

How East Asians View Democracy

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How East Asians View Democracy

: The Region In Global Perspective

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1. *Conceptions of Democracy*
2. *Perceptions of Regimes*
3. *Perceptions of Regime Changes*
4. *Assessments of Governmental and Regime Performances*
5. *Reactions to Democracy and Authoritarianism*
6. *Problems of Democratization: Democratic Deficit and Surplus*
7. *Conceptions of Democracy and other Democratic Orientations*

Table 1 Understanding of Democracy

	HongKong	Japan	Korea	Mongolia	Philippines	Taiwan	Thailand	Mainland
1.Freedom and liberty	58.6	31.7	63.5	21.8	60.0	32.0	50.1	24.4
2.Political rights, insitutions and process	20.5	8.8	2.7	8.2	4.0	21.3	7.2	32.8
3.Market economy	1.2	2.0	9.9	2.5	0.2	1.4	0.0	0.3
4.Social equality and justice	17.2	19.9	33.3	10.6	4.0	6.5	22.9	4.7
5.Good government	5.4	2.4	3.9	4.1	2.0	3.2	0.3	2.3
6.In generic and/or populist terms	17.7	5.8	5.4	2.4	2.0	18.3	18.2	27.5
7.In other abstract and positive terms	19.8	20.5	16.6	7.1	17.0	27.7	1.3	2.6
8.In negative terms	8.6	4.0	0.6	2.4	3.0	6.0	0.0	6.3
9.Others	6.5	6.5	0.0	0.6	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.3
10.Don't know, no response	0.0	34.2	1.5	40.4	27.0	17.1	29.7	40.8
N	811	1418	1500	1144	1200	1415	1546	3183

Items	Here is a scale: 1 means complete dictatorship and 10 means complete democracy		
Past regime	q099	Where would you place our country on this scale during the period of [name of the most recent government under authoritarian rule]? (10-point)	1 Complete Dictatorship 10 Complete Democracy
Present regime	q100	Where would you place our country under the present government? (10-point)	1 Complete Dictatorship 10 Complete Democracy
Future regime	q102	Where do you expect our country to be in five years? (10-point)	1 Complete Dictatorship 10 Complete Democracy

