

ルーベン・カトリック大学講演会 御講演

(令和3年5月4日(火) 19:00-20:00)

Dear Students,

1 冒頭

I am very honoured to be invited to give a lecture today. I would like to thank Prof. Atanassova and the students who organize “Global initiative” for giving me this opportunity. And I am also very glad to see so many people coming to hear my lecture on Japan here at the Université Catholique de Louvain which is known in Japan as a famous university with a long history.

Today I would like to speak about the relations between Japan and EU, which I am now in charge of as Ambassador of Japan to the European Union.

The EU is one of the most important partners with whom Japan promotes universal values, such as freedom, democracy, multilateralism, human rights, and the rule of law. In the last century, the international community experienced two world wars that shaped the current international order into one which seeks to champion and promote world peace and

stability. However, over the 20 years that have passed since the beginning of the 21st century, we have to admit that the order is now being challenged.

Under these circumstances, there is an increasing need for cooperation between Japan and the EU, which share common values. Japan and the EU are like-minded partners in that are seeking to contribute to improving the rules-based order for the international community and also address various global issues. Japan would like to work together on pressing issues with the EU to make the world more peaceful and

prosperous based on these common values.

Why is EU-Japan cooperation needed today?

What is Europe for Japan and what is Japan for Europe?

Famous historian Edward Hallett Carr said, "History is an un-ending dialogue between the present and the past."

Bearing this phrase in mind, in today's lecture, I would first like to give an overview of the history of the exchanges and encounters between Japan and Europe until the present. In the second half, I would like to find the answer through "the

dialogue between the present and the past” as to why Japan and the EU need to cooperate in the turbulent times of today.

2 日本とヨーロッパとの出会いから近代日本の誕生まで

Do you know how many years ago Japanese and Europeans first encountered one another?

The first clear answer goes back about 500 years. Europe in the 16th century was in the Age of Discovery. It was an era of Spanish and Portuguese hegemony. The Mediterranean was also greatly influenced by the Ottoman Empire at

this time. It was a time when Spain and Portugal promoted their mission of Christianity, trade, and colonization all over the world. It was in this era, in 1543, that Portuguese missionaries and merchants first arrived Japan. At that time, Japan was in the Warring States period, when the *daimyos*, a kind of feudal lords, were fighting for hegemony, so the newly-incoming guns and ammunition spread like wildfire.

At the same time, certain popular foods and sweets such as "Tempura" and "Castella" were introduced at this time too. The recipes and names of these widely enjoyed foods have

Portuguese origins.

Some Japanese became Christians, and in 1582, four Japanese boys visited Rome at the recommendation of the Jesuits. So cultural and diplomatic exchanges have long characterized our relations with Europe.

However, in the 17th century, Japan's Edo Shogunate decided to limit trade with Europe only through designated towns until the end of the Edo period in 1868. With this decision, for about 200 years from the mid-17th century until Japan reopened its borders in the late 19th century, the only nation trading with Japan in

Europe was the Netherlands, as the Dutch had little interest in missionary work.

Then, in the 19th century, the international community was flooded with waves of colonization by the great powers. Japan, which had closed its borders to foreign countries except the Netherlands, was forced by the United States to open its country and sign an unequal treaty. Some groups in Japan opposed this and there were movements to overturn the Edo Shogunate, which led to domestic upheaval in Japan that took on the appearance of a civil war. France and the United Kingdom supported rival groups in

Japan during this turmoil. In 1868, the turmoil in Japan was over and it was decided to once again open the borders to the international community. It was the end of the Edo period and the birth of modern Japan.

3 近代日本の誕生

The first thing that the Japanese government implemented upon reopening the borders in the 19th century was a modernization policy.

Under the slogans of "Fukoku Kyohei" which means "enrich the country, strengthen the force" and "encouragement of new industry," and "Out

of Asia and Into Europe (slogan calling for Japan to align itself with the West)", the government attempted new policies.

Japan undertook various reforms and created a national system that follows the European system. The constitutional monarchy was introduced from the United Kingdom, the constitution from Prussia, the criminal and civil law codes from France, the army from France, and later also from Prussia, the navy from the United Kingdom, and so on. Even in architecture and science, we imported styles and systems from Europe at that time.

In terms of life and culture, Japanese people have been greatly influenced by Europe. European culture has come to influence or inspire every part of our lives, including clothing, food, drinks, and literature.

And I am sure that you can identify ways in which Japanese culture has permeated and left its own marks on Europe and the West as seen in the example of Japonisme, which was popular in Western art in the latter half of the 19th century.

However, once the modernization policy was rapidly implemented, this led to Japan participating in many wars in the international community quickly after that.

Among them were the 1894-1895 Sino-Japanese War, the 1902 Anglo-Japanese Alliance, the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War and World War I, during which Japan dispatched its Navy to Europe. In 1920, the League of Nations was established.

Japan expanded its influence in Asia and further strengthened its military power after the First

World War. Japan withdrew from the League of Nations in 1933 and entered World War II in 1939 to 1945 on the side of the Axis powers, and lost in 1945. It was just after the United States dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

4 戦後の国際社会における日本とヨーロッパ

In short, as soon as Japan opened its borders to the international community in the latter half of the 19th century, it promoted modernization policies and strengthened its military power. Nevertheless, Japan was defeated and lost so much in World War II. After the war and

stemming from a deep remorse, Japan made its pledge to never wage a war again and pursue peace. This pledge “never to wage a war again and pledge for peace” is also written in the preamble of the Constitution of Japan. “Proactive Contribution to Peace,” based on the principle of international cooperation, is the basis of post-war Japanese diplomacy, motivated by the experience of World War II and the deep reflections afterwards.

