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Contemporary International Relations

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Special Report

U.S. Neutrality Policy on the Diaoyu Islands Dispute *Hu Dekun & Huang Xiangyun* 1

While the U.S. has never taken the Diaoyu Islands as Japan's territory, it has repeatedly stated that the Diaoyu Islands is applicable to the Treaty of Security and Safeguard between Japan and the United States. Therefore the U.S. actually does not keep its neutrality. This shows that the U.S. has not yet abandoned its Cold War mentality, and this is unfair to China and detrimental to China-Japan friendship and to the peace of Asia.

An Uncertain Moment: the Dilemmas Facing European Democracy *Huang Jing* 33

The European debt crisis of 2009-2013 highlighted two dilemmas facing European democracy. Governments in chaos, social protest and the rise of extreme populism during the debt crisis were all symptoms of the dilemmas. This situation arose out of a profound set of circumstances, including new patterns of economic and social life, and the further decline of Europe's standing in the global arena. Europe cannot fix things simply by improving the democratic mechanism. Instead, the region needs to reflect systematically on how to adapt to a changed world.

China and the World

An Analysis of China's Power Status and International Standing *Wang Wenfeng* 53

China's rise has attracted a lot of attention in the world. World situation and international security environment change has provided opportunity for China to have a new understanding of status and position. China needs to think more accurately and deeply about its own status for the sake of its foreign strategy and diplomatic work.

International Politics and Security

The Effect of the Ukrainian Crisis on NATO's Transformation *Zhang Jian* 66

The Ukrainian crisis has triggered a new round of discussions within NATO and disrupted its transformation. NATO will have to readjust its post-Cold War transformation, a move that has been characterized by its Going Abroad strategy. NATO

will inevitably reduce its foreign military intervention after the Ukrainian crisis and European-U.S. security ties are likely to be strengthened.

‘Lone Wolf’ Terror and How to Prevent It *Yan Shuai* 83

In comparison with organized terrorist attack, “lone wolf” attack usually takes place more unexpectedly. Currently this kind of terror is regarded as the biggest threat to homeland security by many countries in Europe and North America. It is necessary for international community to take the “lone wolf” terrorism seriously and to cope with the threat more effectively.

The Activities of “Jihadist Salafi” and Its Influence on Central Asia *Yang Shu & Jiang Haijiao* 96

Since 2011, a series of terrorist attacks carried out by “Jihadist Salafi” in Central Asia have posed serious threats to regional security and attracted widespread attention. The activities of “Jihadist Salafi” not only impacts on the anti-terrorism and anti-extremism policies of Central Asian countries, and severely challenges the SCO and CIS, but also poses a great threat to security in China’s Northwest.

Preventing Terrorist Attacks on “Soft” Targets *Zhu Sumei* 114

Terrorist attacks on hotels, shopping centers, schools, and other “soft” targets signal that the powers of organized international terrorism are in decline, even while fatalities, kidnapping, and fear engendered among the populace produce great mental anguish. For maximum publicity and symbolism, terrorist groups have plans for massive devastation even on people staying at upscale hotels, vacationing, or taking a cruise ship. Using movement tracking and advanced security technology, countries have heightened their protection of these so-called soft targets—non-military, non-governmental public sites that are vulnerable to many civilian casualties.

Hot Issues

The Rise of ISIL and Emerging Problems Facing Global Anti-Terrorism Efforts

The forcefully rising of the “Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant” (ISIL) has been grabbing the world’s attention. The U.S. and Europe swiftly re-established an anti-terror coalition and took military action against ISIL. How would such an Islamic State look? And how will the international community work together to prevent it? This journal invited several experts on the Middle East in an attempt to answer these questions.

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