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Japan should maintain the high standards of the CPTPP, which it has been promoting, and engage in negotiations with China and Taiwan in order to reach the destination of the FTAAP in the midst of a "fight" between China and Taiwan. Tsuyoshi Kawase (Sophia University)

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International tax reform has finally addressed the tax avoidance of multinational corporations using lightly taxed countries. What are the "two pillars" of redistribution of taxation rights and minimum tax rates? Will this put an end to the "tax wars" that attempts to lure corporations with low tax rates? Masao Yoshimura (Hitotsubashi University)

96 Will the Taliban be able to govern in a reform-oriented manner?

The Taliban regime has pledged to the world that it is reform-oriented. But for a regime whose cause is the revival of the state under Islamic law, reform is a factor that weakens its leadership, and pressure from ISIS-K will make it difficult to achieve. Koichiro Tanaka (Keio University)

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China's "constructive intervention" by changing the principle of non-interference can be considered as a component of the Belt and Road Initiative that includes Afghanistan and is part of the Taliban's lifeline. However, terrorist attacks targeting China have also been sporadic, which may affect the Taliban's control and progress in the multilateral framework.

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108 Why Australia chose AUKUS: Perception of threat to China and anxiety about the United States

With the announcement of the AUKUS framework by the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, Australia has decided to jointly develop nuclear submarines. In the background, there is anxiety about the "continued involvement" of the United States as an ally.

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114 A retrospective on 16 years of Merkel's diplomacy: Pragmatism that brought stability and prosperity to Germany

This article examines Merkel's diplomatic skills, including her prioritization of her own economy in the euro crisis and her diplomacy with China, and her eventual shift to multilateralism with its emphasis on European integration and democracy. Toshiya Nakamura (Nagoya University)

120 Ethiopia is on the verge of an expanding Civil War: An assessment of one year of the Tigray War

Ethiopia, a major power in East Africa, is in turmoil. The conflict between the Tigray rebels in the north and the Abiy regime has turned into a full-scale conflict.

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124 Sudan's democratization process is at a crossroads

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Special Feature:

COP26 and Climate Change Diplomacy

7 Towards carbon neutrality

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has imposed a "heavy task" based on science - reducing CO2 emissions to curb rising temperatures. This article analyzes the twists and turns of the debate to get a better understanding of COP26, a major turning point.

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14 What was decided in Glasgow: Achievements and challenges of COP26

COP26 was the last chance to achieve the target. Amidst a spreading sense of crisis, the world was able to get to the start line by confirming the 1.5°C target. The role of the private sector and local governments will become even more important from now on. Yasuko Karneyama (National Institute for Environmental Studies)

20 China's policies on climate change: If the state has policies, does the private sector have one?

In order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, China has adopted a "1+N" policy of top-down targets and sectoral measures domestically. Externally, it aims for global leadership through multilateral cooperation and South-South principles. Kenji Someno (Waseda University)

26 A high hurdle for coal-free India, a giant emerging power

At COP26, Prime Minister Modi set a numerical target for the first time - but the road to realization is steep. In addition to clarifying the reality and background of India's economic dependence on coal, this article explores the necessary conditions for the spread of renewable energy.

Atsushi Fukumi (University of Hyogo)

30 Saudi Arabia: The Middle East's largest oil producer sets out climate change measures

Saudi Arabia has proposed new climate change measures, but there is a big temperature gap with developed countries. Furthermore, the distrust of the U.S. Crown Prince has cast a shadow over the country, and it failed to make its presence felt at COP26. Will Saudi Arabia's initiative to combat climate change continue? Shigeto Kondo (JIME-IEE Japan)

32 The reasons for the European gas price spike: A reading from geopolitics and the post-COVID energy situation

Gas prices are surging in Europe. The background to this is Russia's strategy for Nord Stream 2 and the expansion of global demand for gas and LNG in the post-COVID era.

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FOCUS Preparing for the third term of the Xi Jinping regime

41 China's perception of history is becoming party history: Human resources, economy, and Taiwan as seen from the "historical resolution"

Xi Jinping has been placed in the history books alongside Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping. While looking at the personnel strategy for next year's Communist Party Congress, the authors discuss the background of the structure of "Party makes history."

Akio Takahara (University of Tokyo) and Shin Kawashima (University of Tokyo)

53 Will the Evergrande Group management crisis become a black swan?

Will the "gray rhinoceros" (the real estate bubble) that roams over the head of China ever turn into a black swan? The author examines the distortions in China's economy and social structure as reflected in the Evergrande Group's business crisis. Naoto Saito (Daiwa Institute of Research)

60 Hong Kong's "Patriot Rule" is destroying the foundations of democratization

Since the enactment and enforcement of the Hong Kong National Security Law in 2008, a large number of pro-democracy movement leaders and participants have been arrested in Hong Kong and the movement's infrastructure has been further dismantled. What is the current state of governance in Hong Kong and the democracy movement? Akiko Kurata (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)