Special Feature:

Cataclysmic changes in the East Asian international order

6 Cover Story Interview

From Pyeongchang to Tokyo: Conveying excitement beyond winning or losing

Roundtable:

12 Abrupt changes in the North Korean problem?

Obstacles to the "success" of U.S.-North Korea talks

The news of U.S.-North Korea Summit broke early morning in Japan on March 9. Experts discuss about this new development in East Asian international politics.

Yasuhiro Matsuda (University of Tokyo)/Narushige Michishita (GRIPS)/Kenji Kanasugi (MOFA)

26 From destruction to construction: The second term of the Xi Jinping administration is put to test

It is used. Xi Jinping has been pushing forward with its initiative to strengthen the basis of his power. What are the future challenges to his administration?

Kazuko Kojima (Keio University)

32 What we should focus on for the personnel reshuffle in National People's Congress:

Profiles of the new leaders in China's government institutions Li Hao (Graduate Student, University of Tokyo)

Japan-U.S.-ROK security triangle: In our team pursuit of denuclearizing North Korea

Was the "Olympic diplomacy" of South Korea to hold inter-Korean summit and U.S.-North Korea summit a first step towards peace on the Korean Peninsula or a "breakdown" of international web of constraints?

Yuki Asaba (University of Niigata Prefecture)

44 Southeast Asia confronting China's southward advance

Aggressive maritime expansion by China has in fact thirty years history. How has ASEAN countered China? The author examines China's "three approaches" and the "solidarity" of future Southeast Asia. Susumu Yamakage (Aoyama Gakuin University)

50 How to maintain and build Asia's maritime order: On the "rule of law" at sea

There are differences in interpretation over UNCLOS as well as willingness and capability of enforcement among the countries. The author examines how to maintain and build the maritime order.

Jun Tsuruta (Meiji Gakuin University)

Trend 2018

Pompeo named as the new State Secretary: The impact of replacing the Secretary of State

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has been sacked. What was the relationship between he and President Trump? What went behind the scenes in naming Mike Pompeo as the new Secretary of State? The author analyzes the relationship within the administration and the future of Trump diplomacy. Tetsuo Kotani (JIIA)

Trump's "deals-first approach" and the new FRB leadership: Where will the rising protectionist policies go?

Will Trump administration's policy to impose steep steel and aluminum tariff bolster protectionism? The author examines this question by looking at the infighting among the administration and the new FRB leadership. Kenji Shimizu (Mainichi Shimbun)

74 Will German politics be stable with the continuation of grand coalition?

The fourth Merkel administration has begun after political vacuum following the federal election last September. Facing the changes in social structure and "rightward political shift," how will the political dynamics among parties' change? Norihide Miyoshi (Yomiuri Shimbun)

DIPLOMACY

Vol.48, Mar./Apr. 2018

Contents of Features

Interview with the new ambassador to the United States: New strategic space that needs to be filled by Japan and the U.S.

Mr. Sugiyama, who has played a central role in supporting Prime Minister Abe's diplomacy as Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, will be Japan's new ambassador to the U.S. Sugiyama expresses his goals on how he will strengthen Japan-U.S. alliance. Shinsuke Sugiyama (Ambassador to the United States)

Thinktanks that lead "Track 1.5" dialogues: Challenges of The Japan Institute of International Affairs

The Japan Institute of International Affairs have been ranked 14th in the world and 1st in Asia in the annual world thinktank ranking. We asked the President of JIIA what role thinktanks play in Japanese diplomacy. Yoshiii Nogami (JIIA)

92 160th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and France: "Special relationship" that began under the Paris sky. We can get a glimpse of the "determination" to open up an isolated country from the beautiful calligraphy that can be seen on the original document of "Treaty of Amity and Commerce between France and Japan," which was concluded 160 years ago. The author examines the origin of Japan-France relationship using the treaty as an entrance point. Shoko Yamaguchi (Journalist)

FOCUS: Rethinking the Middle East problem

100 Palestinian problem at an impasse: Two-states solution no longer seems like a real possibility

U.S. policy to move its embassy to Jerusalem has been criticized as "rolling back" the Middle East peace process. "Two-state solution" has broken down, but large-scale demonstration movements are nowhere to be seen in Palestine. This article examines the troubled prospects of Middle East peace through current conflict situation and historical perspectives.

Ryoji Tateyama (National Defense Academy)

106 Strategies and ideals of Iranian diplomacy: Understanding the context of "Iranian threat" Iran's diplomacy has an ideal borne out of the process of Islamic revolution and a strategy dealing with the realities of post "counter-terrorism war." This article evaluates the perception of "Iranian threat" held by the U.S. and Arab countries through historical context.

Sachi Sakanashi (The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan)

114 The Iranian society: The direction of current change

Iranian society continues to change with the rollback of strict rules and the young population seeking freedom. The support of the current government is quite high despite the frequent occurrences of anti-government demonstrations. While glancing at its neighbors' "Arab Spring," what will the calm Iranian people see as the central issue that could bind their society together?

Hideki Yabu (NHK)

118 Iraq after ISIS: Peace building and its challenges

What is required in post-ISIS Iraq? The author who is an expert on peace building has visited Iraq and had a series of discussion with three Vice Presidents including Nouri al-Maliki. The absolute necessity for Iraq's political stability is national reconciliation that overcomes religious conflicts. Daisaku Higashi (Sophia University)

123 "Jihadism" and the post-IS world

Will global terrorism come to an end after neutralizing IS? This article analyzes the history of "Jihadism" and qualities embedded in people's psyche to examine what must be done to contain them. Shuji Hosaka (The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan)