

The Resilience of the “Open Liberal International Order”:

The Situations of the US, China and Europe, and their Impacts

## **Sub-Project I: The Trump Administration’s Foreign Policy and Japan-US Relations**

### **Project Outline**

Post-World War II peace and development have been secured by the “open liberal international order”. Many countries have enjoyed stability and prosperity under this order that encourages cooperation and inclusion, not confrontation nor exclusion. Japan is also one of these nations that has benefited from the order by contributing to its preservation and development. The biggest challenge the international community currently faces is this order itself becoming destabilized and its outlook uncertain.

The inauguration of an “America First” Trump administration will have a great impact on the international community as well as the United States, which has been a leader of this international order, as it gives the impression that the country no longer has any significant interest in the importance of the order and is even ready to face off against other countries for the sake of its own national interests.

US policies have constructed and secured the order in the Asia-Pacific region, and could directly affect the security and stable economic development of its ally Japan as well. Japan hence must fully recognize what changes have been happening inside America that made a Trump presidency a reality and whether the role of the nation as a democratic leader of the world could be altered essentially.

This sub-project analyzes America’s ongoing situation underlying the inauguration of the Trump administration, utilizing means such as opinion polls or fieldwork in the United States. Qualitative changes in the country presumably would affect the policies and stability of the Trump administration as well as the national architecture even after the current administration. The project also studies the policy-making process of the Trump administration, tries to minimize its contingency as much as possible, and finally makes policy recommendations for better future Japan-US bilateral relations, all of which are of great significance to Japan, being responsible for the regional security together with the United States, Japan’s sole ally.

### **Research Group Composition**

#### Group Leader

Funiaki Kubo, Professor, The University of Tokyo, and Senior Adjunct Fellow, JIIA

#### Members

Toshihiro Nakayama (Deputy Group Leader), Professor, Keio University, and Adjunct Fellow, JIIA

Hirotsugu Aida, Professor, Aoyama Gakuin University

Takeshi Umekawa, Professor, Tokyo Metropolitan University

Akio Takahata, Professor, Hakuoh University

Kazuhiro Maeshima, Professor, Sophia University

Tomoyuki Miyata, Lecturer, Teikyo University

Satoru Mori, Professor, Hosei University

Akihiko Yasui, Head of Research Department-Europe and the Americas, Mizuho Research Institute Ltd.

Masahito Watanabe, Associate Professor, Hokkaido University

#### Members/Secretaries

Yasunori Nakayama, Director General (Acting), JIIA

Shu Nakagawa, Director of Research Coordination, JIIA

Naoko Funatsu, Research Fellow, JIIA

### **Project Meetings**

#### First Meeting

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

Topics: Planning of FY 2017 Study Group Activities

Evaluation of Trump's Diplomacy: Between Unprincipled and Flexible

#### Second Meeting

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

Topic: The Trump Administration's Relationship with the Media: Is a Discussion of "Fake News" Inevitable?

#### Third Meeting

Date and Place: October 17, 2017 in JIIA Conference Room

Topic: Reflecting on the Ideological Trends in the Trump Administration's Foreign Policy: Will We See Any Change in the "Post-Bannon" Era?

#### Fourth Meeting

Date and Place: November 20, 2017 in JIIA Conference Room

Topic: The Democratic Party under the Trump Presidency: Which Direction Does the Party Go in the Post-Obama Era?

Fifth Meeting

Date and Place: February 8, 2018 in JIA Conference Room

Topic: Veterans and Politics

Public Symposium: “Reviewing the First Year of the Trump Presidency”

Date and Place: February 22, 2018 in JIA Conference Room

Topics: What is ‘Trumpism’? Will It Endure?

The Domestic Political Landscape under the Trump Presidency and the  
Outlook for the 2018 Midterm Elections

The Foreign Policy Philosophy of the Trump Administration