The situation was also devastating here in Europe, as you all know. Similarly, in light of the lessons of the war, Europeans sought regional

integration. The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was established, and the European Economic Community (EEC) and European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) merged to form the European Community (EC) in 1967.

At this point, Japan-Europe relations were mainly focused on economy and trade. The Permanent Mission of Japan to the EC/the EU, where I work, was also established in 1974. At that time, resolving trade conflicts was a major task. After that, the relationship between Japan and Europe changed drastically and gained

momentum with the expansion of EC authority and the deepening of integration. In 1993, the Maastricht Treaty created the EU. Japan and the EU have deepened their relationship since not only in economy and trade, but also in a wide range of fields such as politics and science and technology.

5 現在と今後の日 EU 関係

Having given an overview of the historical dimension of EU-Japan relations, I will talk about the present and the future. After the Second World War, we established an international order which has supported world peace and stability.

But now, we face new, great challenges. The international situation is becoming more uncertain, some argue that the US-China conflict reflects the greater ideological conflict between liberal democracy and authoritarianism.

Japan is a resource-poor island nation and maintains relationships with neighboring countries including China and Russia. When it comes to relations with China, the peaceful development of China should be welcomed by both Japan and the international community. However, in the East China Sea and South China Sea, the unilateral attempts to change the status

quo continue. Japan is seriously concerned with this situation. The situation in North Korea, which faces nuclear development, missiles, and abduction issues, is also serious.

Against these backdrops, it is quite natural for Japan to deepen its cooperation with like-minded countries and regions like the EU that share fundamental values.

Japan and the EU are geographically distant, however, over time, Japan, like the EU, has made a pledge to pursue and promote peace and fundamental values such as pacifism, freedom,

human rights, and democracy.

Even if you look around the world, such like-minded countries are valuable. Among the international community, both Japan and the EU need to disseminate these fundamental values and promote the creation of new rules and regulations for peace and the stability of the international community.

The Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement & the Strategic Partnership Agreement already exist as the foundation for cooperation between Japan and the EU. As you may know, the EPA is

an agreement on trade between just Japan and the EU but its scale should not be underestimated as it is the world's largest free economic zone, accounting for about 30% of world GDP and about 40% of world trade. The SPA, agreed in 2018, also promotes cooperation between Japan, the EU and EU member states in a wide range of areas of common concern, including global priorities and challenges such as non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, humanitarian aid and climate change. It also governs and seeks to strengthen mutually-strategic partnerships in the future. It is a confirmation that we will continue enhancing our

engagements, and it will be the legal basis for further cooperation between Japan and the EU. To put it plainly, it is proof of the determination that Japan and the EU have to work together to address the challenges of the international community.

What are some of the urgent issues facing the international community that Japan and the EU should address together? As I mentioned earlier, from a security perspective, some countries are currently continuing and intensifying their unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the Indo-Pacific region without a basis in

international law. On the other hand, Japan is making efforts to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific region for all countries based on the very principles of international law.

The Government of Japan has advocated this vision in its "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP for short)". In line with Japan's vision, the European Council has also very recently formulated the "EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific."

Again, the partnership between Japan and the EU is based on concrete cooperation. For

example, in mid-May, Japan is planning a joint military drill with France and the United States. Japan has also contributed to the EU's NAVFOR Atlanta Operation to counter piracy in the Indian Ocean. Therefore, cooperation on security issues, including such joint port calls have been progressing steadily. All of these are the result of an approach dedicated to deepening collaboration under the common values of human rights and the rule of law.

Just as the EU cooperates on the issues surrounding Japan in the Indo-Pacific region, far from the EU's own shores, Japan also cooperates

on issues closer to home for the EU. For example, on Ukraine, the Middle East, the Western Balkans and Africa. Japan's "free and open Indo-Pacific" is actually not just about the Asian region.

As you can see from this map (map of connectivity), it extends to the West Balkans and the African region. Japan has also signed "THE PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIVITY AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION" with the EU aimed at strengthening "connectivity".

Specifically, some of Japan's ODA projects are presented as Japan-EU synergies and are complementary with regards to sustainable connectivity and quality infrastructure. For example, both Japan and the EU support border management between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. At a border crossing point, the facilities are funded by the EU on the Afghan side and by Japan on the Tajik side. Another example is in Africa where both Japan and the EU support the road construction of the Nacala Corridor in Southeast Africa. The rehabilitation of the Nampula-Cuamba Road in Mozambique is also co-financed by Japan and the EU.

As you can see from these cases, Japan and the EU are no longer in that distant relationship that began nearly 500 years ago. Globalization has shortened the distance and made relations more dynamic and multifaceted. In addition, it can be said that it is a rare for two such distant actors in the world to forge a relationship based on the same values today despite 500 years of very distinct histories.

In the future, Japan and the EU will continue to work together to contribute to the creation of frameworks for the international community that

will allow it to respond better to global challenges such as climate change, digital reform and security. We would like to make the international community more peaceful, stable and sustainable through working with the European people as we build on our 500-year history of exchanges.

Thank you for your attention.

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