

**The Resilience of the “Open Liberal International Order”:
The Situations of the US, China and Europe, and Their Impacts
Sub-Project III: Europe in Turbulence and the International Order**

Project Outline (Three-year Project: 2017-2020)

During the past decade, Europe has experienced successive crises such as the Euro crisis, the migrant crisis, and Brexit. In the face of these multiple crises, political forces that call for preserving national interests in a chauvinistic manner have been on the rise as grievances and antipathies to globalization have spread. Following Brexit, a series of general elections scheduled in 2017 could accelerate this trend. If European countries that have long been the core supporters of the values of the liberal international order are tempted to adopt a more inward-looking attitude, the turmoil of the international order will deepen further.

Therefore, it becomes increasingly important to pay careful attention to and analyze the current state of the European integration process. As the migrant crisis since 2015 has shown, incidents happening outside of the EU have had a profound effect on Europe’s integration process and on the domestic politics of the EU’s individual member states, causing a ‘domestication of external problems’. At the same time, deep structural transformations in domestic politics have been observed in many European countries. These changes in domestic politics will inevitably cause changes in the foreign policies of member states and in intra-European politics. Both of those trends are undermining the ideals of European integration.

In this research project, transformations in European politics and diplomatic affairs will be analyzed. While the European Union has steadily progressed from economic integration to political integration, recent crises have forced EU member states to reconsider the *raison d’être* of the European Union and its future. At this critical moment, the fundamental values of the EU such as the rule of law, democracy, human rights, and freedom of movement are under pressure from both inside and outside. As a like-minded partner of Europe that shares many of those fundamental values, how can Japan cooperate with Europe, and how can Japan and Europe cooperate with the international community to retain the open and liberal multilateral order? This project aims to provide answers to those questions.

Research Group Composition

Group Leader

Ken Endo Professor, Hokkaido University; Adjunct Fellow, The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)

Members

Daisuke Ikemoto Professor, Meiji Gakuin University
Takeshi Ito Associate Professor, The University of Tokyo
Tsuyoshi Goroku Lecturer, Nishogakusha University
Manabu Sengoku Professor, Hokkaido University
Michito Tsuruoka Professor, Keio University
Hiroki Yasui Professor, Kobe University
Kenichiro Yoshida Senior Chief Economist, Mizuho Research Institute
Toru Yoshida Professor, Hokkaido University

Members / Secretaries

Yasunori Nakayama Director General (Acting), JIIA
Shu Nakagawa Director of Research Coordination, JIIA
Shunsuke Sato Research Fellow, JIIA

Project Meetings

First Meeting

Date and Place: June 19, 2017 in JIIA Conference Room

Topics: Planning of FY 2017 Study Group Activities

Second Meeting

Date and Place: October 26, 2017 in JIIA Conference Room

Topics: ‘Populism in France and Its Implications – A Series of Anomalies and Their Consequences’
 ‘UK Politics after the 2017 General Election’
 ‘Germany and Crisis in Europe – The German Federal Election in 2017 and Its Implications’

Third Meeting

Date and Place: November 24, 2017 in JIIA Conference Room

Topics: ‘2017 Czech Lower House Election: Comparative Analysis with Visegrad Countries’

‘The Current Situation and Prospects of the Eurozone Economy’

Fourth Meeting

Date and Place: March 19, 2018 in JIIA Conference Room

Topics: ‘2018 Italian General Election and Current Political Circumstances’
‘2017 General Election in Austria and Its Implications – Results and Contexts
of the National Election and Its Implications in the International Dimension’

Public Symposium: “Wavering Europe and the International Order”

Date and Place: March 19, 2018 in JIIA Conference Room

Topics: ‘Japan & Europe in an Age of Developed Country Risk’
‘Security Circumstances in Europe after Brexit’