

SUMMARY

“Sects and the Rule of Law”- Example of the Soka Gakkai

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I. INTRODUCTION

Soka Gakkai is a good example of a large sect.

The reason why we consider Soka Gakkai to be a sect: a few specific examples of drifting towards sectarianism, its financial strength and its domination over the Japanese press.

Soka Gakkai is a new religion founded by Mr Tsunesaburo Makiguchi in the 1930's. It adopted Nichiren Buddhism and developed its own ideas, its motto being “Profit Beauty, Good”. It's third president, Mr Daisaku Ikeda, the present honorary president and president of Soka Gakkai International, has taken this group over and developed his own cult (the personality cult of “Ikeda-Essential Buddha”...) He has made an instrument of policies.

II. MERGING OF RELIGION AND POLITICS

1. **Kômeitô (New Kômeitô)**

At present, member of the coalition government with the PLD: he holds the ministerial portfolio of “Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Travel and Tourism”; Kômeitô is a political branch of Soka Gakkai, though the two are officially separate. The link between Soka Gakkai and Komeito. Myth and reality.

2. **Background**

1960-1970. Goal of Soka Gakkai: Direct control of the State by Mr Ikeda

Around 1970: the scandal of repression relating to a work by Professor Kotatsu Fujiwara.

1970-1990, Goal: Mr Ikeda has indirect control via the Kômeitô Cabinet.

1989-1992: Financial scandals, control of taxation, excommunication

1992-Today: Goal participating in the Government; Mr Ikeda's defence and his Nobel Peace Prize.

3. **Sotai Kakumei (Complete Revolution)**

Infiltrating State organs

4. **Ideological replacement of politics and religion**

Collecting votes= propagating faith,

Election= Jihad, war of religion

5. **Change of the organisation**

An organisation based on electoral logic and role of tradition/cult logic

6. Mixing electoral and religious activities

From religious proselytism to electoral proselytism

7. Consequences

- The stable voting power of 7-8 million votes

The Parties in power (and the Japanese people) are caught in the trap.

- Neither legislation or Justice can affect a deeply religious movement.
Japan has become the paradise of sects.
- The international acknowledgement of Soka Gakkai

To have the parliamentarians, the Ministers of Japan; a Democratic country; is this the proof of the Nation's gratitude?

III. SOME LESSONS

The specificity of large sects and the danger of believing that a sect has "settled down".

- It no longer needs libel campaigns or violence
- As it has political power, the State machinery takes charge. And thanks to its fame, universities and the press attack dissidents and opponents.
- It no longer needs to commit crimes

The Diplomatic Bag, the accommodating attitude of major financial institutions and business circles....

- Financial requirements become less obvious

But all forms of sectarian drifting, in particular manipulating people's minds and the threat to society remain unchanged.