



NHK 詳細分析

2026-05-04_radio_news_2000

Broadcast: 2026-05-04 | Analyzed: 2026-05-13 15:12

Version 2.8-detail | Universal 2.8-detail | Konverter 3.4 (2026-05-20) | Standard: 放送法 第4条

OVERALL SCORE

5.2/10

Significant imbalance

0 = balanced, 10 = strongly biased/manipulative

POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Classification based on Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) 2024

The Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES 2024) is an academic survey of 609 political scientists in 31 countries. Each party is rated on a scale from 0 (far left) to 10 (far right).

Party	JCP	CDP	DPP	Komeito	LDP	JIP
CHES	1.50	3.50	4.80	5.20	7.00	7.80
Spectrum	<i>Left</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>Right</i>	<i>Right</i>

The overall tendency is presented on a 0–10 scale (0 = strongly left-favoring, 5 = balanced, 10 = strongly right-favoring). The calculation is based on the difference in average favoritism of left vs. right parties (grouping per CHES 2024).

TENDENCY (L – R)

6.5 / 10

Right-favoring

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

← Left

Right →

Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — chesdata.eu | [Jolly et al., Electoral Studies, 2022](#) | Thresholds: [Pew Research Center](#)

This section provides political context and does not contribute to the overall score.



POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Current Administration: Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) + Komeito coalition government. Following the October 27, 2024 House of Representatives election, LDP holds 191 seats (a significant reduction) and Komeito holds 24 seats. Operating as a minority government due to falling short of a majority. Sanae Takaichi is Prime Minister (as of the broadcast date covered in this analysis).

Major Opposition Parties: Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP, 148 seats) is the largest opposition party. Nippon Ishin no Kai (Ishin, 38 seats), Democratic Party for the People (DPP, 28 seats), Reiwa Shinsengumi (Reiwa, 9 seats), Japanese Communist Party (JCP, 8 seats).

Party	Left-Right Score (0–10)	Seats (Lower House)	Government/Opposition	Key Policies
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	1.5	8	Opposition	Uphold Article 9, immediate nuclear abolition, dissolve Japan-US security treaty
Social Democratic Party (SDP)	2.5	1	Opposition	Pacifism, nuclear phase-out, defend constitution
Reiwa Shinsengumi (Reiwa)	2.5	9	Opposition	Abolish consumption tax, anti-military expansion, MMT economics
Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP)	3.5	148	Opposition	Defend constitution, nuclear phase-out, separate surnames for married couples
Komeito	5.0	24	Government	Peace diplomacy, social security, restraining LDP
Democratic Party for the People (DPP)	5.5	28	Centre	Consumption tax 5%, pragmatic nuclear utilisation
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	7.0	191	Government	Constitutional revision, increase defence spending, restart nuclear plants
Nippon Ishin no Kai (Ishin)	7.0	38	Opposition	Deregulation, administrative reform, constitutional revision
Sanseito	9.0	3	Opposition	Ultra-nationalism, anti-globalism

Pew Threshold: Below 4.5 = Left-wing, 4.5–5.5 = Centre, Above 5.5 = Right-wing

The current major political fault lines in Japan are as follows. First, the governing-opposition confrontation over increased defence spending and the possession of counter-strike capabilities (LDP in favour vs. CDP and JCP opposed). Second, the issue of revising Article 9 of the Constitution (LDP and Ishin in favour vs. CDP, JCP, and SDP opposed). Third, in energy policy, the conflict between promoting nuclear plant restarts (LDP, Ishin) and phasing out nuclear power (CDP, JCP, Reiwa). Fourth, debate is intensifying over the direction of security policy against the backdrop of the Middle East situation and the South China Sea issue.



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NHK is obligated under Article 4 of the Broadcasting Act to maintain political fairness, accuracy in reporting, and presentation of multi-faceted perspectives. Because the 12 members of NHK's Board of Governors are appointed by the Prime Minister (with Diet consent), criticism of a "pro-government" slant has continued since the Abe administration. Japan ranks 70th in the RSF Press Freedom Index (2024), and the press club (kisha club) system creates structural bias in information access.



CHAPTER 1 — PARTY-POLITICAL BIAS

Party-by-Party Scores

Party	Score (-5 to +5)	Broadcast Content vs. Party Platform
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	+2	00:00:38 "Since reserve funds in this fiscal year's budget can also be utilised... the government does not consider the situation as one that immediately requires the compilation of a supplementary budget" — Party platform: fiscal discipline, growth strategy — The Prime Minister's fiscal judgement is reported without criticism, and LDP's policy position is presented positively. However, no detailed explanation of the party platform.
Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP)	-3	Relevant timestamp: N/A — Party platform: proactive use of supplementary budgets, distribution-focused, defend constitution — CDP's argument for a supplementary budget and its critical position on SDF overseas deployment based on Article 9 are completely omitted, and the party platform is distorted and omitted.
Komeito	0	Relevant timestamp: N/A — Party platform: peace diplomacy, social security — No mention in the broadcast.
Nippon Ishin no Kai (Ishin)	0	Relevant timestamp: N/A — Party platform: administrative reform, constitutional revision — No mention in the broadcast.
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	-3	Relevant timestamp: N/A — Party platform: defend constitution, immediate nuclear abolition, dissolve Japan-US security treaty, anti-military expansion — JCP's opposition to SDF overseas deployment and argument for a supplementary budget are completely omitted, and the party platform is omitted.
Democratic Party for the People (DPP)	0	Relevant timestamp: N/A — Party platform: consumption tax 5%, pragmatic nuclear utilisation — No mention in the broadcast.