**Chart 2-1 The Mean Scores of the Past, Current, and Future Regimes
on a 10-points scale**

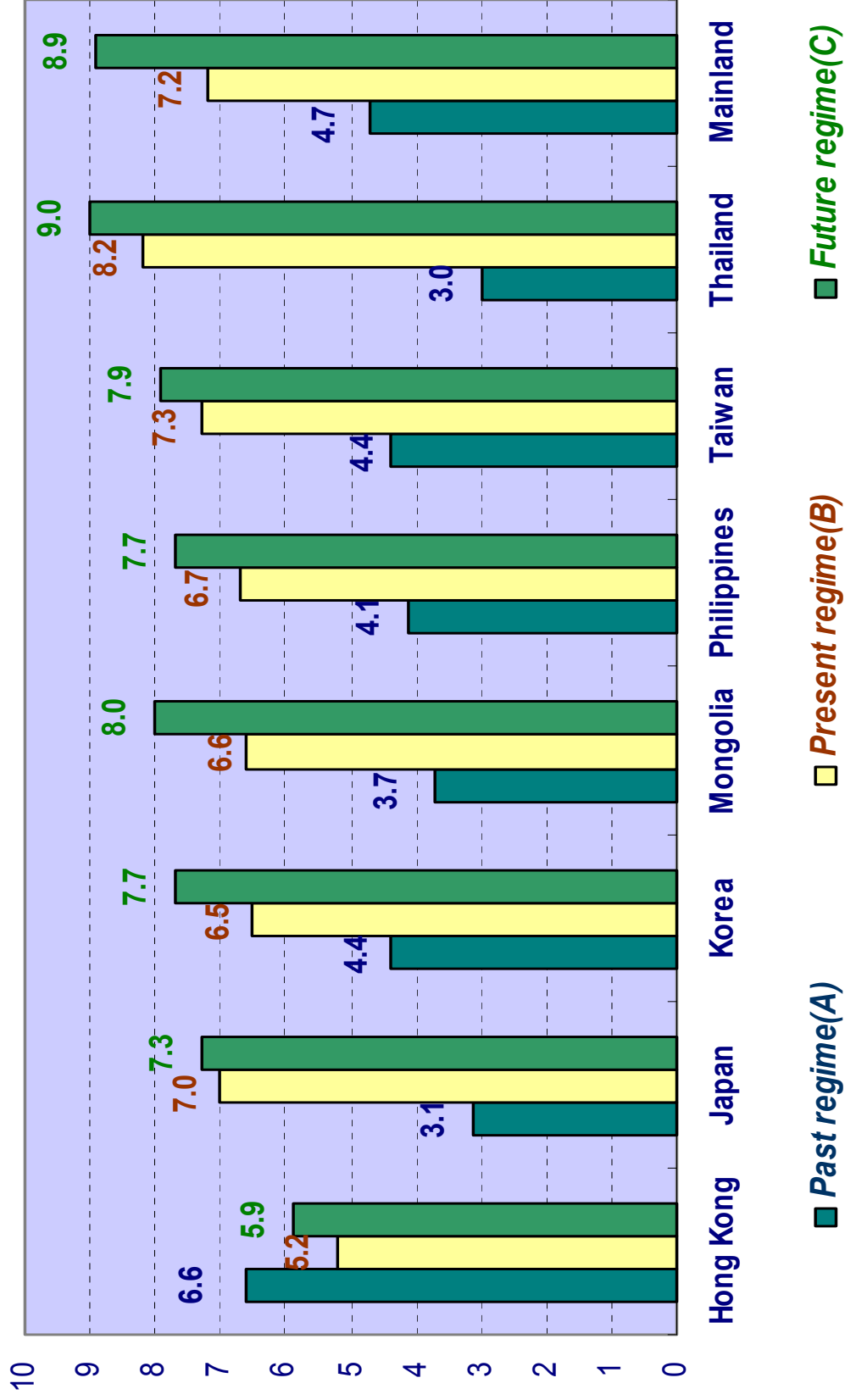


Table 2-1: Perceptions of the Past Regime (1-10 Scale)(%)

Item	Hong Kong	Japan	Korea	Mongolia	Philippines	Taiwan	Thailand	Mainland
1-2, Hard Authoritarianism	2.9	41.9	16.5	31.3	34.0	15.3	49.0	14.1
3-5, Soft Authoritarianism	23.7	48.8	55.0	50.3	39.2	60.0	41.9	54.2
6-8, Limited Democracy	63.6	8.6	27.6	16.7	18.8	22.1	6.2	25.4
9-10, Advanced Democracy	9.7	0.7	0.9	1.7	8.1	2.6	2.8	6.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DK/DA*	11.5	15.8	0	5.8	0.6	17.7	15.3	31.60

**Don't knows and don't answers are not computed in the column percentages, but are presented here to indicate what percentage of each sample did not answer the question.*

Table 2-2: Perceptions of the Current Regime (1-10 Scale)(%)

Item	Hong Kong	Japan	Korea	Mongolia	Philippines	Taiwan	Thailand	Mainland
1-2, Hard Authoritarianism	6.0	0.5	0.5	3.9	4.6	1.5	0.5	1.6
3-5, Soft Authoritarianism	54.1	14.3	17.8	22.5	25.6	14.9	6.4	14.7
6-8, Limited Democracy	37.0	72.4	79.5	57.7	47.3	60.9	47.4	59.2
9-10, Advanced Democracy	2.9	12.8	2.3	15.9	22.5	22.7	45.7	24.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DK/DA*	11.1	8.9	0	5.5	0.2	12.9	5.4	6.29

**Don't knows and don't answers are not computed in the column percentages, but are presented here to indicate what percentage of each sample did not answer the question.*

Table 3-1 Perception of the Past and the Current Regimes on a 10-point scale

Country	Past regime (A)	Present regime(B)	Future regime(C)	Past change(B-A)	Future change(C-B)
<i>Hong Kong</i>	6.6	5.2	5.9	-1.4	0.7
<i>Japan</i>	3.1	7.0	7.3	3.9	0.3
<i>Korea</i>	4.4	6.5	7.7	2.1	1.2
<i>Mongolia</i>	3.7	6.6	8.0	2.9	1.4
<i>Philippines</i>	4.1	6.7	7.7	2.6	1.0
<i>Taiwan</i>	4.4	7.3	7.9	2.9	0.6
<i>Thailand</i>	3.0	8.2	9.0	5.2	0.8
<i>Mainland</i>	4.7	7.2	8.9	2.5	1.7

Table 3-2 Percentages Experiencing and Expecting Progression toward Democracy

<i>Country</i>	<i>Experiencing</i>	<i>Expecting</i>	<i>Both</i>
<i>Hong Kong</i>	12	37	5
<i>Japan</i>	75	28	23
<i>Korea</i>	85	76	64
<i>Mongolia</i>	79	63	52
<i>Philippines</i>	72	54	35
<i>Taiwan</i>	66	35	28
<i>Thailand</i>	80	48	40
<i>China</i>	56	58	44

Table 3-3: Patterns of Perception of Regime Change(Past-Current)(%)

Regime Category	Hong Kong	Japan	Korea	Mongolia	Philippines	Taiwan	Thailand	Mainland
1. Authoritarianism Reversal	21.3	0.4	1.1	1.0	5.9	1.9	0.5	3.0
2. Authoritarian Persistence	36.0	5.7	8.6	13.9	14.2	11.0	2.9	8.8
3. Authoritarianism Liberalization	1.3	9.3	7.6	11.5	9.4	3.1	3.9	4.8
4. Limited Democracy Transition	6.1	64.5	56.3	47.8	36.8	48.6	43.5	43.9
5. Democratic Transition to Advanced Democracy	0.9	12.1	1.1	10.9	17.1	16.1	41.1	14.0
6. Democratic Persistence	34.3	8.1	25.3	15.0	16.7	19.3	8.1	25.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DK/DA*	17.4	17.7	1.3	8.5	1.8	20.0	15.3	31.2

*Don't knows and don't answers are not computed in the column percentages, but are presented here to indicate what percentage of each sample did not answer the question.

