

### Abstract

This paper has two aims. The first is to warn Japan against making the same mistakes made by the Israelites of ancient Israel in their choice of government. After the Exodus, because the people were sovereign, they *initially* had the opportunity to choose their form of government using democratic procedures. The government they chose, however, was *anti-democratic* theocracy, and they *eventually* abandoned their popular sovereignty. Their choice, therefore, may be described as democratic suicide.

The second aim of the paper is to integrate a desirable theory of sovereignty with Popper's theory of democracy in which all kinds of (unchecked) sovereignty are rejected. The integrated theory of democracy proposed in this paper will be suitable for the idea of democracy as popular sovereignty in Japan, which is prescribed in the current Japanese constitution (Minshushugi in the sense of Kokumin-shuken or Shuken-zaimin).