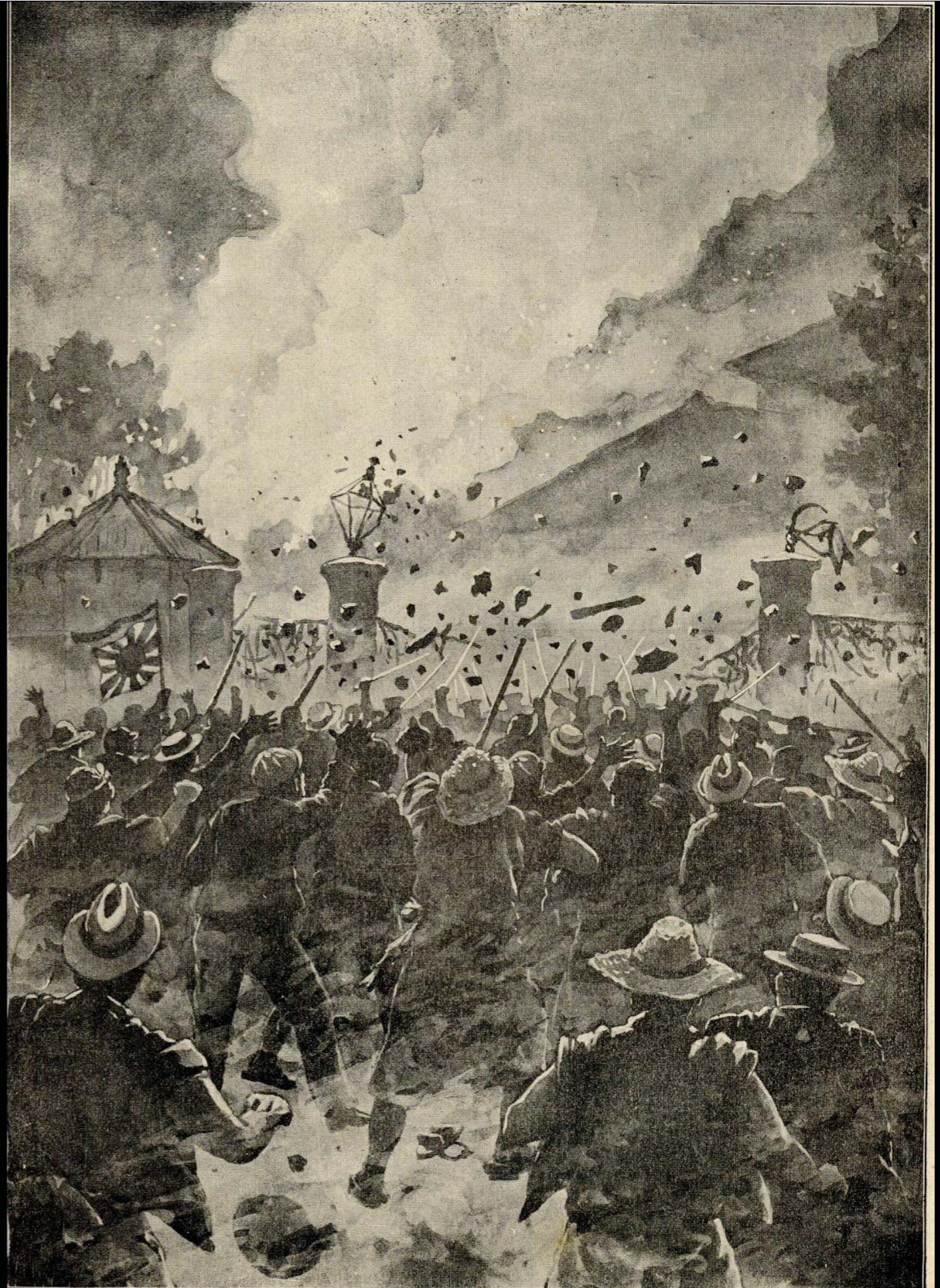
Hibiya Riots, Sept. 5-7, 1905



Source: Gordon, Andrew. *Labor and Imperial Democracy in PreWar Japan*. University of California Press, 1991. License CC BY-NC-SA.