Party Bias Summary

- Most accurate portrayal: Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), score +2
- Strongest distortion: Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) and Japanese Communist Party (JCP), score -3 (tied)
- Average deviation from 0: 1.3
- Summary: This broadcast reports LDP's policy positions (no supplementary budget, SDF overseas deployment, bill submission) without criticism, while completely omitting CDP's argument for a supplementary budget and JCP's opposition to SDF overseas deployment. This demonstrates a structural bias favouring LDP and disadvantaging opposition parties (particularly CDP and JCP). The primary grounds are the report of the Prime Minister's statement at 00:00:38 and the report of SDF participation at 00:01:51, both presented without any reference to the opposition's counterargument positions.



CHAPTER 2 — PROGRAMME INFORMATION AND TOPIC FRAMEWORK

Broadcast Data

- Title: NHK News (8:00 PM)
- Date (estimated from filename): 2025 (specific date estimated from timestamp, period of Middle East situation and Balikatan exercise coverage)
- Estimated Broadcast Duration: Approximately 5 minutes (transcript range: 00:00:00–04:55:480, though the latter half shows subtitle loop anomalies)
- Presenter/Reporter: Unknown (not explicitly stated in transcript)
- Persons Appearing:

Actors	Position	Party/Affiliation	Political Spectrum
Sanae Takaichi	Prime Minister	Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	Right-wing (hard-line conservative within LDP)
Press corps (multiple)	Reporters	NHK and other outlets	Neutral (press organisations)

Main Themes

The broadcast covers two security and fiscal policy matters: Prime Minister Takaichi's expression of views on the necessity of compiling a supplementary budget in response to the Middle East situation, and the Ground Self-Defense Force's first full-scale participation in the Japan-US-Philippines joint military exercise (Balikatan).

Perspectives Required for Balanced Reporting

The following perspectives are necessary for balanced reporting:

- [A] Grounds for opposing a supplementary budget (specific scale and conditions for using reserve funds)
- [B] Arguments in favour of a supplementary budget (views of opposition parties and economic experts)
- [C] Numerical explanation of the specific impact of the Middle East situation on the Japanese economy
- [D] Content, background, and the positions of the ruling and opposition parties on the Code of Criminal Procedure amendment bill
- [E] Legal basis and constitutional issues regarding SDF participation in the Balikatan exercise
- [F] Multi-perspective explanation of the South China Sea situation from the standpoints of China, the Philippines, and the United States
- [G] Critical views of opposition parties and civil society on the SDF's overseas deployment
- [H] Specific content, scale, and purpose of the live-fire training exercise
- [I] Reactions of neighbouring countries (China, South Korea) to Japan's shift in security policy
- [J] Democratic problems with using reserve funds (concerns about bypassing Diet deliberation)

Confirmation of Treatment of Each Perspective

- [A] Opposition to supplementary budget: Addressed

Timestamp: 00:00:38 — Quote: "Since reserve funds in this fiscal year's budget can also be utilised, the government does not consider the situation as one that immediately requires the compilation of a supplementary budget at this point in time." — Assessment: Only the Prime Minister's position is presented, without detailed explanation of the grounds.

- [B] Arguments in favour of supplementary budget: Omitted



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Timestamp: N/A — Quote: None — Assessment: No counterarguments from opposition parties or economic experts are presented whatsoever.

[C] Economic impact of Middle East situation (numerical): Omitted

Timestamp: 00:00:52 — Quote: "While keeping a close watch on the impact of the Middle East situation on the economy" — Assessment: Only an abstract expression of "keeping a close watch" with no specific figures or analysis.

[D] Content of Code of Criminal Procedure amendment bill: Omitted

Timestamp: 00:01:08 — Quote: "Code of Criminal Procedure amendment bill to revise the system for retrying the most recent trials" — Assessment: The content, background, and opposition's position are not explained at all.

[E] Legal basis for SDF participation: Omitted

Timestamp: 00:01:27 onwards — Quote: None — Assessment: No reference to constitutional issues or legal basis.

[F] Multi-perspective explanation of South China Sea situation: Omitted

Timestamp: 00:01:36 — Quote: "Live-fire training exercise on the coast of northern Philippines facing the South China Sea" — Assessment: No explanation of the positions of China, the United States, or the Philippines.

[G] Critical views of opposition and civil society: Omitted

Timestamp: N/A — Quote: None — Assessment: Critical perspectives on the SDF deployment are completely absent.

[H] Specific content of live-fire training exercise: Partially addressed

Timestamp: 00:01:38 — Quote: "Conducted live-fire training exercises" — Assessment: Only a factual mention, with no details on content, scale, or purpose.

[I] Reactions of neighbouring countries: Omitted

Timestamp: N/A — Quote: None — Assessment: No reference to reactions from China or South Korea.

[J] Democratic problems with use of reserve funds: Omitted

Timestamp: N/A — Quote: None — Assessment: No reference to the problems with using reserve funds that bypass Diet deliberation.



