

# DIPLOMACY

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# Fighting COVID-19

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- 14 International health cooperation at a crossroads due to COVID-19**  
Trump administration is openly defying WHO, but can the world really face the infectious disease under such circumstances? The author looks back at the history of international cooperation and even questions how WHO should function to deal with this immediate crisis.  
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- 20 Rapid infectious disease response is needed: Challenges seen from the frontlines of politics**  
Various challenges are now apparent as we follow the responses to the unprecedented infectious disease. An expert on international health administration poses a comprehensive set of questions, ranging from: political leadership; preparation of medical systems; relationship between the central and local governments; necessities for an emergency law on infectious diseases; etc.  
Keizo Takemi (Member, House of Councillors)
- 26 Changing lifestyles and a world divided: Exploring the world of Post-COVID-19**  
Spread of COVID-19 has affected the very livelihoods of people in addition to the political economy of the world. What will change by how much? This article looks at what kind of preparations are needed for the “post-COVID-19” era.  
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“China concentration risk” for supply chains have materialized due to the spread of COVID-19. Global management now requires a new balance between efficiency and safety.  
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- 38 China: From “suppression” to “infectious disease diplomacy” – Assessing whether China’s “infectious disease diplomacy” will be successful from a historical perspective**  
China was successful in controlling the explosive spread of COVID-19, since it has been investing heavily into infectious disease responses since the reform and opening-up era. The critical point for “collapse of medical services” was actually in advanced medical care. One Belt One Road policy includes exports for infectious disease responses, so an expansion of Chinese international presence can be expected depending on how successful they are in controlling the spread.  
Wataru Iijima (Aoyama Gakuin University)
- 44 Success of Taiwan’s COVID-19 response and the dynamics of the Taiwan Strait**  
The world is looking at Taiwan’s COVID-19 response. What they have found was not just high levels of medical and public health standards, but also a strong sense of distrust and crisis awareness towards China. How will China respond to U.S. and Taiwan moving closer together?  
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- 50 EU’s “blind spot” has been revealed by the infectious disease**  
Some countries were successful in suppressing a large-scale spread – others, not so much. There is an “infection gap” between Europe’s Southern and Northern parts. However, this conflict within EU is basically a kabuki. The real challenge lies within each countries’ populist movements.  
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- 56 U.S. division has been exposed: From the perspectives of politics, science, and disparity**  
Are Trump administration’s disregard for experts and anxiety leading to prioritization of economy the reasons for U.S. having the most numbers of both infections and deaths? This article examines the divisions hidden within the U.S. – economic, political, and social.  
Kota Matsui (Kyorin University)