

DIPLOMACY

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President Trump is “easy to deal with” for President Putin who has increased his popularity through the constitutional revision and further strengthening his support base. However, he cannot stop pursuing “anti-U.S. and pro-China” policies to maintain his support within the country, which is the dilemma that he currently faces.
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European Council has begun on July 17 under a gloomy atmosphere. There were conflicts between frugal countries in responding to COVID-19 restructuring and countries like Southern and Middle Eastern Europe, as well as dealing with Poland and Hungary over the “rule of law.” This article analyzes the intentions of each country where they had to show solidarity with the EU and demonstrate crisis management capacity.
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As demand for oil and thus its costs decrease amidst COVID-19, investments in renewable energy have been stable. Like the “green deal” in Europe, energy strategy is tantamount to economic revitalization strategy. There is not much time left for Japan, which has been late in its responses.
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Competition over the order of the Indo-Pacific region is intensifying with China's BRI, information technology development, and infrastructure investment based on political considerations. Will Japan and the U.S. be able to maintain and further develop existing cooperative framework?

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28 **Trump administration and Japan-U.S. alliance: Achievement and challenges of the last four years**

Japan-U.S. alliance has deepened as seen from the sharing of strategic objectives and common values. However, issues such as decoupling by North Korea, Japan-U.S.-ROK trilateral relationship, and President Trump's demand for increased payments make it harder to connect alliance with multilateral engagement.

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Both Republicans and Democrats are living in a “filter bubble” of different information environment, leading to different interpretations on the exact same phenomenon, which may lead to an unexpected critical problem.

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Experts discuss issues such as the population change resulting in Whites becoming the minority, social media revealing the polarized narratives, and the U.S. society in general through both structure and phenomena.

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52 **The gap between the “Republican anti-Trump movement” and Trump supporters**

A “revolt” has occurred within the Republican Party as heavy weights showed support for Joe Biden. However, the Trump supporters are unwavering. Both Republicans and Democrats will incite conflict as part of the performance to rile up their bases, so no matter who wins, the new administration will be one that will be different from international consensus.

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Trump administration has vitalized U.S. economy through the tax reform in 2017. In contrast to strong economy, the conflict between the two parties have intensified. How can this partisan conflict be suppressed through the economic revitalization plan that deals with COVID-19?

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United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer manages Trump administration's trade policies. His strategy that takes a different path from the post-1990s era where globalization was praised and focuses on conservative policies from the perspective of protecting workers have been convincing, not just for Republican supporters but also for some Democrats.

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The behavioral principles of both Trump and Biden may be like the two ends of a pendulum of “Americanism,” which includes both isolationism and interventionism. On the other hand, local governments, business, and civil society are moving on the basis of constructivism, which may open up new possibilities.

Katsuhiko Mori (International Christian University)