CHAPTER 3 — 15 CRITERIA: DETAILED ANALYSIS

Hard Facts — 9 techniques that are countable and scientifically verifiable

1. Expert Selection								7/10	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Expert 1: Sanae Takaichi (Prime Minister)

Timestamp	00:00:38
Statement	"Since reserve funds in this fiscal year's budget can also be utilised, the government does not consider the situation as one that immediately requires the compilation of a supplementary budget at this point in time."

Positioning: A party with a direct interest (a government policy decision-maker), not an independent expert. There is a clear conflict of interest as a party directly involved in fiscal and security policy.

Missing counterarguments: Assessments by independent fiscal experts, opposition fiscal policy representatives, and economists on the necessity of a supplementary budget.

In-depth verification of information source:

(a) Funding: Active as Prime Minister using the national budget. Also receives LDP membership fees and political funds.

(b) Authority: Her authority as a policy decision-maker is directly related to the question of whether to compile a supplementary budget, fundamentally incompatible with neutral assessment.

D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — The argument against a supplementary budget justifies the government's fiscal policy, and there is a direct conflict of interest as Prime Minister.

D2 Personal risk: -1 — As Prime Minister she bears responsibility for policy judgements, but the content of her statements aligns with the government's established policy, so personal risk is low.

D3 Professional competence: +1 — Has decision-making authority over fiscal policy as a politician, but is not an independent fiscal expert.

D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — The expression "repeatedly indicated" confirms that she has maintained the same position previously.

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: -1 — Uses the emotional expression "the lives and livelihoods of the people," with no presentation of specific figures or data.

D6 Source level: +2 — Primary source as a policy decision-maker.

TOTAL: 0 → Source traffic light: Yellow (-4 to +4)

(c) PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE: The Prime Minister's statements are reported as if they were neutral facts representing "the government's official position," but these are expressions of a political stance, not independent expert assessments. This corresponds to the problem of Technique 12 (source selection).

Missing expert groups:

- Independent fiscal and economic experts (assessment of necessity of supplementary budget)
- Constitutional scholars (legal assessment of SDF overseas deployment)
- Opposition party representatives (counterargument policy positions)



Source Credibility Overview:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
Sanae Takaichi (Prime Minister)	-2	-1	+1	+1	-1	+2	0	Yellow

Summary (matrix results):

- Sanae Takaichi (Prime Minister): Source traffic light Yellow (total 0) — As a directly interested party with a conflict of interest, it is inappropriate to treat her statements as independent expert assessments. The voices of independent experts and opposition parties are completely absent.



2. Source Selection

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Claims without primary source = penalty points (rumour check)

Source 1: Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (official government position)

Timestamp

00:00:38 — Statement: "Since reserve funds in this fiscal year's budget can also be utilised, the government does not consider the situation as one that immediately requires the compilation of a supplementary budget at this point in time."

(a) Funding and operating entity: Active as Prime Minister using the national budget. Also receives LDP membership fees and political funds. Has authority over the allocation of the national budget.

(b) Structural conflict of interest: The argument against a supplementary budget justifies the government's fiscal policy, and there is a direct conflict of interest as Prime Minister.

(c) Missing counterpart sources: Assessments by independent fiscal experts, opposition fiscal policy representatives, and economists on the necessity of a supplementary budget are completely absent.

Source 2: NHK reporter (factual report)

Timestamp

00:01:27–00:01:54 — Statement: "In the joint exercise between the Philippines and the United States, a unit of Japan's Self-Defense Forces conducted live-fire training exercises today on the coast of northern Philippines facing the South China Sea."

(a) Funding: NHK is operated using licence fees and national budget subsidies. Board of Governors members are appointed by the Prime Minister.

(b) Structural conflict of interest: The fact that NHK's Board of Governors members are appointed by the Prime Minister means there is a possibility of structural suppression of reporting critical of the government.

(c) Missing counterpart sources: The views of constitutional scholars, opposition representatives, and civil society organisations are completely absent.

Summary: The sources in this broadcast are limited to the government (Prime Minister) and NHK reporters, and counterargument sources such as independent experts, opposition parties, civil society, and neighbouring countries are completely absent. This is severely inadequate from the standpoint of multi-faceted presentation of viewpoints required by Article 4 of the Broadcasting Act.



3. Allocation of Speaking Time							7/10		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Estimated speaking time:

- Prime Minister Takaichi (direct and indirect quotation): approximately 45 seconds (approximately 75% of total)
- Narrator (factual explanation): approximately 15 seconds (approximately 25% of total)
- Opposition parties, experts, critical views: 0 seconds (0%)
- Presenter: approximately 5 seconds (approximately 8% of total)

Summary: 100% of speaking time is allocated to the government's position (direct and indirect quotation of the Prime Minister's statements) and its factual explanation, with zero speaking time for counterargument positions. This is severely unbalanced from the standpoint of political fairness required by Article 4 of the Broadcasting Act.



4. SELECTIVE OMISSION

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Omission 1:

Context

Arguments by opposition parties and independent experts in favour of a supplementary budget

Relevant timestamps: 00:00:03–00:01:02

Impact

Only the Prime Minister's position opposing a supplementary budget is presented, and viewers are not informed of the existence of a counterargument in the policy debate. The scale, conditions, and democratic problems (bypassing Diet deliberation) of using reserve funds are also not explained.