Table 3-4: Patterns of Perception of Regime Change(Current-Future)(%)

Regime Category	Hong Kong	Japan	Korea	Mongolia	Philippines	Taiwan	Thailand	Mainland
1. Authoritarianism Reversal	0.5	1.7	0.3	1.8	2.6	2.9	1.2	0.3
2. Authoritarian Persistence	33.6	10.9	4.4	4.0	12.5	6.9	2.4	2.1
3. Authoritarianism Liberalization	4.2	0.6	0.3	0.7	1.4	0.6	0.1	0.7
4. Limited Democracy Transition	20.5	4.3	13.9	16.7	11.5	5.4	2.6	7.7
5. Democratic Transition to Advanced Democracy	2.6	0.3	1.6	6.5	9.3	2.0	2.4	5.5
6. Democratic Persistence	38.6	82.2	79.7	70.4	62.7	82.2	91.4	83.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DK/DA*	32.6	21.0	0.4	12.9	3.5	34.2	9.5	30.1

*Don't knows and don't answers are not computed in the column percentages, but are presented here to indicate what percentage of each sample did not answer the question.

Table 4-1 Assessments of the Present Regime as a Democracy (%)

Country	Present regime		Satisfied with the way democracy works			Our form of government is the best			All three (D)
	Democratic (A)		current regime as democracy	current regime as non-democracy	Satisfied (B)	current regime as democracy	current regime as non-democracy	Best ever (C)	
<i>Hong Kong</i>	36		77	43	48	61	50	49	15
<i>Japan</i>	78		56	19	45	27	14	22	11
<i>Korea</i>	82		66	43	61	37	32	36	23
<i>Mongolia</i>	70		73	56	67	69	68	67	36
<i>Philippines</i>	70		58	40	52	56	48	54	24
<i>Taiwan</i>	73		57	30	48	69	58	56	28
<i>Thailand</i>	88		92	76	89	71	63	69	57
<i>Mainland</i>	63		87	45	68	95	91	76	45

Table 4-2 Assessments of the Present Regime as a Democracy

Country	satisfied with the incumbent (government)	satisfied with the performance of democracy	satisfied with the democracy among those who are not satisfied with the incumbent
<i>Hong Kong</i>	30	48	44
<i>Japan</i>	36	45	41
<i>Korea</i>	35	61	49
<i>Mongolia</i>	58	67	64
<i>Philippines</i>	58	52	31
<i>Taiwan</i>	37	48	42
<i>Thailand</i>	89	89	69
<i>Mainland</i>	<i>na.</i>	68	<i>na.</i>

Items		For the Attachment to Democracy	
Democratic Desire	q101	To what extent would you want our country to be democratic now? (RATING BOARD)	1 Complete Dictatorship 10 Complete Democracy
		Here is a similar scale of 1 to 10 measuring the extent to which people think democracy is suitable for our country. If "1" means that democracy is completely unsuitable for [name of country] today and "10" means that it is completely suitable, where would you place our country today?	1 Democracy is completely unsuitable 10 Democracy is completely suitable
Democratic Suitability	q103	Which of the following statements comes closer to your own view?	1 Democracy is capable of solving the problems of our society 2 Democracy can not solve our society's problems
		Which of the following statements comes closest to your own opinion?	1 Democracy is always preferable to any other kind of government. 2 Under some circumstances, an authoritarian government can be preferable to a democratic one. 3 For people like me, it does not matter whether we have a democratic or a nondemocratic regime.
Democratic Efficacy	q118	Which of the following statements comes closest to your own view?	1 Economic development is definitely more important 2 Economic development is somewhat more important 3 Democracy is somewhat more important 4 Democracy is definitely more important 5 They are both equally important (DO NOT READ OUT)
		Which of the following statements comes closest to your own opinion?	
Democratic Preference	q117	Which of the following statements comes closest to your own view?	
		Which of the following statements comes closest to your own opinion?	
Democratic Priority	q119	If you had to choose between democracy and economic development, which would you say is more important?	

Chart 5-1 Democratic Desire, Suitability, Efficacy, Preference, and Priority (%)

