

Research Program B: Bottom-up Review of Security Policy Sub-Project B-3: Post-Putin Russia

1. Outline

Vladimir Putin was re-elected in the presidential election of March 18, 2018, and his fourth presidential term began in May of this year.

On March 1, before the presidential election, President Putin delivered a speech to the Federal Assembly and presented his domestic and foreign policies in his fourth term. The first part of his speech addressed his own country and was devoted to political and economic structural reforms, while the second part, which attracted special attention from the international community, was devoted to foreign and security policies with a more hardline character. Presenting the newest types of weapons, Putin sent a message of "Now listen to us" to the West, with which he has been in continual confrontation since the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis. Although such a strong foreign policy acquire the sympathy of the Russian people, at the same time this policy causes concern among neighboring countries. For example, in relations with Japan, Russia is building up its military power on the islands of the "Northern Territories" and demonstrating a harder diplomatic attitude to Japan in connection with the territorial dispute. We should thus pay special attention to how the foreign and domestic policies presented by Putin after the inauguration of his new administration are being implemented.

Incidentally, in accordance with the Russian Constitution, which prohibits anyone holding the office of president for more than two consecutive terms, this fourth term will be the last for Putin. This means the beginning of a transition of political power and a transition to a "Russia without Putin" after 2024. Right now, the processes of changing and rejuvenating the composition of central and local governments are being closely watched. Particular attention is being paid to who will inherit the current political system of Russia (Putin's regime) and how Putin's successor will influence Russian foreign and domestic policies in the future.

In this regard, our Research Group intends to analyze the features of Putin's regime, and explore what Putin's regime will leave to modern Russia from the point of view of internal, external and defense policies. We will also consider the direction of Russia's current foreign and defense policies as it is entering the new "Post-Putin" period. In this fiscal year, the Research Group will examine how Putin's strategic initiatives in foreign, defense and domestic (social and economic) policy are being implemented under the new administration.

2. Research Organization

Project Leader:

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Members:

Yu KOIZUMI, Research Fellow, Institute for Future Engineering

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Miho OKADA, Research Fellow, JIIA

Hironori FUSHITA, Research Fellow, JIIA

3. Project Meetings

First Meeting

Date and Place: May 25, 2017 in JIIA Conference Room

Topic: Planning of FY2017 Research Group Activities

Second Meeting

Date and Place: July 5, 2017 in JIIA Conference Room

Topics: Primakov Readings 2017

Russia's Diplomatic Challenges

Third Meeting

Date and Place: September 28, 2017 in JIIA Conference Room

Topics: Reports of Official Trips to Spitsbergen and Moscow

Russia's Economy and Development Strategy

Fourth Meeting

Date and Place: November 8, 2017 in JIIA Conference Room

Topics: North Korea's Nuclear Weapon/Missile Programs and Russia

Japan-Russia Natural Gas Pipeline Project

Fifth Meeting

Date and Place: December 14, 2017 in JIIA Conference Room

Topics: A Study of the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East
The Relationship between the President and the Parliament after Russia's 2016
Parliamentary Elections
Russian Industrial Policy under the Putin Administration

Sixth Meeting

Date and Place: January 25, 2018 in JIIA Conference Room

Topic: Interim Summary of Research Group Activities