

# Interest Groups' Choice over Party Support in Contemporary Japan

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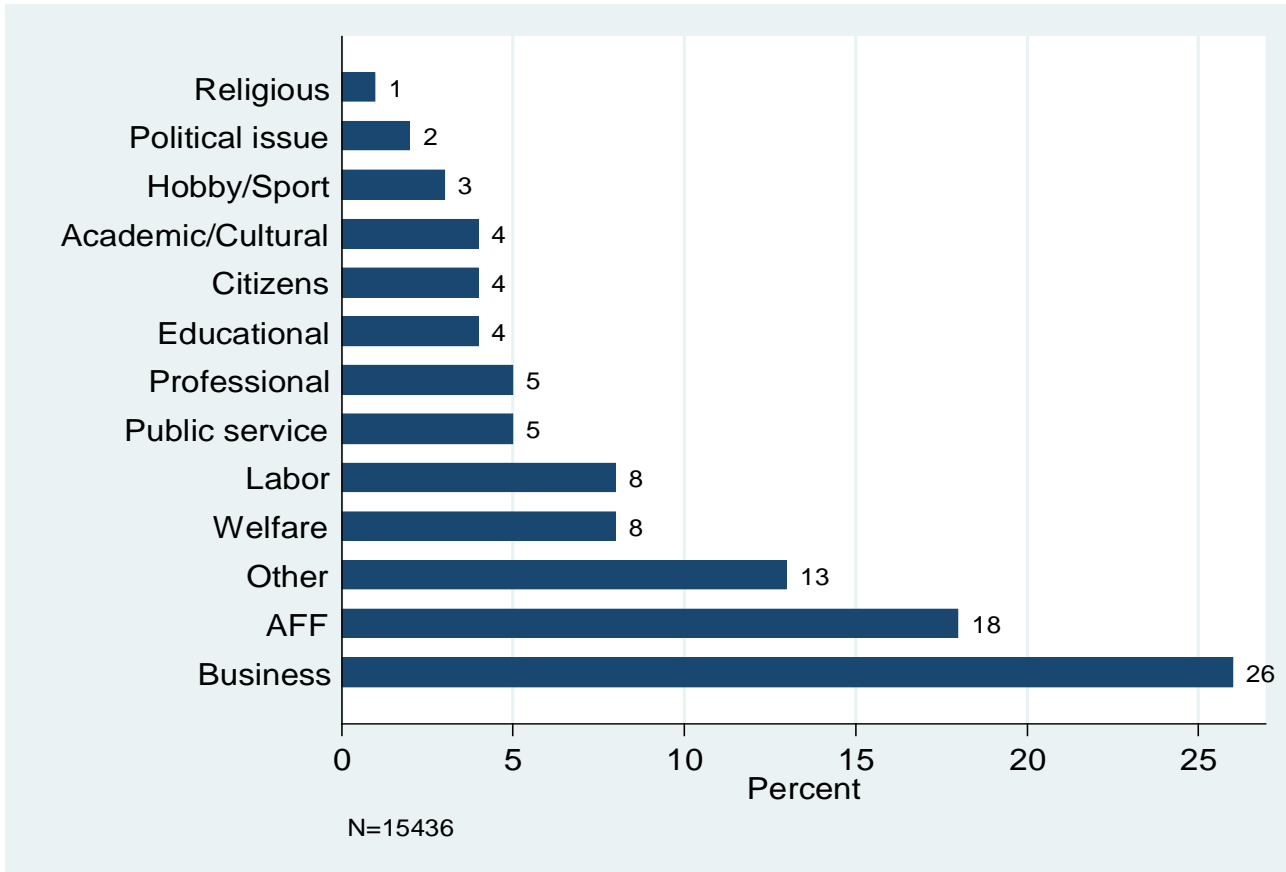
# Japan under LDP rule

- 1955: LDP dominance
  - Single-party rule, multiparty system
- 1993 general election: LDP defeat
  - Non-LDP coalition gov't formed in August 1993
  - LDP back in power in June 1994
- 1996-2009: LDP-led coalition governments
  - Two-party contest b/w LDP & DPJ in 2000s
- 2009 general election: DPJ victory
  - First-ever DPJ administration (-2012)