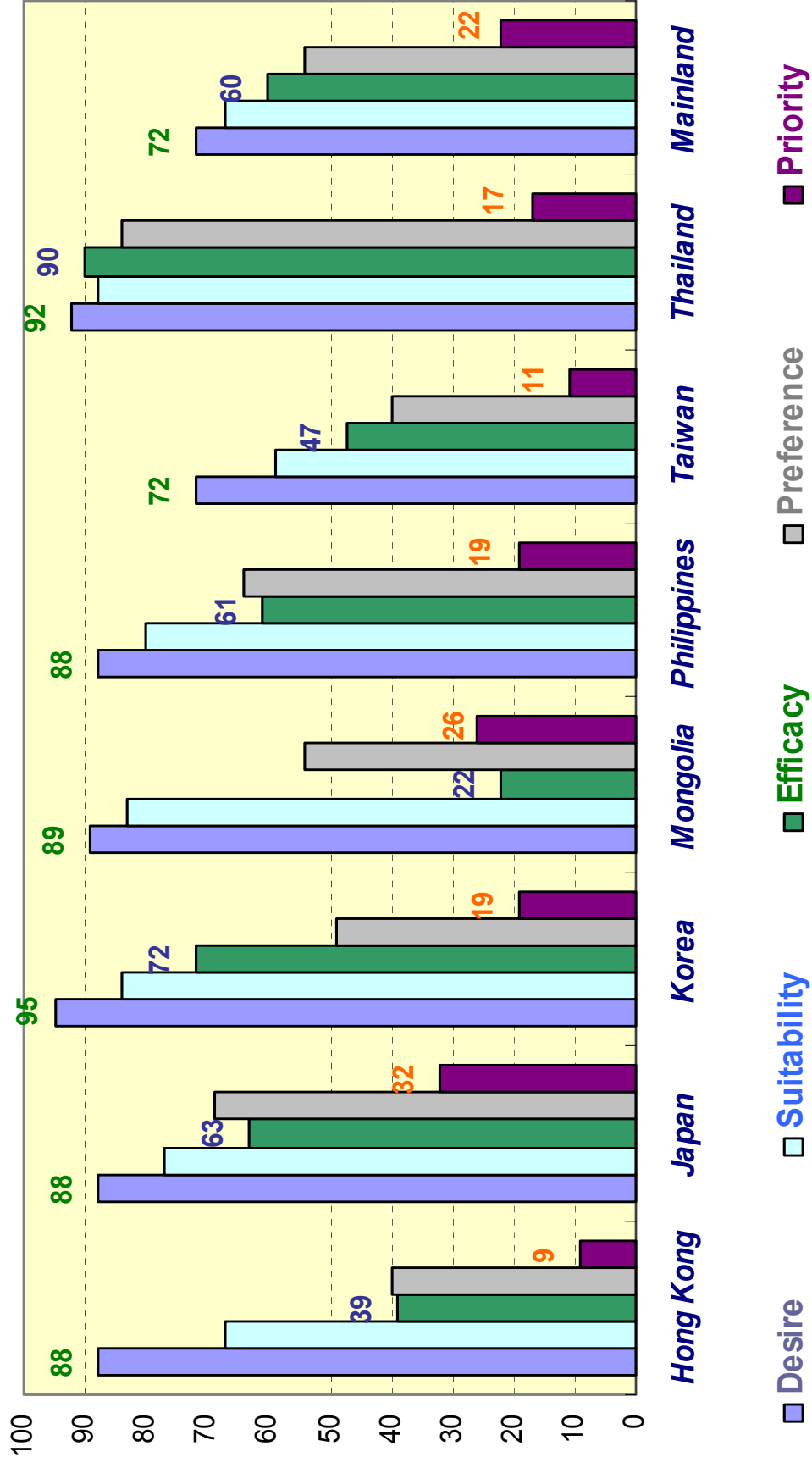


Table 5 -1 On support for democracy, which was based on five items

Item	Hong Kong	Japan	Korea	Mongolia	Philippines	Taiwan	Thailand	Mainland
Democratic Desirability, 6-10* (% yes)	88.4	87.8	95.4	88.5	88.1	72.2	92.4	72.2
Democratic Suitability, 6-10* (% yes)	67.2	77.0	84.2	83.0	80.2	59.0	87.6	67.0
Democratic Efficacy (% yes)	39.2	63.1	71.7	22.4	60.7	46.8	89.8	60.4
Democratic Preference (% yes)	40.0	68.5	49.4	54.0	63.6	40.4	83.8	53.9
Democratic Priority (% yes)	8.6	32.2	18.7	26.2	19.4	10.5	16.6	22.2
None of the above five	1.1	0.1	0.7	0.6	1.5	3.1	0.1	0.0
All of the above	3.7	18.9	9.9	1.4	6.0	3.3	11.8	10.9
Mean Overall Score on Support (0-5 scale)	2.6	3.6	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.6	3.8	3.7

**Figures in this row represent the mean on the 10-point scale, with 1 representing complete dictatorship (or completely unsuitable) and 10 representing complete democracy (or completely suitable)*

Chart 5-2 Mean Score on Support (0-5 scale)