Omission 2:

Context

Constitutional and legal issues regarding SDF participation in the Balikatan exercise

Relevant timestamps: 00:01:27–00:01:54

Impact

The historic shift of "participating fully for the first time" is reported without any reference to Article 9, collective self-defence, or the legal basis for overseas deployment, leaving viewers unable to assess the gravity of the policy shift.

Omission 3:

Context

Content, background, and opposition's position on the Code of Criminal Procedure amendment bill

Relevant timestamps: 00:01:08–00:01:23

Impact

Only the explanation "to revise the system for retrying [cases]" is provided, and the specific content, problems, and the opposition's position regarding the amendment bill are not explained at all, leaving viewers unable to understand the substance of the policy.

Summary: This broadcast reports only the government's position and actions, and systematically omits counterargument policy debates, constitutional issues, and opposition views. This contravenes the obligation for multi-faceted presentation of viewpoints required by Article 4 of the Broadcasting Act.

Missing Voices

- Opposition party (CDP, JCP, Reiwa) representatives: Could have provided counterarguments on the necessity of a supplementary budget and problems with the use of reserve funds.
- Independent financial and economic experts: Could have provided numerical analysis of the specific impact of the Middle East situation on the Japanese economy.
- Constitutional scholars: Could have provided expert opinions on the consistency of SDF participation in the Balikatan exercise with Article 9.
- Philippine and Chinese government representatives: Could have provided the diplomatic context necessary for a multi-faceted understanding of the South China Sea situation.
- Civil society and peace group representatives: Could have provided critical perspectives on the SDF's overseas deployment and live-fire training.

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- Code of Criminal Procedure experts (lawyers, legal scholars): Could have provided expert explanations on the content and problems of the retrial system reform bill.
- Energy policy experts: Could have specifically explained the relationship between the Middle East situation and Japan's energy security.



5. Numerical Manipulation									4/10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Complete figures include: absolute value, proportion (%) and trend

Finding 1:	
Timestamp	00:01:51

Figure: "Approximately 1,400 personnel were deployed"

Missing context	The significance of the figure of 1,400 (comparison with the scale of past deployments, comparison with the overall scale of the Balikatan exercise, comparison with total SDF strength) is not presented.
Impact	Viewers cannot judge whether 1,400 is a large or small number. When combined with the expression "participating fully for the first time," the significance of the scale is emphasised, while comparative context is absent.

Summary: The use of figures in this broadcast is limited, and no significant numerical manipulation was confirmed. However, the lack of contextual explanation for the figure of 1,400 makes it difficult to assess the scale.



6. CONTACT RESPONSIBILITY

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Finding 1:

Timestamp

00:01:36

Quote

"Live-fire training exercise on the coast of northern Philippines facing the South China Sea"

Technique: By explicitly naming the South China Sea — a geopolitically tense region — the legitimacy of the exercise is implicitly reinforced (through association with the Chinese threat).

Impact

Viewers are likely to associate the South China Sea context with the Chinese threat, making it easy for them to naturally accept the necessity of SDF participation.

Summary: No explicit technique of discrediting through guilt by association was confirmed in this broadcast. However, there is a possibility that the use of the place name "South China Sea" functions as an implicit association with a threat. The score is low.



7. Timing

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Finding 1:

Position: 00:00:03 (opening)

Content: "Regarding the Middle East situation, Prime Minister Takaichi, citing that reserve funds in this fiscal year's budget can be utilised, repeatedly indicated her view that the situation does not currently require the compilation of a supplementary budget"

Timing effect: By presenting the Prime Minister's conclusion of "no supplementary budget needed" at the opening of the broadcast, viewers' cognitive framework is set from the outset in line with the government's position. Subsequent information tends to be interpreted within this framework.

Finding 2:

Position: 00:00:54 (middle)

Content: "We will make appropriate judgements so that the lives and livelihoods of the people, as well as economic activity, are not disrupted"

Timing effect: Placing the emotionally powerful expression "the lives and livelihoods of the people" as the conclusion of the Prime Minister's policy explanation has the effect of emotionally suppressing critical examination.

Summary: The structure of presenting the government's conclusion at the opening of the broadcast and closing with emotionally powerful language has the effect of suppressing viewers' critical evaluation.



8. Selective Outrage									2/10	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Outrage = bias. Selective outrage amplifies the finding. Score = outrage level (0–5) + selectivity (0–5)

Methodological principle (v2.2): Record the triggering event before each assessment. A reaction can only be assessed as selective if an equivalent triggering event involving another position did not produce a similar reaction.

Finding 1:

Timestamp N/A

Triggering event: No explicit outrage or emotional reaction was confirmed in this broadcast.

Reaction: None

Comparison

Since there is no equivalent triggering event to serve as a comparison, it is impossible to assess asymmetry.

Asymmetry: Cannot be confirmed.

Summary: No explicit selective outrage was confirmed in this broadcast. However, there is a possibility that the very structure of reporting only the government's position and omitting critical views functions as implicit selective support. The score is low.



9. COMPLETENESS							7/10		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

The Middle East situation (ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict, tensions with Iran) can directly affect Japan's energy imports and economy. Whether or not to compile a supplementary budget is central to fiscal policy, and many opposition parties favour proactive fiscal spending. Against the backdrop of China's maritime advances in the South China Sea, security cooperation among Japan, the US, and the Philippines is being strengthened, and the SDF's first full-scale participation in the Balikatan exercise marks a turning point in Japan's security policy. These matters are directly linked to domestic political conflicts over Article 9, increased defence spending, and foreign policy.

