

# DIPLOMACY

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The West's expectation that with the drawing out of the war in Ukraine, the Russian people will grow wary may not come to fruition, for Russian polls show a strong support for the military operation as well as for the Putin regime.  
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What kind of pressure will Premier Shi Jing Ping exert on Taiwan in his 3rd term? Scenarios with different time frames and directions will be presented. The most fearful is the possibility of a "forced peaceful unification" by means of an escalation of nuclear armament.  
Yasuhiro Matsuda (Then University of Tokyo)
- 92 **Complex confrontation darkens future of NPT: The failure of the NPT Review Conference and the future of the NPT**  
The NPT Review Conference failed to issue a final document due to the sharp confrontation between the nuclear powers strongly asserting efficacy of nuclear deterrence and the nations demanding abolishment of nuclear weapons. With the threat of the use of nuclear weapons and battles for the occupation of nuclear power plants, what is to be expected next?  
Nobumasa Akiyama (Hitotsubashi University)
- 100 **Prime Minister Truss – could the opportunistic politician become a new "Iron Lady"?**  
While trying to channel Margaret Thatcher, the Iron Lady, few have forgotten that Ms. Truss has won the top post by her eagerness to change positions on policy matters. As PM, is she capable of forcing compromise to her supporters, the right wing of the Tories, on such pressing issues as inflation and relationship with the EU?  
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- 114 **TICAD8 has been the smallest ever. Japan's engagement in Africa must change.**  
Due to the Corona virus pandemic, TICAD 8 has been scaled down, and PM Kishida's participation in the event was limited to the remote form. In contrast, US and Russia has shown increased diplomatic efforts towards African nations. Both the government and businesses of Japan must formulate a new strategy.  
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Special Feature:

# The World According to the Global South

Round table:

## 6 Why the Global South matters

In the 2020s, the “South” will be the center of Economic Growth, and is featured as an entity with values and world order views different from those put forward by either the west (US, EU and Japan) or the east (China and Russia). What, then, is the South like in actual terms?

Mitsugi Endo (The University of Tokyo), Takehiko Nakao (President, Mizuho Research and Technologies), Shin Kawashima (The University of Tokyo)

## 18 Reform the UN to better reflect the voice of the South

The UN must be more receptive to international opinion including developing countries. Japan should lead the reform of the security council and help the UN recover its capabilities.

Shin'ichi Kitaoka (The University of Tokyo)

## 24 China's development assistance strategy: transitioning away from “Belt and Road”

PRC's strategy has changed from “One belt, One road” to “Global development vision”. This reflects developing nations' debt problem and a stress on the “quality” of Chinese assistance. The article articulates this new strategy and China's rules for economic collaboration.

Naohiro Kitano (Waseda University)

## 30 The divergence of interests: How the US and South East Asia have come to disagree

The summit meeting of the US and the ASEAN nations has failed. America stressed East-West competition, and the ASEAN was disillusioned by this framework which does not address its security concerns, nor help in accelerating their economic growth so that the nations could exit the “middle income trap”.

Nobuhiro Aizawa (Kyushu University)

## 38 Strengthening the foundations of ASEAN economies and “a free and open Asia Pacific”

The more developed ASEAN nations suffer from inadequacies in their income redistribution process, while the less developed suffer from external debt. This paper explores the issues according to short, medium and long term time frames, as well as the issues to be resolved for the realization of “a free and open Asia Pacific”.

Fumiharu Mieno (Kyoto University)

## 44 Pakistan treading a narrow path between the US and China: Belt and Road, Resurgent Taliban and the War in the Ukraine

Pakistan, a partner of the US in the global war on terror, has deepened its ties with China in recent years. Yet the China – Pakistan Economic Corridor project is facing numerous difficulties. This article investigates the background of this development.

Masahiro Kurita (National Institute for Defense Studies)

## 50 Explaining the stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia “MBS Regime”

The Kingdom launched “Vision 2030” 6 years ago. This is an ambitious program to reorient the Kingdom's future by moving away from its dependence on petroleum, yet its realization appears to be facing difficulties. However, this fact has done very little damage to the standing of the program's chief proponent, Crown Prince MBS.

Masaki Matsuo (Utsunomiya University)

## 55 Why Africa does not shun Russia

Few African nations voted for the UN resolution condemning Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. Behind this move is the continent's distrust of Europe and the US, and also its reversion to the nonalignment movement.

Shin'ichi Takeuchi (The University of Foreign Studies)