

Voter Turnout in Japan and the United States

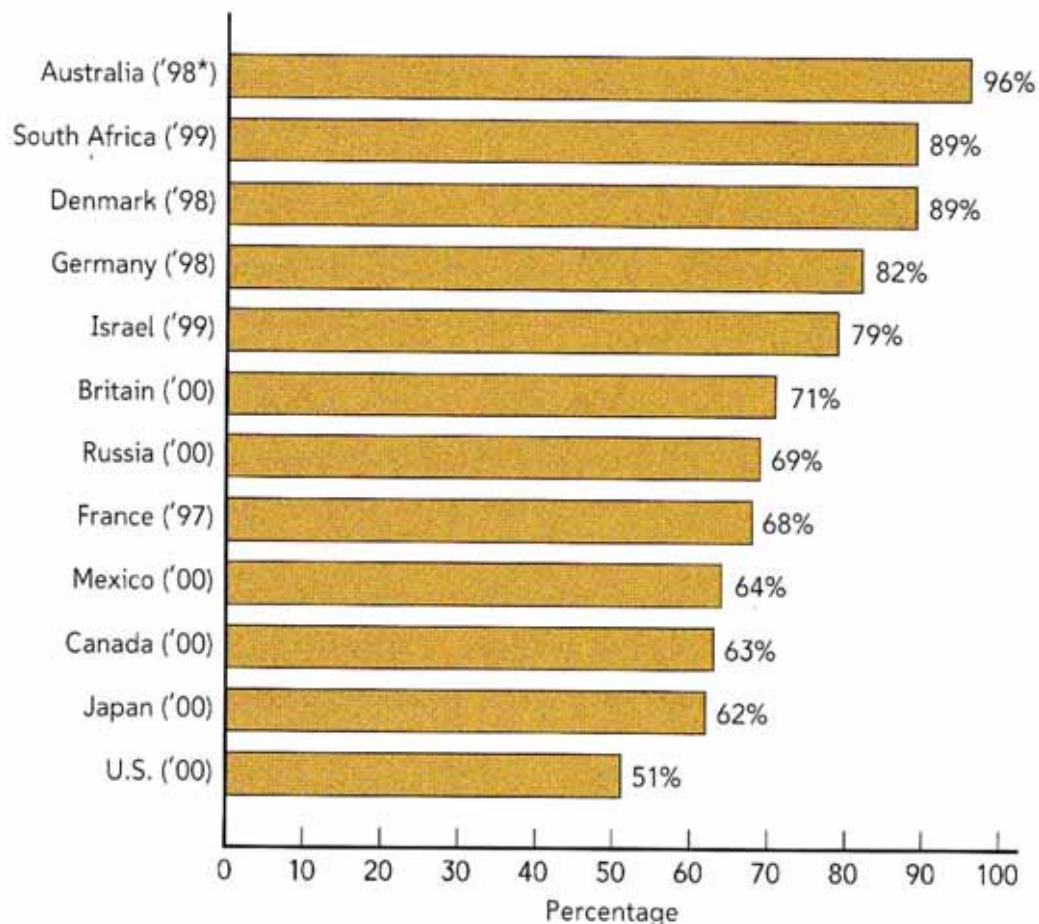
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Why people do or do not vote is a very important question. A critical question to political scientists is low voter turnout. A flourishing democracy presupposes citizens who care, who are willing to take part, and capable of helping to shape the common agenda of a society. Both United States and Japan both have greater turnout in recent elections.

1. In Japan, voter turnout came to 67.5 percent, 7.6 percentage points higher than in the 2003 Lower House election and the highest of the four most recent general elections.
2. In United States, 56.2% more turnout in 2004, 5.9 percentage points higher than in the 49.3% turnout in 2000.

Today, we are going to discuss possible reasons why voter turnout increased.

Voter Turnout Around the World



Japan Parliamentary Elections

Year	Total Vote	Vote/Reg	VAP	Pop. Size
1953	34,946,130	74.2%	49,419,000	86,700,000
1955	37,334,338	75.8%	50,730,000	89,000,000
1958	40,042,489	77.0%	54,924,000	91,540,000
1960	39,920,119	73.5%	55,926,000	93,210,000
1963	41,458,946	71.1%	60,416,370	95,899,000
1967	46,599,456	74.0%	63,522,900	100,830,000
1969	47,442,401	68.5%	69,123,900	103,170,000
1972	52,929,059	71.7%	71,663,200	106,960,000
1976	57,231,993	73.4%	77,814,750	112,775,000
1979	54,518,515	68.0%	79,964,100	115,890,000
1980	60,338,439	74.6%	80,771,400	117,060,000
1983	57,240,830	67.9%	84,673,890	119,259,000
1986	61,703,794	64.0%	86,259,320	121,492,000
1990	66,215,906	73.3%	88,348,250	124,434,155
1993	63,574,819	67.0%	95,955,900	124,670,000
1995	43,307,400	44.5%	96,460,210	125,273,000
1996	57,766,696	59.0%	96,672,730	125,549,000
2000	60,882,471	60.6%	103,155,387	126,996,466
2003	61 775 520	59.86	103,200,000	127,417,244
2005	69 805 340	67.51	103,400,000	127,417,244

United States Presidential Elections

Year	Total Vote	VAP	Vote/VAP	Pop. Size
1964	70,644,592	114,090,000	61.9%	192,119,000
1968	73,211,875	120,328,186	60.8%	200,710,000
1972	77,718,554	140,776,000	55.2%	208,840,000
1976	81,555,889	152,309,190	53.5%	218,035,000
1980	86,515,221	164,597,000	52.6%	227,738,000
1984	92,652,842	174,466,000	53.1%	236,681,000
1988	91,594,809	182,778,000	50.1%	245,057,000
1992	104,600,366	189,529,000	55.2%	255,407,000
1996	92,712,803	196,511,000	47.2%	265,679,000
2000	105,404,546	213,954,023	49.3%	284,970,789
2004	122,300,762	217,767,000	56.2%	293,655,404