Share of covered perspectives

Inverted: original value measures coverage (higher = better). Shown as deviation (higher = larger gaps).



Soft Facts — 6 qualitative techniques

10. Framing

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Finding 1:

Timestamp	00:00:03
Quote	<i>"Regarding the Middle East situation, Prime Minister Takaichi, citing that reserve funds in this fiscal year's budget can be utilised, repeatedly indicated her view that the situation does not currently require the compilation of a supplementary budget, and furthermore"</i>
Manipulation	The supplementary budget issue is framed as "the legitimacy of the Prime Minister's judgement," and a framing of it as a policy debate over "whether or not a supplementary budget is needed" is absent.

Why this is problematic: Viewers are likely to receive the Prime Minister's position of not needing a supplementary budget as an established fact, making it difficult for them to recognise the existence of a counterargument in the policy debate.

Finding 2:

Timestamp	00:01:27
Quote	<i>"In the joint exercise between the Philippines and the United States, a unit of Japan's Self-Defense Forces conducted live-fire training exercises today on the coast of northern Philippines facing the South China Sea"</i>
Manipulation	The SDF's overseas live-fire training is framed as a neutral fact — a "natural extension of Japan-US-Philippines cooperation" — and a framing of it as a significant turning point in security policy is absent.

Why this is problematic: While the historical significance of "participating fully for the first time" is emphasised, there is no reference to its political or constitutional implications, making it easy for viewers to underestimate the gravity of the policy shift.

Finding 3:

Timestamp	00:00:54
Quote	<i>"We will make appropriate judgements so that the lives and livelihoods of the people, as well as economic activity, are not disrupted"</i>
Manipulation	The Prime Minister's statement is framed with the emotionally powerful phrase "the lives and livelihoods of the people," setting a moral framework that makes critical examination difficult.

Why this is problematic: The expression "the lives and livelihoods of the people" functions as a rhetorical device that makes counterarguments difficult, and has the effect of emotionally suppressing critical examination of the argument against a supplementary budget.



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Summary: This broadcast frames the government's policy judgements as "appropriate responses" and completely excludes counterframes such as policy debate, constitutional issues, and the gravity of the security shift.



11. Word Choice and Terminology

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Finding 1:

Timestamp

00:00:57

Quote

"Will make appropriate judgements"

Manipulation

The adjective "appropriate" contains a value judgement, implying that the Prime Minister's judgement is correct.

Why this is problematic: A neutral alternative expression would be "will make judgements" or "will consider responses"; using the evaluative adjective "appropriate" has the effect of framing the Prime Minister's position positively.

Finding 2:

Timestamp

00:01:51

Quote

"Participating fully for the first time"

Manipulation

The expression "fully" carries a positive and proactive connotation, framing the SDF's participation in overseas military exercises as a forward-looking development.

Why this is problematic: A neutral alternative expression would be "participating for the first time"; the modifier "fully" carries the connotation of positively evaluating the policy shift.

Finding 3:

Timestamp

00:00:52

Quote

"While keeping a close watch"

Manipulation

The expression "keeping a close watch" is a phrase that gives a sense of reassurance that the government is grasping and managing the situation, framing the government's passive response as active management.

Why this is problematic: "Keeping a close watch" indicates an observational posture not accompanied by concrete action, but in this context it functions as a phrase suggesting the government's capacity for proactive response.

Summary: Words with evaluative and positive connotations such as "appropriate," "fully," and "keeping a close watch" are used in a direction that reinforces the government's position, which is problematic from the standpoint of neutral reporting.



12. Presenter Conduct									3/10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Methodological principle (v2.2): Record the triggering event before each assessment. An intervention can only be assessed as asymmetric if an equivalent triggering event involving another guest did not produce a similar intervention.

Finding 1:

Timestamp 00:00:30

Triggering event: Press corps asked the Prime Minister about the necessity of compiling a supplementary budget in response to the Middle East situation.

Quote (presenter/narrator)	<i>"In response to being asked by the press corps about the necessity of compiling a supplementary budget for this fiscal year in light of the Middle East situation"</i>
Comparison	No equivalent question to an opposition representative or independent expert exists within the broadcast.

Asymmetry: The content of the question to the Prime Minister is reported, but questions and challenges directed at counterargument positions are not broadcast. However, this needs to be distinguished from asymmetry in the presenter's personal conduct, as it stems from the structural characteristics of news reporting (reporting on a Prime Minister's press conference).

Summary: Since this broadcast takes the form of reporting on a Prime Minister's press conference rather than a studio discussion format, it is difficult to assess direct interventions or asymmetry on the part of the presenter. However, the reporting structure itself — which reports only the Prime Minister's statements without seeking counterargument views — creates substantive asymmetry.



13. Asymmetry of Questions

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Asymmetry 1:

Question to Prime Minister Takaichi (00:00:30): "Was asked about the necessity of compiling a supplementary budget for this fiscal year" — A standard policy question on the necessity of the budget (moderately hard)

Question to opposition representatives: N/A (no questions to the opposition within the broadcast)

Comparison

A policy question about the necessity of the supplementary budget is put to the Prime Minister, but no counterargument questions to the opposition or experts are broadcast at all.

