

# **The Exploration of Behaviorist Theory in the Early Works of Takabatake Michitoshi's Political Thought: Uncovering the Origins of Civic Political Studies**

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This paper explores the origin of 'Civic Political Studies' through the lens of contributions of Michitoshi Takabatake(1933-2004) to political studies in post-war Japan. In the 1950s, Takabatake, preceding other Japanese political researchers, showed a keen interest in American political theory, especially Behaviorism. This interest was significant in terms of developing the methodology of political studies as a science. This insight was positioned as an extension of the methodology initially attempted but abandoned by Masao Maruyama. Such theoretical work by Takabatake, which has not been much noticed until today, was indispensable in examining the formation process of 'Civic Political Studies', aiming to bridge academic and civic realms.

Takabatake critically analyzed Behaviorism's logical constraints, notably Harold Lasswell's theory, highlighting issues like circular reasoning, ambiguity in terminological distinctions, and the neglect of civic power in political transformation. These critiques predate the challenges faced by later scholars. From the point of views of Japan's academics, 'Leviathan Group' revisited the theories of Behaviorism and Post-Behaviorism in the 1980s. These theories had previously been considered and anticipated by Takabatake in his assistant's thesis about two decades earlier. The Takabatake's work remains a pivotal reference for understanding the reception of American political theory in post-war Japan.