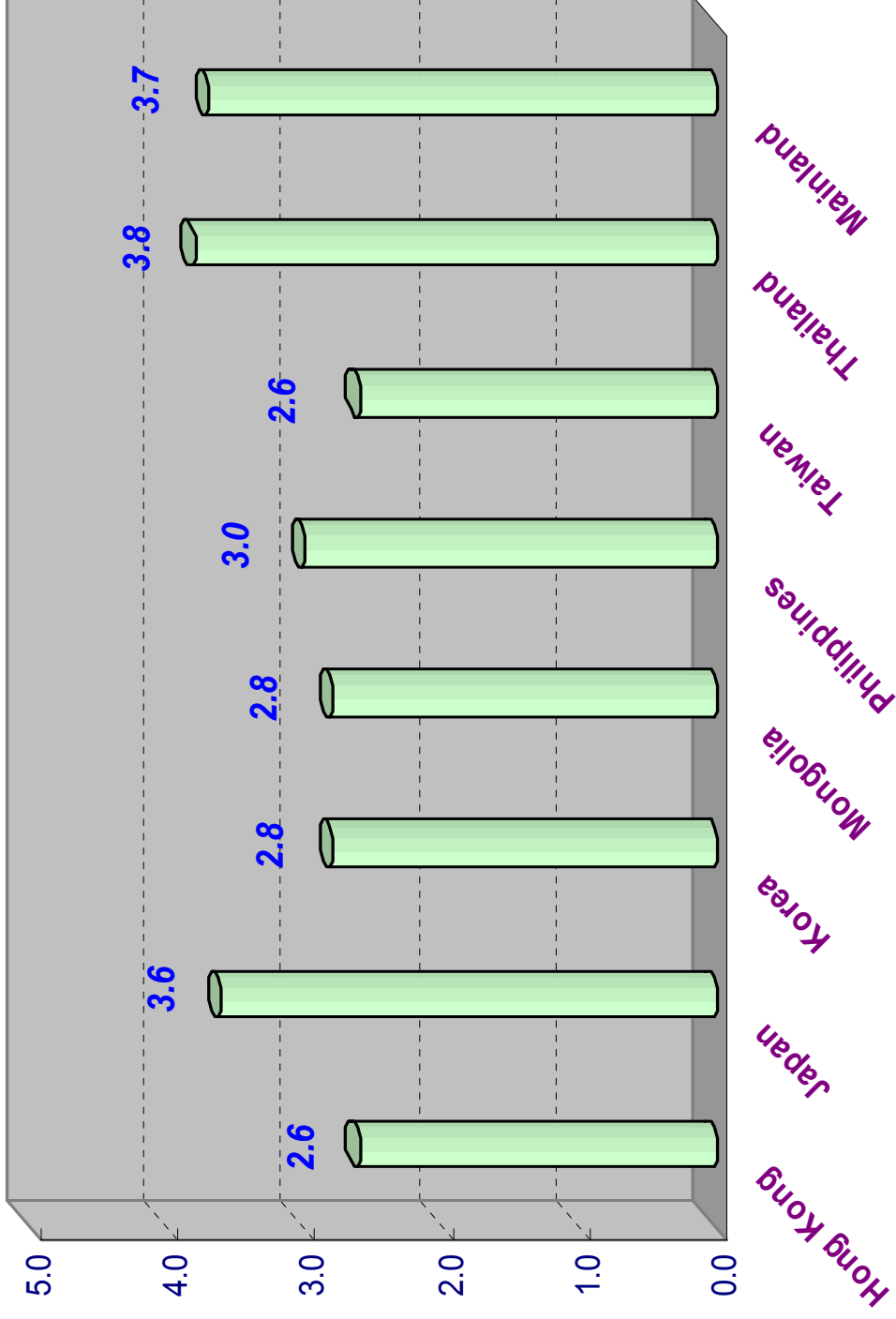


Chart 5-3 The percentages who does not prefer democratic governance always among those who desire to live in a democracy(%)

