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# C O N T E M P O R A R Y I N T E R N A T I O N A L R E L A T I O N S

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- The Future of Globalization under the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic  
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- International Politics in Transition: The Pandemic and Beyond  
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# Contemporary International Relations

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Volume 30 Number 4  
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### The COVID-19 Pandemic and International Politics

#### **The COVID-19 Pandemic and Changes Unseen in a Century** *Yuan Peng* 1

The COVID-19 pandemic can be compared to a world war that makes the existing international order unsustainable. The pandemic is interacting with global changes unseen in a century and exerting major impacts on international politics, world economy, major-country relations, the geostrategic landscape, global governance, and development models. In the next three to five years, the international landscape will be a chaotic situation, highlighting not poles but competing states and transformation. Although further observation is required during the ongoing pandemic and worldwide economic recession, some major trends in the world have emerged. A restart to China's international relations is called for.

#### **The Future of Globalization under the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic** *Fu Mengzi* 15

China will continue to be an active participant and promoter of globalization. While the coronavirus epidemic may be a watershed in the process of globalization, in the post-pandemic period China will speed up its domestic circulation and prioritize regional circulation of neighboring countries. Globalization's pace will not halt over the long run. Rather, its renewal after the pandemic will trend in ways that meet expectations.

#### **Europe's Strategic Predicament and China-European Relations under the COVID-19 Pandemic** *Feng Zhongping* 26

The COVID-19 pandemic has both posed challenges and brought about opportunities for Sino-European relations. While the ongoing fight against the pandemic has highlighted the importance of cooperation for both China and the EU, the two major economies are faced with the uncertainties in the recovery of industrial chain and supply chain. Meanwhile, the post-pandemic scenario will further cast new impacts on the China-European relations.

#### **International Politics in Transition: The Pandemic and Beyond** *Niu Xinchun* 36

Three recent crises, namely the 2008 financial crisis, rising populism and the COVID-19 pandemic, have revealed inherent defects within the liberal international system. The

shift from old to new world orders usually takes several decades, with the transitional period being the most turbulent and disorderly. The COVID-19 pandemic in particular has casted significant impacts on the international order, and the disparities between countries in their response to the pandemic will affect international power dynamics and the building of a new world order.

## **Regional Studies**

### **The Characteristics of the Trump Administration's Sanctions** *Wang Jin* 61

The Trump administration heavily relies on economic sanctions to solve diplomatic problems. The main reason for this strategy is that Trump and his team are keen on waging a “money war” and making quick, easy achievements by suppressing opponents. The economic impact of these sanctions is obvious, while the political impact is still questionable. These sanctions have harmed the US alliance system and boosted the de-dollarization trend in the global economy, which makes it increasingly difficult for the United States to achieve its prospective goals in the future.

### **New Changes in Germany's Leading Role in the European Union** *Li Chao* 82

For a long time, Germany played a leading role in the European Union (EU), but in recent years it has reduced its investment in the EU affairs and lessened its enthusiasm for European integration due to its multiple frustrations in maintaining the unity of the EU and leading the EU in global affairs. As a result, its leading role in the EU is apparently on the decline. The decline of Germany's leading role in the EU will intensify rivalry between EU member states, impede the process of European integration, and cause further setbacks to the EU's global standing. Nonetheless, Germany is aware of this, and is now engaging in profound reflection and active adjustment. Accordingly, the German engine is expected to restart.

## **Bilateral Relations**

### **US-China Competition in International Development Assistance** *Ma Xue* 109


China and the US differ sharply in their models of international development assistance. Because the US strengthens development assistance as a strategic investment, it has a privileged position under current international rules. China has expanded in regional markets using more cooperation and is there recreating the rules in trade, investment and infrastructure. To deal with China's policy on international development, the Trump administration is promoting a geoeconomic game and trying to make its US model more attractive. This gives a glimpse into how the US has begun a systematic balancing. International development assistance has been a security tool, and now become the main battlefield of competition between the two countries.



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