

Contents

Preface	i
----------------------	---

Acronyms and Abbreviations	vi
---	----

Chapter 1 World Politics amid Great Power Competition: The Pacific and European Experiences during COVID-19 Crisis	2
---	---

1. Division or Pluralization?	4
(1) The Transformation of World Politics and the COVID-19 Crisis	4
(2) A Pluralist World?	8
2. Australia-China Competition and the South Pacific	11
(1) Pluralist Order in the South Pacific	11
(2) Deterioration of Australia-China Relations	20
3. The Transition and Current State of Europe-China Relations: The Broadening Meaning of “Strategic Autonomy”	24
(1) The Beginning and Development of the Sino-European Relationship	24
(2) Europe’s Reconsideration of Its Stance toward China: The COVID-19 Factor	27
(3) The Broadening Meaning of the EU’s “Strategic Autonomy”	32
(4) The EU’s Modus Operandi in U.S.-China Relations	37

Chapter 2 China: The Xi Administration’s Accelerating Hardline Stance due to COVID-19	54
--	----

1. The Xi Government’s Heightened Anxiety amidst COVID-19	56
(1) The Regime Draws Increasing Criticism due to the Pandemic	56
(2) The Xi Leadership’s Attempt to Regain Control	59
(3) Xi’s Ever-growing Political Authority	62
2. “One Country, Two Systems” at a Deadlock	63
(1) The Hollowing Out of “One Country, Two Systems” in Hong Kong	63
(2) Taiwan’s Rejection of “One Country, Two Systems”	67
3. China Headed toward a “New Cold War”	71
(1) Intensifying Confrontation with the United States	71
(2) Hardline Diplomacy Elicits Confrontation with Countries	75
4. The PLA’s Stepped-up Activities	78
(1) The Military’s Actions amid COVID-19	78
(2) Continued Hardline Stance in the Seas	80

Chapter 3 The Korean Peninsula: Wavering North-South Relations	88
1. Inter-Korean Relations Spearheaded by North Korea	90
(1) North Korea's Threats	90
(2) The Moon Administration Seeks to Improve Relations with North Korea	93
2. Different Preferences for Military Capabilities between the Two Koreas	97
(1) North Korea: Continuation of Threats	97
(2) South Korea Seeks Self-Reliance, Facing the U.S.-China Competition	101
Chapter 4 Southeast Asia: Post-COVID-19 Regional Security Issues	114
1. COVID-19 and Southeast Asia	116
(1) The Epidemiological Situation in Southeast Asian Countries	116
(2) State Management Problems	119
(3) Regional Diplomacy Issues	122
2. The South China Sea Dispute and Security Developments in Southeast Asia	124
(1) Responses by Countries: Conflict Avoidance and Countermoves	124
(2) U.S. and Chinese Activities in the South China Sea: Deployment Capability and Presence Enhancement	133
(3) Diplomatic Efforts of ASEAN	137
3. Sea Power Strengthening by Southeast Asian Countries	140
(1) Malaysia and Vietnam: Establishment of Domestic Production Bases	140
(2) Philippines: Review of Military Modernization Program	142
(3) Indonesia: Buildup of Surface Ships	144
Chapter 5 Russia: The Post-Putin Issue and Changes in the 1993 Constitutional System	152
1. Transformation of the Constitutional System: The Constitutional Amendment Process and the Inauguration of a New Cabinet	154
(1) The Essence of the 2020 Amendments and the Post-Putin Issue	154
(2) Inauguration of the New Mishustin Cabinet and Transformation of the Administrative Core	160
(3) The Putin Administration Faces the Need for COVID-19 Countermeasures: Foreign Emergency Aid and Domestic Explosion of Infections	163
2. Foreign Policies: The Strategic Environment Surrounding Russia	166
(1) Approval of the <i>Basic Principles of State Policy of the Russian Federation on Nuclear Deterrence</i> and Arms Control	166
(2) The Poisoning of Alexey Navalny and Russia-Europe Relations	169
(3) Japan-Russia Relations at a Time of Transition	170

3. **Response to COVID-19 and Capability Improvement Efforts of the Russian Military** 173

(1) Response to COVID-19 and the Role of the Russian Military 173

(2) Ongoing Military Reform and the Strengthening of the Military Posture 176

(3) Strengthening of Military Cooperation and Arms Exports Aimed at Expansion 181

Chapter 6 The United States: National Security during the COVID-19 Crisis 190

1. **Unfolding Strategy toward China**192

(1) The “China Threat” in the Trump Administration 192

(2) Countering China’s Influence Operations 196

(3) Sanctions on Human Rights Violations in China 203

2. **Implementing the 2018 National Defense Strategy** 209

(1) Defense Capabilities in the Age of Great Power Competition 209

(2) “Dynamic Force Employment” in the Indo-Pacific 213

3. **The 2020 Election and the Presidential Transition** 220

(1) President Trump’s Post-Election Legal Challenges 220

(2) The January 6 Attack on the U.S. Capitol Building 233

Chapter 7 Japan: Toward a Post-COVID-19 Security Posture 246

1. **Roles of the MOD/SDF in COVID-19 Countermeasures** 248

(1) Support by the SDF 248

(2) Role of the SDF in Infection Control Measures 251

2. **The Japan-U.S. Security Treaty Marks the 60th Anniversary of Its Signing** 253

(1) An Alliance Based on Shared Values 253

(2) Deepening Security Cooperation Centered on the Japan-U.S. Alliance 257

3. **Challenges for Realizing a Multi-Domain Defense Force** 264

(1) Efforts to Improve “Cross-Domain Operations” Capabilities 264

(2) Challenges for the New Way of Warfare 267

Contributors 275