The New Technocrats’ Vision for the Renovation of
Japanese “Party Government” in the Late 1920s to Early 1930s

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In this paper, I attempt to make clear, through an examination of the plans for revision of “Party Government” by the new technocrats in the late 1920s and early 1930s, what conflicts were contained in the Japanese “Party Government”.

Under the regime of the Meiji Constitution, it was theoretically impossible to unify various powers by means other than “Party Government”. In reality, however, “Party Government” faced various dilemmas. Therefore, as “Party Government” matured, some plans for revision were put forward by both the party politicians and the technocrats. I think that subjects discussed after the mid-1920s, in particular, the decentralization of administrative power, electoral system reform, and the strengthening of the guarantee of the status of public officials, all rank as plans for revision of “Party Government”, even if there was a difference in their impact levels.

From this viewpoint, I here approach the rush of conflicts with which the Japanese “Party Government” had to be confronted, by mainly paying attention to the aims of the “Kokuikai”, a group of new technocrats established in 1932; or more specifically, it's vision for the decentralization of administrative power, electoral system reform, and the strengthening of the guarantee of the status of public officials. Together with my former studies and a planned analysis of the foreign policies of the Army of the time, this study forms a part of my “Study on Critical History of Japanese Party Government”.

142