

Turn Misfortune into Blessing

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Since the March 11 megaquake and devastating tsunami, aftershocks have hit eastern Japan almost every day. In addition, radioactive substances have continued to leak from a nuclear power plant crippled by the disaster. Buddha's teachings say a giant earthquake is a warning bell against lazy government leaders and citizens. The Democratic Party of Japan now in power has performed far more poorly than any earlier governing parties. Prime Minister Naoto Kan has strayed without having any concept of the state.

Japanese have overcome great hardships

Natural disasters are heaven-sent warnings against distortions in our government and livelihood. They represent hardships that can be overcome. Japanese have overcome several great hardships and built an excellent history. Such hardships included conflicts leading to the Meiji Restoration and the defeat in the Greater East Asian War (the Pacific War). In all areas, our ancestors have built the Japanese history under the slogan "Turn misfortune into blessing." How the Japanese people would view the latest disaster may indicate their competence.

I would like to take the liberty of describing political party leaders in Japan as lacking competence. Therefore, the divine warning came to urge Prime Minister Kan to renew the political world. Any effort to topple the government should be avoided when Japan is struggling to address the great disaster. But after a certain period (e.g. one month) the prime minister should pledge to hold a general election of the House of Representatives. Till then ruling and opposition parties should join forces in relieving disaster victims.

Philosophy is indispensable for political realignment

A political realignment or a grand coalition between ruling and opposition parties must be based on philosophical agreement on the concept of the state. Without such agreement, a political realignment or a grand coalition may fail soon. Based on the philosophical agreement, politicians should discuss a policy outline and decide on unshakable state policies. Japan has many promising human resources in the public and private sectors. Through a general election, voters should elect ambitious people to the House of Representatives. Then, those elected lawmakers should eliminate their partisanship and launch a philosophy- and policy-oriented government. The following fundamental agreement on the concept of the state is indispensable for a political realignment:

First, Japan should create a new constitution and develop a legal system for a self-driven country, focusing on the development and enhancement of defense forces that can counter countries surrounding Japan.

Second, Japan should correct the education based on excessive freedom and equality and build on the spirit given in the traditional Imperial Rescript on Education to establish an education and training system for young people. The German military draft system can be a model.

Third, Japan should take full advantage of its productivity to achieve an economic recovery and overcome deflation by planning and implementing a bold economic stimulus package focusing on public investment for the post-disaster national reconstruction. The government should resort to the issue of “government notes” rather than tax hikes to cover financial shortages.

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