Asymmetry 2:

Question to Prime Minister Takaichi (00:01:12): "Was asked about the handling of the Code of Criminal Procedure amendment bill" — A procedural question about the handling of the bill (soft)

Question on content, problems, and opposition's position on the bill: N/A

Comparison

Questions on the substantive content, problems, and opposition's position on the bill are completely absent, with only procedural questions reported.

Summary: Questions to the Prime Minister are reported, but their content is limited to procedural and confirmatory matters, with no critical follow-up. The complete absence of questions to opposition parties and experts means the asymmetry of questions is structural.



14. False Balance

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Finding 1:

Timestamps: 00:00:03–00:01:23

Structure: By continuously reporting on three different topics — "response to the Middle East situation," "Code of Criminal Procedure amendment," and "Balikatan exercise" — an appearance of diverse reporting is created.

Analysis

However, in all three topics, only the government's position is presented, with zero counterargument views. A false balance exists in which the diversity of topics substitutes for balance of content.

Summary: No classic false balance (such as treating scientific consensus and minority opinion as equivalent) was confirmed in this broadcast. However, there is a possibility that reporting on multiple topics is functioning as a substitute for substantive balance of content. The score is low.



15. Agenda Setting

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Finding 1:

Established agenda element: The premise that compiling a supplementary budget "is not necessary" is set as self-evident.

Timestamp

00:00:03 — Grounds: "Repeatedly indicated her view that the situation does not currently require the compilation of a supplementary budget"

Alternative agenda: The necessity of a supplementary budget, democratic problems with the use of reserve funds, and opposition parties' fiscal policy proposals should have been placed on the agenda.

Finding 2:

Established agenda element: The SDF's participation in the Balikatan exercise is set as self-evident as "a natural development in security cooperation."

Timestamp

00:01:51 — Grounds: The positive expression "participating fully for the first time"

Alternative agenda: Consistency with Article 9, reactions of neighbouring countries, criticism from civil society, and the legal basis for overseas deployment should have been placed on the agenda.

Finding 3:

Established agenda element: The "swift submission" of the Code of Criminal Procedure amendment bill is set as self-evident as a natural duty of the government.

Timestamp

00:01:20 — Grounds: "Will proceed with preparations to submit the bill as swiftly as possible"

Alternative agenda: The content and problems of the amendment bill, the opposition's position, and the views of the legal community should have been placed on the agenda.

Summary: This broadcast sets the government's policy judgements as self-evident premises and systematically excludes counterargument policy debates, constitutional issues, and critical views from the agenda. This contravenes the obligation for multi-faceted presentation of viewpoints required by Article 4 of the Broadcasting Act.



CHAPTER 4 — OVERALL EVALUATION

OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE 15 CRITERIA

Individual Scores — All 15 Criteria

No.	Criterion	Score	Rating
1	Expert Selection	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
2	Source Selection	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
3	Allocation of Speaking Time	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
4	SELECTIVE OMISSION	8/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
5	Numerical Manipulation	4/10	<i>Slight imbalance</i>
6	CONTACT RESPONSIBILITY	1/10	<i>Unremarkable</i>
7	Timing	5/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
8	Selective Outrage	2/10	<i>Unremarkable</i>
9	COMPLETENESS	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
10	Framing	6/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
11	Word Choice and Terminology	5/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
12	Presenter Conduct	3/10	<i>Slight imbalance</i>
13	Asymmetry of Questions	6/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
14	False Balance	2/10	<i>Unremarkable</i>
15	Agenda Setting	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>

HARD FACTS SCORE (1-8)

5.1/10

Significant imbalance

SOFT FACTS SCORE (9-14)

5.2/10

Significant imbalance

OVERALL SCORE

5.2/10

Significant imbalance

Average of Hardfacts and Softfacts



KEY — Score Definitions

Individual Scores per Criterion (0–10)

0	No finding	No relevant anomaly detected.
1–2	Weak finding	Minor anomaly without substantial impact on balance.
3–4	Slight to moderate finding	Recognizable tendency; low to moderate impact relevance.
5	Moderate finding with impact	Relevant imbalance affecting the audience's opinion-forming potential.
6	Significant finding (threshold)	Scores of 6 and above are classified as 'significant findings.'
7	Significant finding	Clear, well-documented imbalance with distinct impact relevance.
8–9	Severe finding	Pronounced imbalance; multiple documented individual findings in this criterion.
10	Maximum severity	Systematic, pervasive imbalance in this criterion.

Aggregated Deviation Index — Interpretation Ranges

0.0 – 2.5	Unremarkable	No significant patterns detected; broadcast meets the impartiality standard.
2.6 – 4.0	Slight imbalance	Isolated anomalies; statistically visible but within tolerance range.
4.1 – 6.0	Significant imbalance	Multiple significant findings; relevant impairment of perspective diversity.
6.1 – 8.0	Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation	Pronounced, cross-broadcast patterns; high impact relevance.
8.1 – 10	Fundamental systemic one-sidedness. Very high bias degree	Maximum severity across nearly all criteria; systematically one-sided reporting.

Party-Political Bias (-5 to +5)

-5 to -3	Strongly disadvantaged	Party is significantly underrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation.
-2 to -1	Slightly disadvantaged	Recognizable but minor disadvantage.
0	Neutral	No detectable favoritism or disadvantage.
+1 to +2	Slightly favored	Recognizable but minor favoritism.
+3 to +5	Strongly favored	Party is significantly overrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation.



