



The Weekly Observer

August 11-15

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Ishiba Revives "Remorse" in World War II Memorial Speech

On Friday, Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru delivered an address at the Eightieth National Memorial Ceremony for the War Dead, in which he spoke of the need to "take deeply into our hearts once again our remorse and also the lessons learned from that war."

The annual speech, marking the day of the end of World War II, has largely remained consistent across administrations but reflects partial changes in approach especially on historical recognition and building peace.

Ishiba revived the use of the word "remorse," which had first been used by then-Prime Minister Murayama Tomiichi and last used by then-Prime Minister Noda Yoshihiko in 2012. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led governments since the late Abe Shinzo in 2013 avoided using the term that referred to Japan's responsibility as an aggression in the war.

Ishiba reportedly revived the language to ensure the legacy of the war is passed onto generations that have no experience or firsthand knowledge of the war. The prime minister told reporters that "lessons come from remorse," pointing out that there is a need to "once again take deeply into our hearts our remorse and lessons from war."

Other media reports suggest that Ishiba had strong feelings about delivering a powerful address given opposition by conservatives over the issuance of a prime minister statement marking the eightieth anniversary since the end of World War II.

While Ishiba maintains that such a statement is necessary given the trying times, conservatives argue that Abe's seventieth anniversary statement should be the final statement carried forth by future administrations.

Cabinet Approval



38% (+7 pts.)

45% (-8 pts.)

[NHK](#) (August 12)

State of the Economy

Provisional Real GDP Growth (April-June):

+1% on annual basis, +0.3% from previous quarter
Grew for 5th consecutive quarter

July-September quarter projected to fall 0.1% and by 0.6% on annual basis

Corporate Goods Price Index (July):

126.6 (+2.6%)
Rate of growth slowing down for the 4th consecutive month

Ratio of Foreign Labor:

Increasing across all 47 prefectures
Grew 4x in 7 prefectures including Miyazaki and Kumamoto