# Focal interest groups in Japanese politics

- Business groups
  - Groups of private firms closely tied to the LDP
  - Biggest LDP donors
- Agriculture groups
  - Had close ties with the LDP (esp. under SNTV)
  - Vote gathering machines; farm vote
- Labor groups
  - Most conspicuous DPJ supporters

# Focal interest groups in Japanese politics

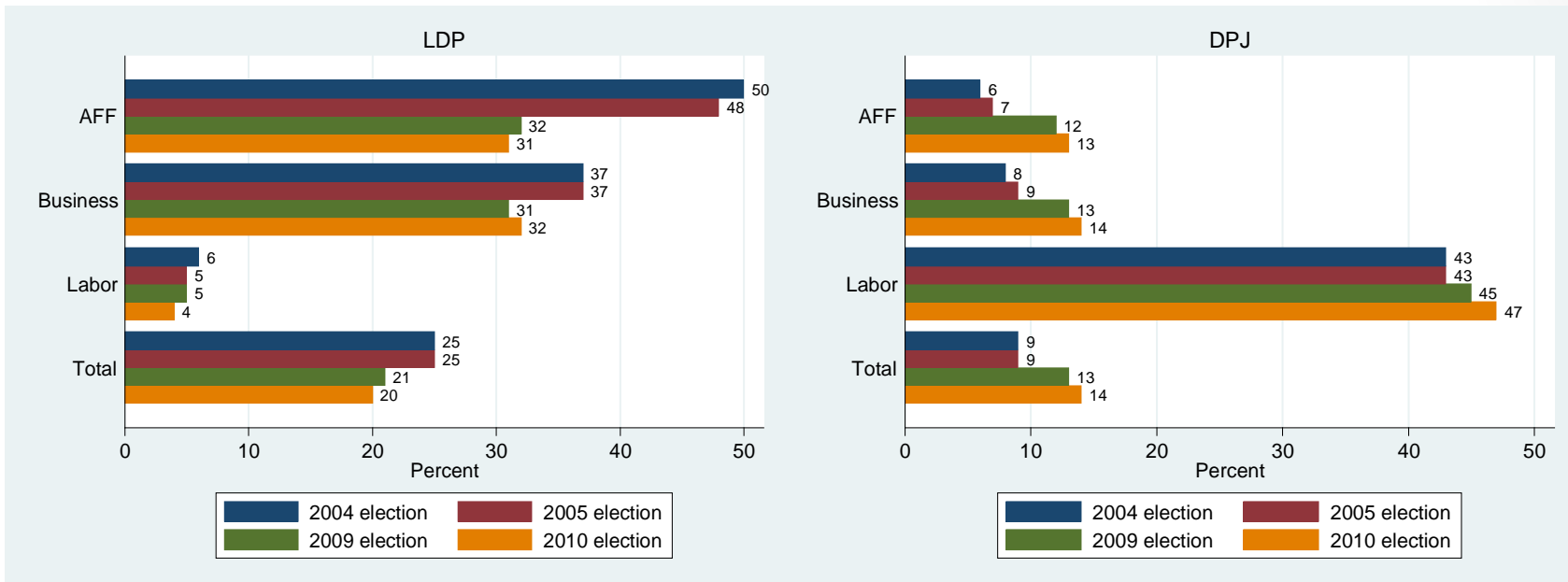


Business: 26%   AFF: 18%   Labor: 8%

# Research questions

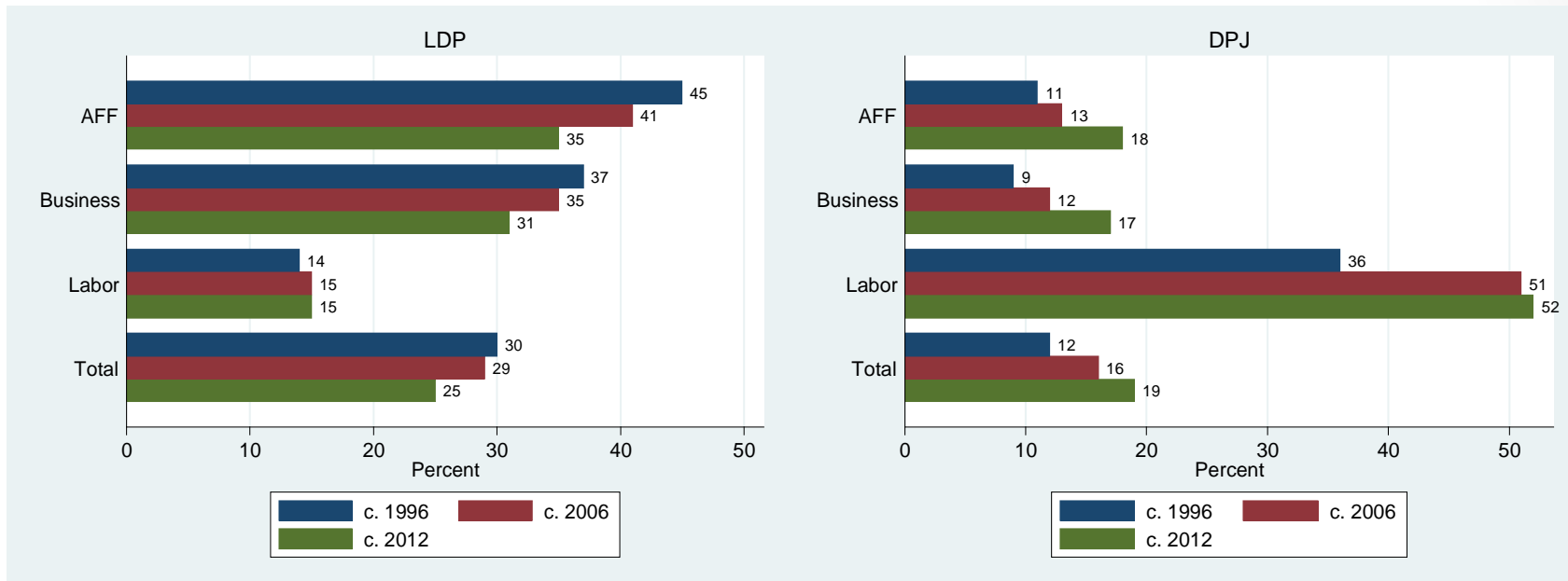
1. How did organized interests perform their political activities under DPJ rule?
  - Electoral support and lobbying before/after 2009
2. What motivates the groups affiliated with the LDP to support DPJ candidates?
  - Various factors are verifiable using social group survey data

# Electoral support



- LDP: 20% decrease in total, 38% decrease in AFF
- DPJ: 56% increase in total, AFF support doubled
- Diff. b/w LDP&DPJ in '09/10: Statistically significant

# Lobbying experience



- LDP: 14% decrease in total (2006 --> 2012)
- DPJ: 19% increase in total (2006 --> 2012)
- Diff. b/w LDP&DPJ in 2012: Statistically significant

# LDP-affiliated groups in support of DPJ

- LDP-affiliated interest group (LIG)
- Multinomial logit regression

Explanatory variable	Electoral support	Lobbying
Policy distance to LDP	+	
Policy distance to DPJ	-	-
Lobbying ruling parties	+	+
DPJ's call for support	+	
Success rate pre-2009	-	
Success rate post 2009	+	
Norms on multiparty support	+	
Group's influence over policy		+



# Summary: Interest groups under DPJ rule

## 1. Interest group activities

- The upward trend of DPJ support was subsequently reinforced
- Agricultural groups were more responsive to a new situation than others
- The LDP had the upper hand among organized interests despite the DPJ's winning

## 2. LIG support for the DPJ

- The following factors may explain LIGs' choice over which party to support:
- Policy distance, lobbying orientation towards ruling parties, the DPJ's call on LIGs for support, the experience of influencing public policy, and intragroup norms on multiparty support