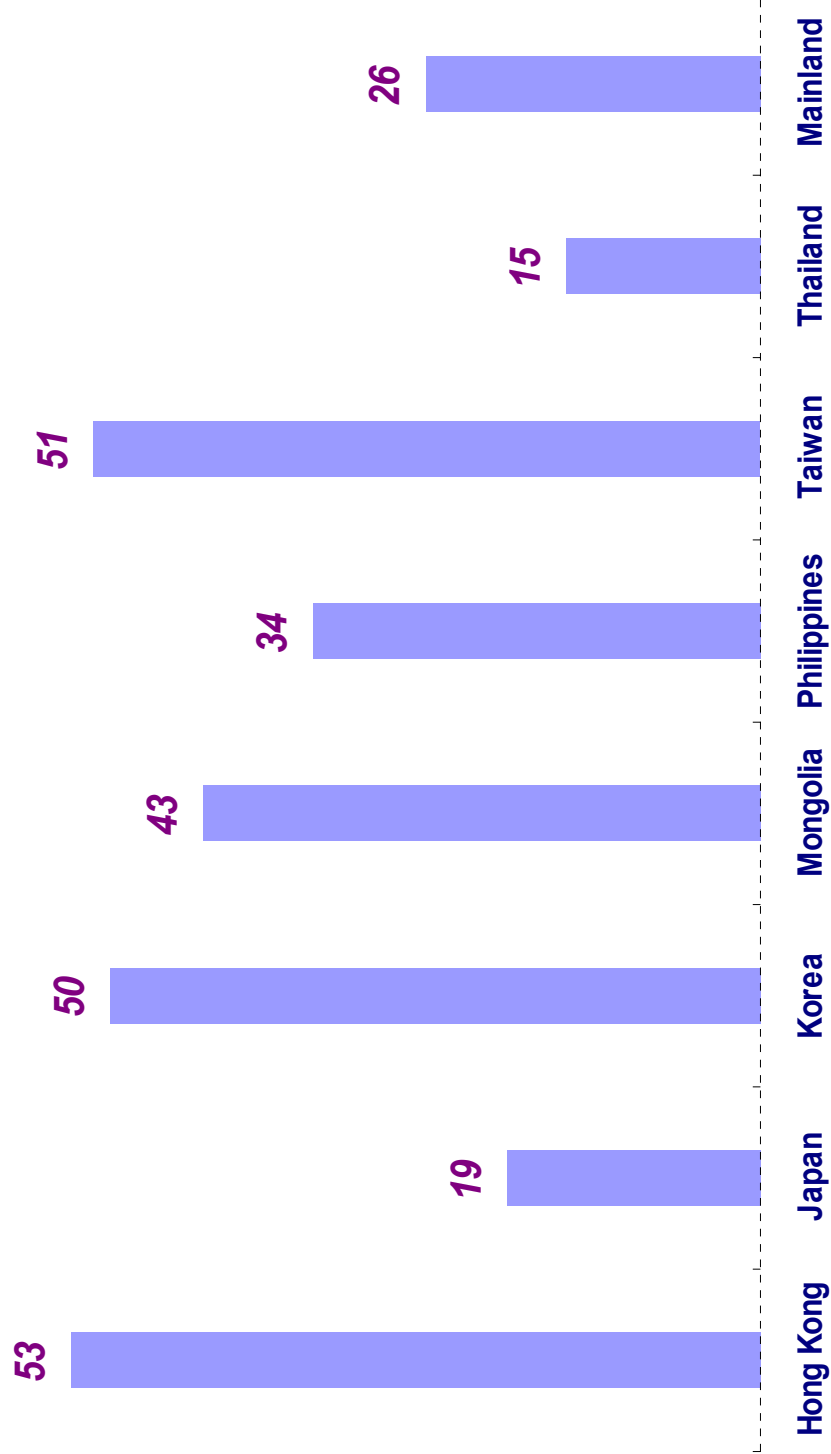


Table 5-2: Authoritarian Detachment (Percentage Rejecting Authoritarian Options)(%)

Item	Hong Kong	Japan	Korea	Mongolia	Philippines	Taiwan	Thailand	Mainland
Reject "strong leader"	72.4	80.0	84.4	56.5	69.4	68.3	77.0	na.
Reject "military rule"	85.9	94.6	89.8	81.9	62.7	81.6	80.6	61.4
Reject "no opposition party"	62.9	67.1	86.7	71.0	69.6	70.3	62.2	na.
Reject "experts decide everything"	74.0	86.4	82.3	60.5	76.8	71.3	78.2	74.4
Reject all authoritarian options	50.1	55.2	65.1	32.2	35.6	50.0	43.5	na.
Reject none of above	1.0	0.3	0.9	3.1	4.1	1.1	4.7	na.
Mean score (0 to 4)*	3.4	3.5	3.4	2.8	2.8	3.4	3.0	na.

*Each item is scored as follows: strongly support or somewhat support the authoritarian option= 0; strongly oppose or somewhat oppose= 1.

Table 5-3: Overall Commitment to Democracy (%)

Item	Hong Kong	Japan	Korea	Mongolia	Philippines	Taiwan	Thailand	Mainland
1. Very strong supporters	10.5	38.9	34.2	11.4	17.1	17.4	33.5	na.
2. Strong supporters	19.0	14.3	17.5	14.4	9.5	15.9	6.2	na.
3. Moderate supporters	20.1	8.8	11.7	5.7	6.3	16.3	3.2	na.
4. Skeptical supporters	11.1	3.4	1.7	2.5	2.0	7.8	0.9	na.
5. Weak opponents	14.2	22.2	18.6	26.2	25.6	18.7	29.3	na.
6. Strong opponents	3.9	1.2	0.5	4.3	2.9	4.9	1.2	na.
7. Incoherent, mixed	21.2	11.2	15.7	35.6	36.6	19.0	25.6	na.
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	na.
DK/DA*	10.6	8.2	0.0	3.5	0.0	12.3	0.8	na.

