

# The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia

## NoVa Fall 2020 Special Virtual Workshop



**OPEN TO ALL VIRGINIA AND DC AREA SECONDARY TEACHERS**  
**JOIN US FOR A SATURDAY MORNING VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**  
**DECEMBER 12, 2020 9 AM-12:15 PM**

### **Constitutional Crossroads: A Case Study of Japan's Post-WWII Constitution in the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century World**

We know what a hard year it is so we have tried to design a short, informative, and fun program that combines all the features of our regular NoVa NCTA Saturday programs in an interactive virtual format. You will have to bring your own coffee or tea—but you can wear your sweats!

Japan's postwar constitution--often called the 1947 Constitution or MacArthur Constitution--was controversial from the outset, not only because it was perceived as dictated by the Occupation forces, but because of its anti-war Article 9 and other features. It was a revolutionary departure from Japan's first constitution, presented in 1889 as a gift from the Meiji emperor to the subjects—not citizens—of Japan.

Although often debated over the years, the constitution has endured without a single revision. The most serious revision efforts began and grew during the Abe years, with revision of Article 9 and other provisions seeming inevitable. What did the 1947 Constitution provide? How did it bring Japan into the post-war world and why was it embraced despite its Occupation era origins? What are the challenges and, why, in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, did these gain strength? Japan's constitution is a window into modern Japan and a valuable case study in comparative constitutions for history and government courses.

### **Workshop Details and Benefits**

Professor Ethan Segal (Japanese history, Michigan State University), one of our favorite scholars for NCTA, will kick off the program with a live, interactive webinar, which will be followed by two interactive curriculum sessions that provide materials and discussion to facilitate teaching about Japan's constitution in historical context and as a contemporary issue in secondary social studies.

Participants must be able to attend with Zoom audio and video. Participants receive a stipend in the form of a \$50 Amazon card, certificate of 4 professional development contact hours, lessons, and resource lists. Register at <https://www.colorado.edu/ptea/vancta-reg>. **Participation is limited to 20; registration closes December 5 or when workshop fills.** Questions: [lynn.parisi@colorado.edu](mailto:lynn.parisi@colorado.edu) or [matthew.sudnik@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.sudnik@gmail.com).



The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia  
Program for Teaching East Asia  
University of Colorado Boulder  
[www.colorado.edu/ptea/ncta](http://www.colorado.edu/ptea/ncta)