CHAPTER 5 — LEGAL ASSESSMENT (Broadcasting Act Article 4)

Assessment Based on Broadcasting Act Article 4

Article 4 of the Broadcasting Act obligates broadcasters to maintain political fairness (Paragraph 2), accuracy in reporting (Paragraph 3), and multi-faceted presentation of viewpoints (Paragraph 4).

Violation 1:

Standard: Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 2 (political fairness)

Facts: On politically contested matters including the necessity of compiling a supplementary budget, SDF overseas deployment, and the Code of Criminal Procedure amendment bill, only the ruling party (LDP) position was reported, and the counterargument positions of opposition parties (CDP, JCP, Reiwa, etc.) were not presented at all.

Grounds: Timestamp 00:00:38 — Quote: "The government does not consider the situation as one that immediately requires the compilation of a supplementary budget at this point in time." (no reference to the opposition's argument for a supplementary budget)

Assessment: Reporting only one side's position on politically contested fiscal and security policy matters does not meet the requirement for political fairness required by Article 4, Paragraph 2 of the Broadcasting Act.

Violation 2:

Standard: Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 4 (multi-faceted presentation of viewpoints)

Facts: On the significant security policy shift of the SDF's first full-scale participation in the Balikatan exercise, the views of constitutional scholars, opposition parties, civil society, and neighbouring countries were not presented at all, and only the government's position was reported.

Grounds: Timestamp 00:01:51 — Quote: "Participating fully for the first time." (no reference to constitutional issues or critical views)

Assessment: Failure to present multi-faceted viewpoints on a significant security policy shift contravenes the obligation to "clarify viewpoints from as many angles as possible" required by Article 4, Paragraph 4 of the Broadcasting Act.

Violation 3:

Standard: Broadcasting Act Article 4, Paragraph 3 (accuracy in reporting)

Facts: Regarding the Code of Criminal Procedure amendment bill, only the explanation "to revise the system for retrying [cases]" was provided, and the specific content, problems, and background of the amendment bill were not explained.

Grounds: Timestamp 00:01:08 — Quote: "In response to being asked about the handling of the Code of Criminal Procedure amendment bill to revise the system for retrying the most recent trials"

Assessment: Reporting only the procedural aspects without accurately explaining the content of the bill partially fails to meet the accuracy-in-reporting requirement of providing information necessary for viewers to accurately understand the policy.

Overall Legal Assessment Under Broadcasting Act Article 4

This broadcast has clear problems with respect to Article 4, Paragraph 2 (political fairness) and Paragraph 4 (multi-faceted presentation of viewpoints) of the Broadcasting Act. The reporting structure of reporting only the policy positions of the government (LDP) and systematically omitting the counterargument views of opposition parties, independent experts, and civil society is inconsistent with the obligations of political fairness and multi-faceted presentation of viewpoints that the Broadcasting Act demands of public broadcasters. However, the context also exists that this broadcast is a short breaking-news format, making it structurally difficult to develop all viewpoints in detail. NHK bears an obligation to conduct supplementary reporting (views of opposition parties, expert analysis, presentation of multi-faceted viewpoints) separately, in order to meet the requirements of Article 4 of the Broadcasting Act for this reporting. The fact that complete confirmation of the content of the Balikatan exercise coverage was



impossible due to the subtitle loop anomaly (00:01:55–04:55:480) in the latter half of the transcript is recorded as a limitation of the legal assessment.

In-depth Source Verification (Mandatory verification: all expert organisations, NGOs, and consulting bodies cited)

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (Prime Minister)

1. Funding: Active as Prime Minister using the national budget. Also receives LDP membership fees and political funds (as stated in political funds income and expenditure reports). Has authority over the allocation of the national budget.

2. Authority: Her authority as a policy decision-maker is directly related to the question of whether to compile a supplementary budget, SDF deployment, and bill submission, fundamentally incompatible with neutral assessment.

3. Conflict of interest: The argument against a supplementary budget, affirmation of SDF deployment, and swift submission of the bill all justify the policies of the LDP administration, and there is a direct conflict of interest as Prime Minister.

4. Credibility matrix (source traffic light, 6 dimensions):

D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — Direct conflict of interest as a policy decision-maker

D2 Personal risk: -1 — Aligns with the government's established policy, personal risk is low

D3 Professional competence: +1 — Has policy decision-making authority as a politician, but is not an independent expert

D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — Consistency confirmed from "repeatedly indicated"

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: -1 — Uses emotional expression "the lives and livelihoods of the people," no specific data

D6 Source level: +2 — Primary source as a policy decision-maker

TOTAL: 0 → Source traffic light: Yellow

5. Counterargument views: Counterargument assessments by independent fiscal experts, opposition fiscal policy representatives, and constitutional scholars are not cited.

Important: "The Prime Minister's statements" are expressions of a political stance, not independent expert assessments. NHK's use of these as the sole source is inconsistent with the obligation for multi-faceted presentation of viewpoints required by Article 4 of the Broadcasting Act. The social authorisation of "the government's official position" is itself a framework that should be verified and cannot be treated as neutral fact.

This analysis was prepared on the basis of a transcript of NHK News (estimated 2025) from the standpoint of compliance with Article 4 of the Broadcasting Act. It is noted that complete confirmation of the content of the Balikatan exercise coverage was impossible due to the subtitle loop anomaly in the latter half of the transcript (00:01:55–04:55:480). Analysis version: 2.7-detail.

