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Contemporary International Relations

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European Studies

The Irish Border Issue in Brexit

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The Irish border issue has reemerged in the context of Brexit, and any solution will affect not only the UK's national unity, but also the Northern Ireland peace process and UK-EU economic and trade relations. Trapping Brexit into the "Britain-drag", the Irish border issue has become Brexit's bottleneck. The UK and the EU are not on the same track when it comes to interest defining and policy selection in the tangled mentalities of Brexit. The Brexit dilemma, when combined with the Irish border issue, has cast a spotlight on the West's political and social fragmentation, as well as the dysfunction of its parliamentary democracy.

UK and FPDA in the Horizon of "Global Britain"

Hu Jie 21

As a strategic pivot for defense partnerships, the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA) has tremendous implications in the UK for facilitating the UK's strategic extension from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific. By connecting the two regions, FPDA would allow "Global Britain" to combine with the US Indo-Pacific strategy. It can bolster UK intervention in Asia-Pacific security affairs, particularly the South China Sea issue, and contribute to defensive cooperation between the UK and its allies and partners. On the other hand, FPDA could contribute to closer UK-ASEAN ties. FPDA faces challenges in resource investment, "collective action" in the South China Sea, alliance constraints, and disparate maritime security environments between Indian and Pacific. As such, FPDA's future depends on UK determination, investment and strategic operation.

International Politics and Security

Old and New Problems: A Probe into Deteriorating Relations between Japan and the ROK

Liu Rongrong & Wang Shan 32

In recent years, relations between Japan and South Korea have become tense, giving rise to economic and trade frictions and plunging the bilateral relationship to an all-time low. The fast deteriorating Japan-ROK relationship has resulted from multiple factors, including mutually enhancing old and new grievances over historical issues, the adjustment of foreign policies, the rise of nationalist emotions, US adjustment of its

alliance policy towards the Asia-Pacific, and structural competition in forming the regional order. As the structural contradictions between Japan and South Korea appear hard to overcome, the potential for the tense relationship to persist is mounting.

What's New in Germany's Cooperation with Africa?

Li Chao 55

Germany has gradually increased its investment in Africa. In addition to promoting traditional economic and trade cooperation, Germany has paid more attention to security issues in Africa and to improved cooperation in defense, immigration and counter-terrorism. As Germany explores new models of development aid and encourages renewable energy and environmental protection in African countries, German capability and willingness to cooperate with African nations are on the rise. While Germany welcomes the African consumer market, historic problems centering on value differences and the European Union's diplomatic constraints obstruct German-African cooperation over the short term. Germany promotes trilateral cooperation with China and Africa but encounters several challenges within its forward momentum.

A Comment on the US Committee on the Present Danger

Zhou Xinyu & Huang Jiaying 65

Under the current US administration, the American hawkish think tanks and civil groups have actively revived, with the Committee on the Present Danger emerging as a representative. This paper tries to analyze the revived organization from the following perspectives: the conditions for the development of the Committee on the Present Danger in American politics, the way it performs its roles, and its future influence. The re-initiated Committee on the Present Danger, in an attempt to encourage a negative attitude on the part of American populace towards China, may pose certain challenges to the US-China relationship.

Belt and Road

An Approach for Building a High-Quality Belt and Road

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Advancing the construction of a high-quality Belt and Road is based not only on the solid achievements of its six years of consolidation and practical cooperation, but also on the guidance of China's initiatives and proposals, general recognition by the countries along the Belt and Road, as well as the support and recognition from international organizations like the United Nations. However, the uncertainty and instability found in the ever-changing international environment, the suspicion and strategic competition from extraterritorial major countries, and other concrete problems appearing during its construction over the past six years have also posed certain challenges that cannot be ignored.

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