

Lectures 10-11
The Nature of Nationalism
and
Constituting the *Kokutai*

0. Intro

- Ways by which the Meiji state created the Japanese nation

1. The Nature of Nationalism

- a. “Japan” and “The Japanese” did not exist
- b. “Country” or “state” does not equal a “nation”
- c. Nation as “imagined community”

2. “Constituting” the Kokutai

- a. Itagaki Taisuke & the *jiyû minken undô* (1874)
- b. *Minken* (popular rights) vs. *Kokken* (state authority)
- c. Okuma Shigenobu & the Proposal for Parliament (1881);
(Memorial on a National Deliberative Assembly)
- d. Itô Hirobumi & the Constitution of the Empire of Japan (1889)

documents (ER): “The Constitution of the Empire of Japan”
“Critique of the Constitution”

handout (online): “Political Structure of Imperial Japan”