**Don't knows and don't answers are not computed in the column percentages, but are presented here to indicate what percentage of each sample did not answer the question.*

Block Predictors	Individual Predictors
1.Socio- economic status	education
	age
	income
	gender
2.Psychological involvement in politics	interest in politics and media exposure
	perception of government impact on daily life
3.Political efficacy	citizen empowerment
	system responsiveness
4.Participation	electoral participation
	non-electoral participation
	approval of incumbent performance
5.Incumbent approval	point different in perception between current and past regime
	impact of democracy (political characteristics)
	impact of democracy (policy performance)
	satisfaction with the way democracy works
	economic evaluation-- national / current
	economic evaluation-- national / past
	institutional trust (government/ political)
institutional trust (state)	
6.Regime perception	corruption index
	traditionalism
7.Democratic performance	democratic / authoritarian values
	belief in procedural norm of democracy
8.Value orientation	

Traditionalism

q064	<i>Even if parents' demands are unreasonable, children still should do what they ask.</i>
q065	<i>When hiring someone, even if a stranger is more qualified, the opportunity should still be given to relatives and friends.</i>
q066	<i>When one has a conflict with a neighbor, the best way to deal with it is to accommodate the other person</i>
q067	<i>Wealth and poverty, success and failure are all determined by fate.</i>
q068	<i>A person should not insist on his own opinion if his co-workers disagree with him.</i>
q069	<i>For the sake of the family, the individual should put his personal interests second.</i>
q070	<i>A man will lose face if he works under a female supervisor.</i>
q071	<i>If there is a quarrel, we should ask an elder to resolve the dispute.</i>

Democratic / authoritarian values

q132	<i>People with little or no education should have as much say in politics as highly educated people.</i>
q133	<i>Government leaders are like the head of a family; we should all follow their decisions.</i>
q134	<i>The government should decide whether certain ideas should be allowed to be discussed in society.</i>
q135	<i>Harmony of the community will be disrupted if people organize lots of groups.</i>
q136	<i>When judges decide important cases, they should accept the view of the executive branch</i>
q137	<i>If the government is constantly checked [i.e. monitored and supervised] by the legislature, it cannot possibly accomplish great things.</i>
q138	<i>If we have political leaders who are morally upright, we can let them decide everything.</i>
q139	<i>If people have too many different ways of thinking, society will be chaotic.</i>

Belief in procedural norm of democracy

q145	<i>The most important thing for a political leader is to accomplish his goals even if he has to ignore the established procedure.</i>
q146	<i>If a political leader really believes in his position, he should refuse to compromise regardless of how many people disagree.</i>
q147	<i>A political leader should tolerate the views of those who challenge his political ideals.</i>
q148	<i>As long as a political leader enjoys majority support, he should implement his own agenda and disregard the view of the minority.</i>

Table 6-1: The two individual predictors that shape Support for Democracy most powerfully

Support for Democracy		
	individual indicator(1)	individual indicator(2)
Hong Kong	<i>institutional trust(government)</i>	<i>institutional trust(state)</i>
Japan	regime change of current and past	<i>belief in procedural norm of democracy</i>
Korea	<i>impact of democracy(policy performance)</i>	<i>institutional trust(state)</i>
Mongolia	<i>belief in procedural norm of democracy</i>	<i>corruption index</i>
Philippines	regime change of current and past	<i>satisfaction with the way democracy works</i>
Taiwan	<i>impact of democracy(policy performance)</i>	<i>satisfaction with the way democracy works</i>
Thailand	regime change of current and past	<i>corruption index</i>

Table 6-2: The two individual predictors that shape Authoritarian Detachment most powerfully

Authoritarian Detachment		
	individual indicator(1)	individual indicator(2)
Hong Kong	democratic / authoritarian values	<i>education</i>
Japan	democratic / authoritarian values	<i>impact of democracy (political characteristics)</i>
Korea	<i>belief in procedural norm of democracy</i>	democratic / authoritarian values
Mongolia	democratic / authoritarian values	<i>impact of democracy (political characteristics)</i>
Philippines	<i>traditionalism</i>	<i>belief in procedural norm of democracy</i>
Taiwan	democratic / authoritarian values	<i>impact of democracy (political characteristics)</i>
Thailand	<i>belief in procedural norm of democracy</i>	<i>impact of democracy (policy performance)</i>

Table 6-3: The two blocks of predictors that shape Support for Democracy most powerfully

Support for Democracy		
	blocks of predictor(1)	blocks of predictor(2)
Hong Kong	<i>democratic performance</i>	<i>psychological involvement in politics</i>
Japan	<i>socio-economic status</i>	<i>value orientation</i>
Korea	<i>regime perception</i>	<i>value orientation</i>
Mongolia	<i>regime perception</i>	<i>value orientation</i>
Philippines	<i>regime perception</i>	<i>incumbent approval</i>
Taiwan	<i>regime perception</i>	<i>incumbent approval</i>
Thailand	<i>regime perception</i>	<i>democratic performance</i>

Table 6-4: The two blocks of predictors that shape Authoritarian Detachment most powerfully

Authoritarian Detachment		
	blocks of predictor(1)	blocks of predictor(2)
Hong Kong	value orientation	socio-economic status
Japan	value orientation	regime perception
Korea	value orientation	regime perception
Mongolia	value orientation	regime perception
Philippines	value orientation	socio-economic status
Taiwan	value orientation	regime perception
Thailand	value orientation	regime perception

Chart 7-1 The Mean scores of the desire level of democracy and the experienced level of democracy

