

DIPLOMACY

Vol.65, Jan./Feb. 2021

Contents of Features

- 70 **“Cleaning up” after Brexit:** Conclusion of the FTA negotiations between UK and EU and its impact
The FTA agreement was reached at the very end of the year, just before the deadline for negotiations. How did the negotiations settle as a result of the UK insisting on sovereignty and the EU's refusing special treatment?
Daisuke Ikemoto (Meiji Gakuin University)
- 76 **Germany has begun to move towards the post-Merkel era**
With a weak base of power, can the next CDU party leader become a candidate for the Chancellor of Germany? With the decline of the AfD and the rise of the Greens, what will be the direction of German politics?
Yuichi Morii (University of Tokyo)
- 82 **Changes in the order of the Nile river region due to the huge dam built by Ethiopia**
A huge dam was built by Ethiopia on the upper stream of the Nile river. The economic development of downstream countries is shaking the regional "hegemony" of Egypt, which had previously dominated the development of the Nile river region.
Kohei Nishidate (Researcher on Middle East issues)
- 88 **SDGs strategy in the era of COVID-19:** A grand vision to overcome the “crisis of sustainability” is needed
If we compare COVID-19 to each of the SDGs, it will become a “compass in a time of crisis” and a “mindset” for the world that lives with COVID-19.
Masaki Inaba (Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs)
- 94 Special interview - **Narrating seven years and eight months of Abe diplomacy (Part II): Strategic thinking within the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”**
Shinzo Abe (Former Prime Minister)
- FOCUS: Overview on how to overcome the COVID-19 crisis
- 100 **New solidarity over international health: Universal Health Coverage and WHO reform**
Given the global spread of COVID-19, how to overcome the vulnerability of health and medical systems in developing countries is an issue of utmost importance. This article looks at health diplomacy that is based on universal health coverage.
Satoshi Ezoe (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- 106 **Development, supply, and distribution system of the COVID-19 vaccine is called into question**
The vaccine for COVID-19 was approved at an exceptionally fast pace. However, difficulties still remain such as the disparity in the availability of vaccines between developed and developing countries .
Kayo Takuma (Tokyo Metropolitan University)
- 112 **World Economy: Risks of slow growth will prevail even after vaccination spreads**
The recovery of the global economy will likely be a difficult process. Vaccine development may progress, but vaccination rates may not. Does the damaged face-to-face service industry have the strength to recover?
Sayuri Ito (NLI Research Institute)
- TREND2021
- 118 **Xi Jinping administration's road towards “inward looking global power” (Part II):** “Fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee” will solidify existing policies
Takashi Suzuki (Aichi Prefectural University)
- 122 **World's first digital currency introduction strategy by Cambodia**
Daiju Aiba (JICA Ogata Research Institute)
- 129 **Why Mexico's drug war is prolonging: The shock of the arrest of former Defense Minister**
Kaori Baba (Hokkaido University)

Feature:

Year 2021 - Will we see light in the era of turmoil?

- 6 Cover Story Interview **Japanese diplomacy in 2021: Shouldering international rule-making that focuses on the post-COVID-19 era**
Toshimitsu Motegi (Minister for Foreign Affairs) × Akihiko Tanaka (President of GRIPS)
- 14 Special interview: **What is required to suppress COVID-19: Constant risk assessment, vaccination, and new international cooperation**
Shigeru Omi (Government expert panel on the COVID-19 pandemic)
- 20 Roundtable: **How to face invisible threats – discussions on international politics over norms, technology, and institutions**
Concerns about Chinese "superiority" are growing in the South China Sea, information and communication space, and the new COVID-19 vaccines. What is required is a sober analysis of the real picture of the "threat," and the revival and reconstruction of liberal society itself.
Mie Oba (Kanagawa University), Kenji Kohno (NHK), Kazuto Suzuki (University of Tokyo), and Yuichi Hosoya (Keio University – chair)
- 30 Urgent contribution: **Storming of the U.S. Capitol revealed the widespread divisions in U.S. society**
The storming of the U.S. Capitol has steered American politics toward "Trump removal" and appears to be restoring democracy. However, the incident has revealed numerous divisions within the American society.
Masato Watanabe (Hokkaido University)
- 38 **President Biden's Diplomatic Strategy and the Future of the International Liberal Order**
What will change under the Biden administration and what will continue? This article argues that the cornerstones of Asia focus and competition among major powers will continue, while cooperation with allies will become clearer.
John J. Hamre (President and CEO, CSIS)
- 40 **Diversity as the bumper sticker: How capable is the new Biden administration?**
In the area of foreign affairs and national security, Joe Biden has reappointed many cabinet members from the Obama administration to form a solid lineup. On the other hand, he has avoided a confrontation with the left while controlling their momentum.
Mikio Sugeno (Nikkei)
- 47 **Climate Change as foreign policy: An indispensable factor for Japan-U.S. alliance under the Biden administration**
Climate change is one of the most important policies for the Biden administration. How far will Japan go to address climate change, which goes beyond environmental issues and directly affects the rules of the global economy?
Pete Ogden (UN Foundation)
- 52 **"Current location" of Japan's China policy: Analyzing Japan-China relations from the released Tiananmen Square incident related documents**
Japan took a soft approach to China in the wake of the Tiananmen Square Incident because of four factors. However, considering present CCP's governance, Japan's strategy did not work effectively.
Yusuke Anami (Tohoku University)
- 58 **Australia: Anguish over worsening relations with China:** Between maintaining sovereignty and economic interests Australia-China relationship is deteriorating. Australia is not backing down from China's headline measures including various import restrictions. However, if the situation drags on, the economic damage will be substantial. Australia is trying to find a way to survive by cooperating with countries in the Indo-Pacific regions.
Tomohiko Satake (NIDS)
- 64 **Can U.S. go back to the Iran nuclear agreement?**
New U.S. President Joe Biden aims to return to the Iran nuclear agreement, but that may not be a high priority policy issue. What will happen to the balance of power, which has changed dramatically under the Trump administration?
Koichiro Tanaka (Keio University)