

FPCJ Online Press Briefing (January 14, 2021)

Japan's Diplomacy in 2021

2021年の日本外交

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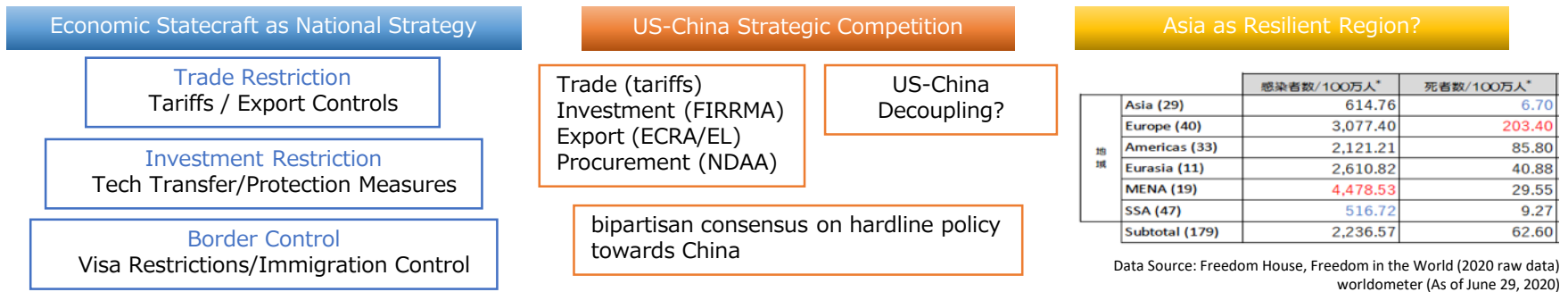
Post-COVID International Order?

1. Acceleration of Change in International Order



"COVID-19 will not so much change the basic direction of world history as accelerate it" (Richard N. Haas)

2. New Waves of World Trends



3. Spread of Self-Distribution Rules?



Japan's Diplomacy in 2020

Security and Defense: Active Engagement

Maintaining **U.S. presence** in Indo-Pacific region (keep U.S. in!)

U.S.-led **trilateral cooperation** (US-JPN-AUS/US-JPN-INDIA) + **QUAD Cooperation**

Japan's Policy Orientation towards China

Competitive Strategy: Balance of power and **status-quo management**; **standardization of economic order**

Cooperation Strategy: Crisis management and **"Third Party Market Cooperation"**

Geo-Economic Outreach: Free Trade and Robust Quality Investments

CPTPP (TPP11 Agreement): establish free and fair economic rules in the 21st century

Quality Infrastructure Projects: **\$110 billion ADB/JBIC Fund** (2015-2020) / **\$50 billion JBIC Fund** (2018-2021)

Japan-UK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (2020.10)



Source: MOFA Japan

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP, 2020.11)



Source: Nikkei Asia

Suga Administration's Diplomacy Aiming for Status-quo?



The US-Japan Alliance: “Linchpin of Japan’s foreign and security policy / foundation for peace, prosperity and freedom of Indo-Pacific...”

ASEAN, India, Australia and EU: “work together with countries with which we share fundamental values”

China: “A stable relationship with China is extremely important not only for the two countries, but also for the region and the international community. Japan will continue to claim what it should claim at a high level and work together with China to address common challenges.”

Russia: “develop the overall relationship between Japan and Russia, including the conclusion of a peace treaty”

South Korea: “highly important neighboring country. In order to restore sound Japan-ROK relations, we strongly urge the ROK, based on Japan's principled positions, to take appropriate actions.”



No big news so far...



New Security Policy by the end of 2020?



“Nevertheless, there is a question of whether it is possible to protect and defend the lives and the peaceful livelihoods of the Japanese people only by enhancing our interception capability. Under such thinking and in order to strengthen the deterrence, the Government of Japan has been considering a new course for security policy regarding countering missiles. On these points, in thorough consultations with the ruling parties, the Government of Japan will identify policies to be undertaken by the end of this year to respond to the severe security environment surrounding Japan.”

Statement by the Prime Minister (September 11, 2020)

Agendas for the New Administration



1. Post-Aegis Ashore Defense Policy

missile defense alternatives: Aegis Ashore to Aegis Afloat? > Additional Aegis Destroyers?

strike capability: extension of “stand off defense”? / robust strike package? > likely to be postponed

2. Reviewing the National Security Strategy (NSS) ?

New dynamics: US-China strategic competition (geopolitics/economics)

Post-COVID international environment

Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision

Deny “Asia-version of NATO” formation

CPTPP/RCEP/CJK FTA negotiation

Economic Statecraft

“Strategic Competition with China”

→yet to be determined.

Hard Choices for Japan

China: “win-win cooperation” vs “strategic competition” > President Xi’s state visit?

US: “allies should pay the fair share” (Trump>Biden?) > SMA negotiations?

Economic Statecraft: a) export control, b) investment regulations, c) tech transfer
vs. FOIP visions?