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International order fluctuates due to COVID-19

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Roundtable: A new social contract – reexamining the role of the state

States are reexamining the social contract between the state and its people. What can the government do to protect the life and safety of its people? Are there no conflicts between freedom and democracy? The role of the state is being reexamined.

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24 Balance between politics and science determined the battle against infectious disease

Even where a policy decision model that allowed for cooperation between politics and science existed, responses to COVID-19 ended up in a failure without a trusting relationship. The countries that successfully contained the infectious disease and minimized economic burdens were those where politics and science worked together towards a common goal.

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32 Japan's health and medical initiatives towards the world

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36 Post-pandemic international cooperation from the perspective of Rwanda

There are numerous infectious diseases other than COVID-19 in addition to other problems like the agricultural damages caused by waves of locusts in East Africa. Are cross-regional cooperation and solidarity with the international society being maintained? Charles Murigande (Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of University of Rwanda and Former Ambassador of Rwanda to Japan)

45 Advancing protectionism due to long-term stagnation of the economy and the future of supply chain reorganization

World depression in the 1930s brough the world to take policies towards protectionism. Will the history repeat itself in this current COVID-19 crisis? This article examines U.S.-China conflict, supply chain reorganization, and the impact of COVID-19 crisis on political economy.

Motoshige Itoh (Gakushuin University)

50 Protection of personal information and infectious disease response: can "privacy and the public" be designed?

How can we balance between preventing the expansion of infection and privacy? Issues include not only privacy rules in various countries and the EU, but also "laws stemming from technology" such as GAFA, which are the media for distributing applications. Harumichi Yuasa (Institute of Information Security)

50 Development of vaccines and treatment drugs face numerous challenges

When and how will the vaccines and treatment drugs for COVID-19 be developed? The recent information on R&D shows that combatting COVID-19 is impossible without cooperation among countries.

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62 Is a global ceasefire due to COVID-19 a possibility?

UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for a "global ceasefire" amidst concerns over the spread of COVID-19. Situations in Yemen, Afghanistan, and South Sudan is critical. Now is the time for countries to cooperate for the "human security." Daisaku Higashi (Sophia University)

70 Sweden's unique strategy in combatting COVID-19

The old should self-quarantine, while the young engage in economic activities. Sweden's unique strategy is to achieve herd immunity through classification based on risks. The reasons for this were difficulties in maintaining "high-burden and high-welfare" model and getting the understanding of the public for potential solutions.

Ken Shimizu (Rikkyo University)