Legal and Methodological Notes

No factual determination

The results presented do not constitute factual determinations about individual persons, editorial teams, or broadcasts. They are the product of a standardized operationalization, not a finding of individual responsibility.

No legal judgment

The aggregated deviation index does not replace a legal assessment under 放送法 第4条. The determination of whether a specific broadcast violates legal requirements is exclusively the responsibility of the competent authorities (in particular 総務省).

No proof of causation

Statistical correlations are not to be interpreted as proof of causal relationships or editorial intent. Deviation values may be influenced by topic selection, news environment, political controversy, or format logic.

No judgment of intent

The analysis measures observable structural characteristics of broadcasts. A score of 7 means a significant imbalance was detected — not that the editorial team intended it. The methodology makes no claims about motives or strategic objectives.



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**Heuristic
comparison tool**

The index serves comparative pattern recognition across thousands of broadcasts, not precise metric measurement of individual segments. Threshold values serve heuristic orientation, not sharp legal qualification.



APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL BROADCASTING LAW

Legal Basis Japan — NHK

Legislation

- Broadcasting Act (放送法, Act No. 132 of 1950, last amended 2024)
- NHK Reception Agreement (NHK受信規約)
- Radio Act (電波法)

Broadcasting Act Article 4 (Editing Standards)

Original text (Japanese):

放送事業者は、国内放送及び内外放送の放送番組の編集に当たっては、次の各号の定めるところによらなければならない。

- 一 公安及び善良な風俗を害しないこと。
- 二 政治的に公平であること。
- 三 報道は事実をまげないですること。
- 四 意見が対立している問題については、できるだけ多くの角度から論点を明らかにすること。

Official English translation:

(1) A broadcaster must comply with the following when editing domestic broadcast programs:

- (i) It must not negatively influence public safety or good morals.
- (ii) It must be politically fair.
- (iii) Reporting must not distort the facts.
- (iv) It must clarify the points at issue from as many angles as possible where there are conflicting opinions concerning an issue.

Ref: e-Gov (laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/325AC0000000132), Japanese Law Translation DB

Four Pillars of Bias Analysis

No.	Provision	SVFAB Analysis Reference
1	Must not harm public safety or good morals	Editorial baseline
2	Must be politically fair	Core bias metric — analogous to Swiss RTVG Art. 4
3	Reporting must not distort the facts	Factual dimension
4	Controversial issues: as many angles as possible	Multi-perspective / balance

Comparison Switzerland — Japan

Aspect	Switzerland (SRG)	Japan (NHK)
Law	RTVG Art. 4	Broadcasting Act Art. 4
Independent regulator	UBI (binding)	BPO (non-binding)



State regulator	BAKOM/UVEK	MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs)
Enforcement	UBI can uphold complaints; BAKOM can sanction	BPO recommends; MIC can issue administrative guidance
Funding	Serafe fee	NHK reception fee (~1,100 JPY/month)
Self-regulation	Moderate (UBI independent)	Weak (BPO co-funded by NHK)

Regulatory Authorities

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (総務省)

- Government ministry with jurisdiction over broadcasting
- Issues broadcast licences
- Can issue administrative guidance (行政指導)
- Approves NHK budget, business plan, and reception fees
- Theoretically has authority to revoke licences
- Recent action: September 2024, administrative guidance after Senkaku incident on NHK Radio International

BPO (Broadcasting Ethics and Program Improvement Organization)

- Founded 2003, non-governmental, self-regulatory
- Jointly operated by NHK and JBA (Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association)
- Three committees: Ethics Verification, Human Rights, Youth Protection
- Decisions are NOT legally binding — rely on voluntary compliance
- NHK co-funds BPO — structural independence compromised

Key BPO Decisions Regarding NHK

Year	Case	Ruling
2015	Close-up Gendai — staging allegations	Serious breach of broadcasting ethics
2022	BS Olympic Documentary (Naomi Kawase)	Serious breach — false subtitles
2023	News Watch 9 — COVID-19 reporting	Breach — vaccine families misrepresented

International Reference

- RSF Press Freedom Index: Japan 2024 Rank 70 (far behind CH: 9, NO: 1)
- Freedom House: Japan classified as "free", but media freedom under pressure (kisha clubs, government proximity)

Structural Background

NHK is the world's largest public broadcaster by budget (~720 billion JPY / ~4.5 billion EUR). Formal independence is structurally limited through the Board of Governors (12 members appointed by the Prime Minister with parliamentary consent). The kisha club system restricts access to government information to accredited media and fosters proximity between journalists and government.



APPENDIX 2: SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES

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Unbalanced Reporting is the response to the halving initiative in Switzerland: Manipulation techniques are explained in detail, starting with the selection of staff and sources. Then 15 principles are explained: omission, framing, temporal framing, guilt by association, emotionalisation, context removal and many more, illustrated with numerous examples. Additionally, it becomes apparent where we ourselves apply these techniques – fostering not only awareness but also empathy.

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Because whoever understands framing sees the world more clearly. Hears news differently. Conducts conversations more confidently. And no longer so easily accepts a frame chosen by someone else.



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With many exercises and concrete examples from politics, media and everyday life – and the occasional smile.

Framing with style. Because the frame changes everything.