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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 UNCCLOS as well as willingness and capability of enforcement among the countries. The author examines how to maintain and build the maritime order.
Jun Tsunoda (Meiji Gakuin University)

Trend 2018

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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)

68 Trump’s “deals-first approach” and the new FRB leadership: Where will the rising protectionist policies go?
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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 “lightweight political shift,” how will the political dynamics among parties’ change?
Norihide Miyoshi (Yomiuri Shimbun)

80 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.
Shin'ichi Sugiyama (Ambassador to the United States)

88 Thinktanks that lead “Track 1.5” dialogues: Challenges of The Japan Institute of International Affairs
The Japan Institute of International Affairs has 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.
Yoshihira Hidai (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.
Ryoki 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 Sakashita (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)