This image is in the public domain.
Source: *The Tokyo Riot Graphic* 66 (September 18, 1905)

Storming the Home Minister's residence



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Source: *The Tokyo Riot Graphic* 66 (September 18, 1905)

The Great Disturbances in Tokyo: Riotous scene presented on the evening of Sept. 5, in front of the main gate of the official residence of the Home Minister, which was set fire to by the infuriated mob.

Attacking police boxes (kōban)



This image is in the public domain.
Source: *The Tokyo Riot Graphic* 66 (September 18, 1905)

巡査派出所焼打の實況
The Great Disturbances in Tokyo: Scene of a police-box being set fire to by rioters.

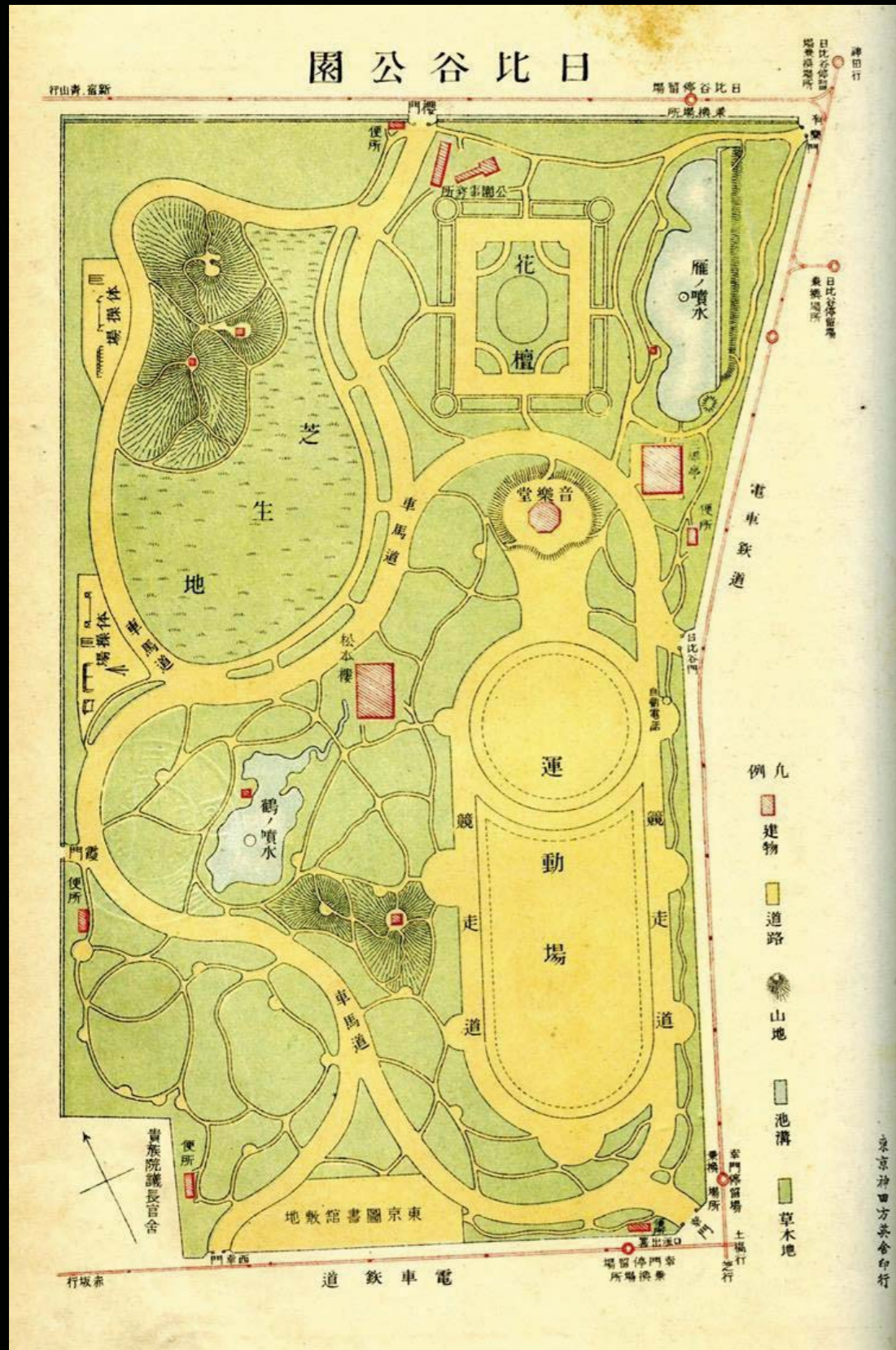
Trashing streetcars



This image is in the public domain.
Source: *The Tokyo Riot Graphic* 66 (September 18, 1905)

The Great Disturbances in Tokyo: Electric cars burning on the night of Sept. 6.

Hibiya Park



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Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).

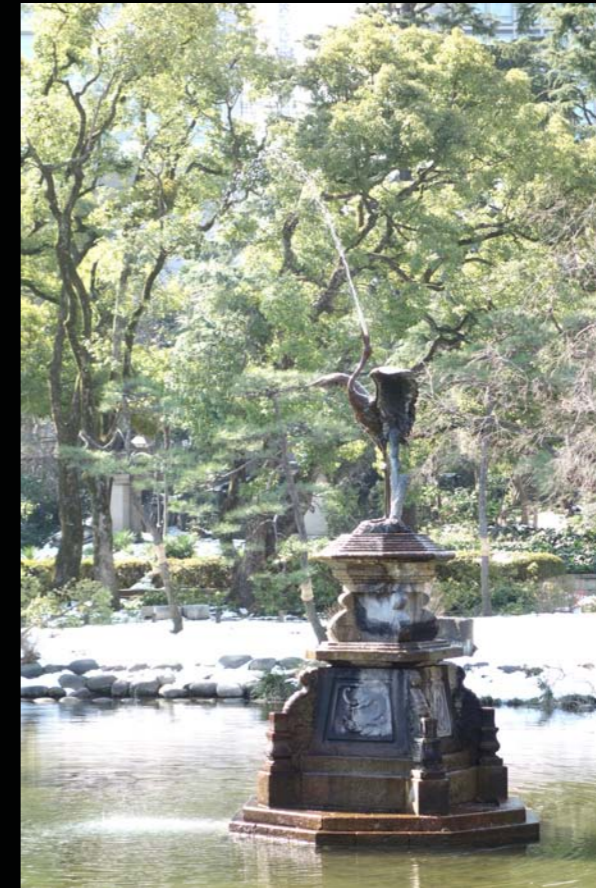
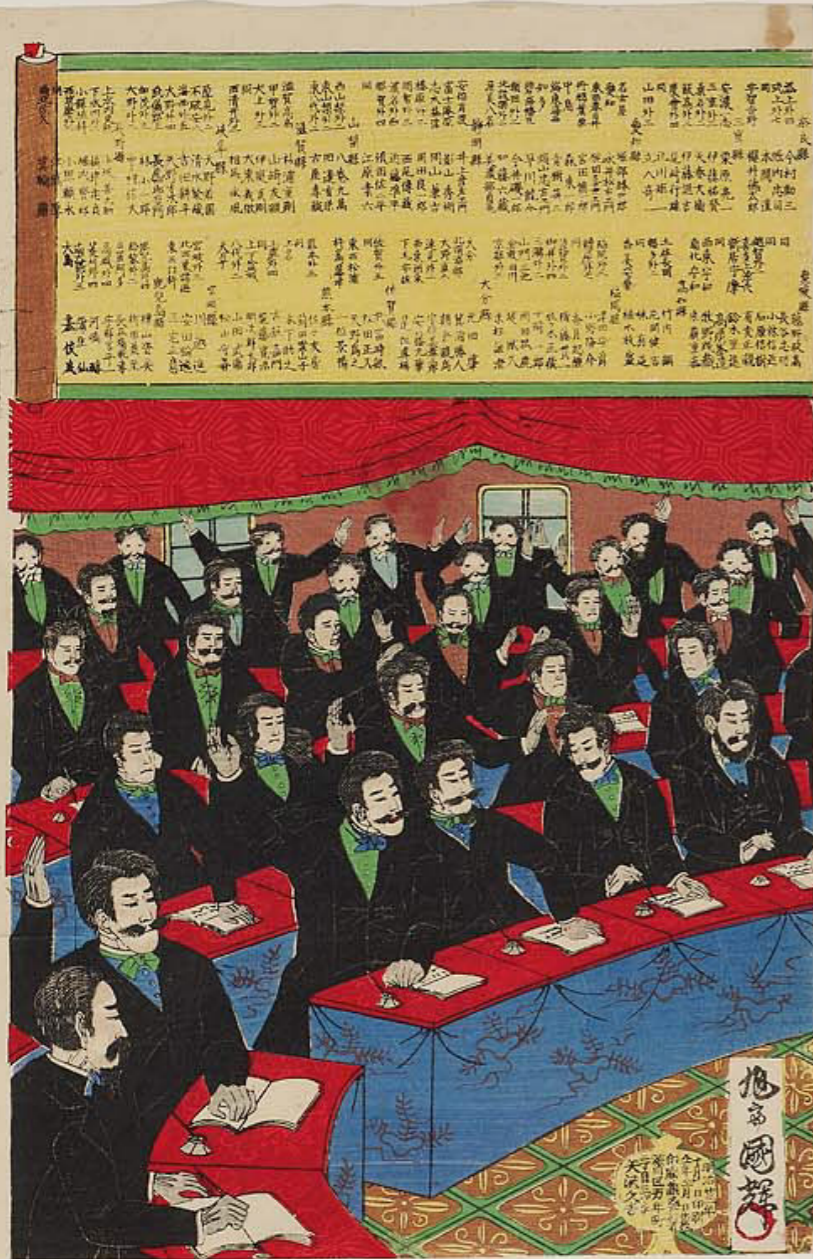