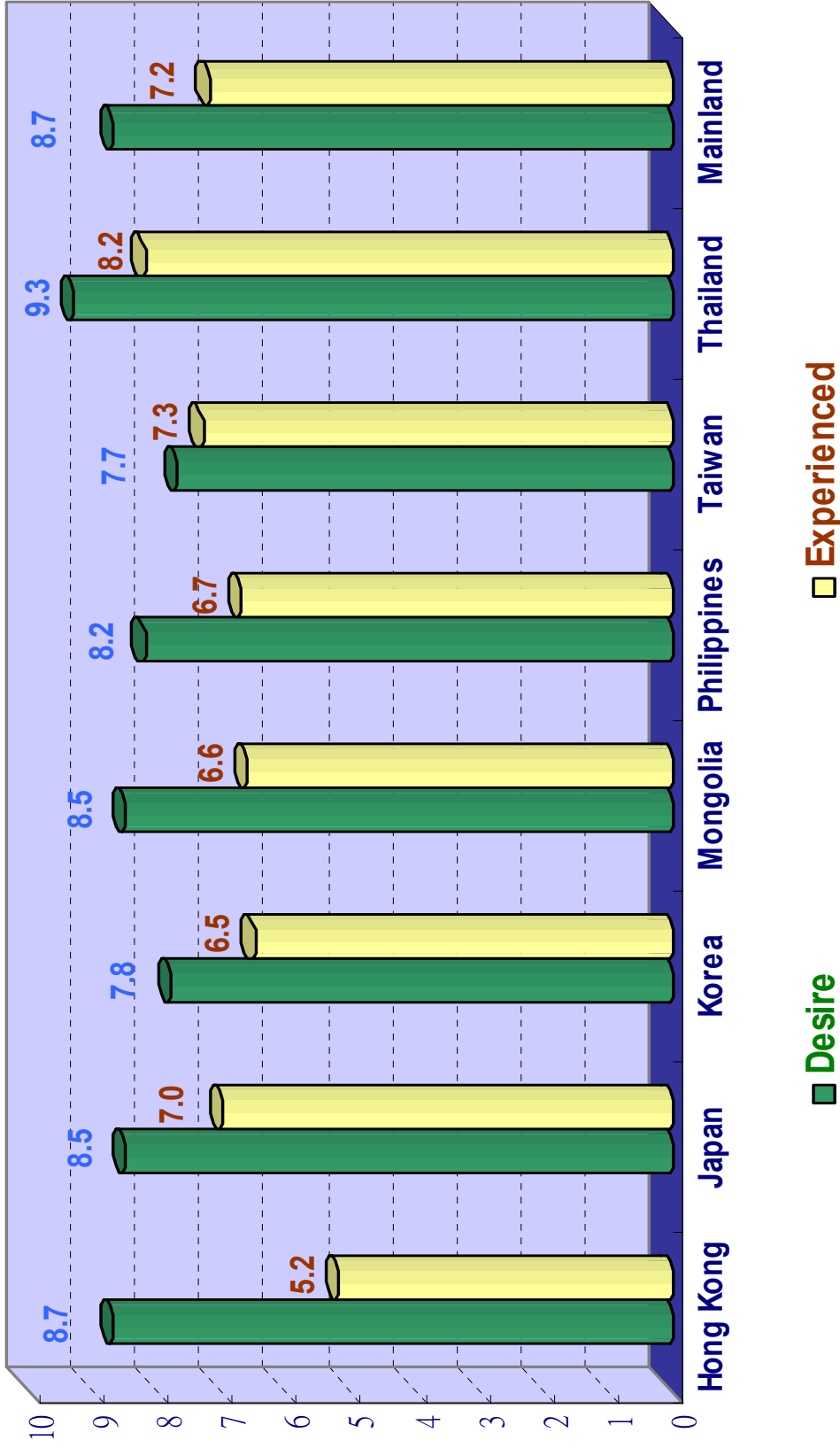


Table 7-1 The extent to which Democracy is desired and experienced

Country	Desire(A)	Experience(B)	Defici(A-B)	Percentage experiencing over democracy(%)	Percentage experiencing under democracy(%)
<i>Hong Kong</i>	8.7	5.2	3.5	1	82
<i>Japan</i>	8.5	7	1.5	3	64
<i>Korea</i>	7.8	6.5	1.3	8	71
<i>Mongolia</i>	8.5	6.6	1.8	12	69
<i>Philippines</i>	8.2	6.7	1.6	16	62
<i>Taiwan</i>	7.7	7.3	0.4	23	39
<i>Thailand</i>	9.3	8.2	1.1	4	55
<i>Mainland</i>	8.7	7.2	1.5	2	55

Table 8-1 Conceptions of Democracy and Other Orientations toward Democracy and Democratization in South Korea			
Subjective Domains	Conception of Democracy		
	Procedural	Substantive	Mixed
1.Perceptions			
Democratic regime change	75%	55%	64%
2.Assessments			
Satisfaction with democratic performance	75	64	48
3.Reactions			
Opposition	8	21	16
Support	78	62	75
Strong support	41	28	29
4.Democratic Deficit			
Highly underdemocratized	14	19	22