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The Imperial Diet



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Confrontations

- 1890-1894: highly contentious sessions
- Opposition majority: Liberals and Progressives
- Government dominated by “Oligarchs”
 - Itō, Yamagata Aritomo, Matsukata Masayoshi

Towards Party Government

- 1900, Rikken Seiyūkai:
“Friends of Constitutional Government”
- Katsura and Saionji cabinets
– 1901-1913
- Bureaucratization of party and
politicization of bureaucracy

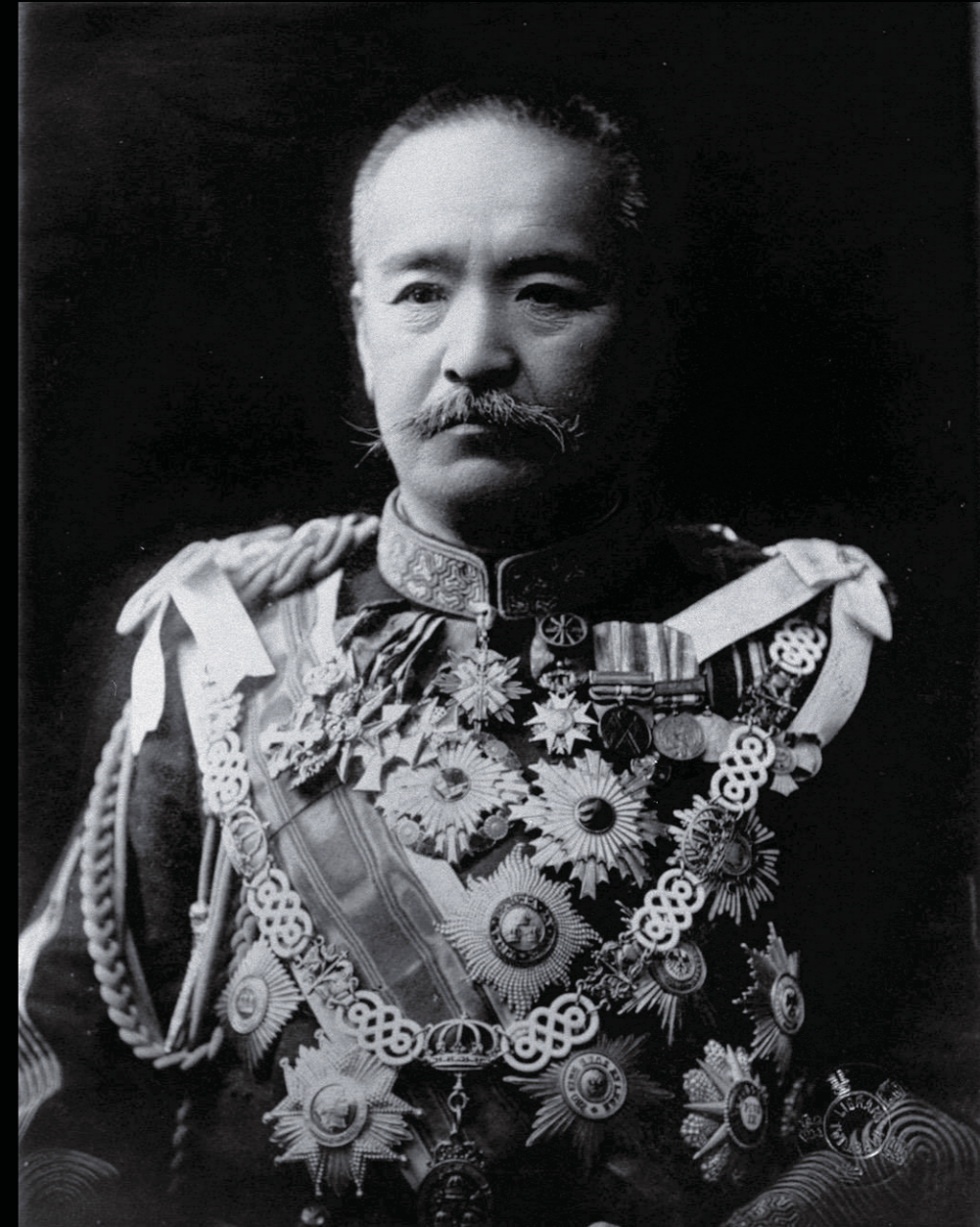


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Itō Hirobumi

Taishō Political Crisis: 1912-1913

- Katsura vs “Movement to Protect Constitutional Gov”
- Katsura creates Dōshikai
“Association of Believers of Constitutional Government”
- “Using the throne as parapet and the imperial rescripts as bullets.”



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Katsura Tarō

Party Cabinets



Hara Kei/Takashi
(1856-1921)

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Prewar Liberalism

- Minobe Tasukichi (1913) and Yoshino Sakuzō (1916)
- Major elements of constitutional government?
- Prerogatives? Duties?

Government by Compromise

- Continuing non-party powers
 - Emperor
 - Oligarchs
 - Privy Council
 - House of Peers
 - Military
- Elites united by commitment to emperor and empire

Imperial Democracy

- Nation building and empire building as simultaneous
 - Imperialism generates call for a popular voice

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21H.155 Modern Japan: 1868 to Present
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