

<p>10.2</p>	<p>The government will submit a bill to get the parliamentary approval of the revision of Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) based on the security legislation during October, Reuters reports. The SDF would be able to provide ammunition in a zone of action with the revised ACSA. (Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 2/8/2017)</p>
<p>10.3</p>	<p>In the budget committee of the House of Representatives, PM Abe indicates that he is not considering sending a letter of apology to former comfort women at all. According to Jiji Press, the Korean Fund founded based on the governmental Japan-South Korea agreement has demanded Abe to write a letter of apology to the victims. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 2/10/2017)</p>
<p>10.3</p>	<p>PM Abe confirms that the Japanese government will continue to claim that four disputed northern islands belong to Japan, the Nikkei Shimbun reports. He says that Japan will solve the Northern Territories issue and conclude a peace treaty with Russia. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/10/2017)</p>
<p>10.3</p>	<p>SCP Head Secretary Koike Akira has a press conference. The Sankei Shimbun reports that he says that his party will still keep the alliance against the Abe administration with the DP for the next general election even if the DP focuses on future constitutional revision. He indicates that the JCP and the DP agree to be against constitutional revision under the Abe administration. (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed 2/6/2017)</p>
<p>10.4</p>	<p>The Sankei Shimbun reports that the DP will not take over the constitutional proposal that the DPJ, the predecessor of the DP, made in 2005. It is expected that the DP will withdraw the proposal to keep the alliance with the JCP. (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed 2/6/2017)</p>
<p>10.4</p>	<p>The Minister for Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy, Ishiba Shigeru, gives a talk. According to the Sankei Shimbun, he points out that almost the half of the current LDP lawmakers were not involved in the LDP's 2012 draft. He continues that they ought to study the draft to object to the opposition parties' criticism against it, to prepare for the next general election for the House of Representatives. (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed 2/3/2017)</p>
<p>10.5</p>	<p>PM Abe dodges DP leader Renho's accusation against the LDP's 2012 constitutional draft in a budget commission of the House of Councilors. According to the Asahi Shimbun, Renho criticizes the LDP's draft for proposing to determine mutual aid among a family as the Japanese people's obligation. She says that the concept of family in the LDP's draft is a move backwards. Although Abe repeatedly insists that constitutional discussion should be held in the Commission on the Constitution of the Houses of Representatives and Councilors, he also indicates that family is a fundamental organization to compose a society and a significant basis of personal lives. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/3/2017)</p>

<p>10.5</p>	<p>The Hokkaido Board of Education reprimands two teachers for collecting signatures to protest the security legislation in the public school they work for. According to the Sankei Shimbun, they distributed a flyer to approximately 200 students calling for signatures. (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/9/2017)</p>
<p>10.6</p>	<p>The Asahi Shimbun reports that the Japanese government cut the budget for the follow-up projects that have supported former comfort women in South Korea after the Asian Women's Fund dissolved in 2007. The Japanese government says they will continue the aid for former comfort women in other countries: Taiwan, the Philippines and Indonesia. MOFA explains that the fund based on the Japan-South Korea governmental agreement would take a similar role of financial donation by the Japanese government. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/10/2017)</p>
<p>10.7</p>	<p>The LDP headquarters for promotion of constitutional reform has the first organizers' meeting with new chair Yasuoka Okiharu. According to the Sankei Shimbun, they decide to hold a full meeting on the 18th. They also agree with the idea that they will have regular meetings more frequently than they used to: once every 1-2 weeks instead of once every month. (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/1/2017)</p>
<p>10.8</p>	<p>Japanese Defense Minister Inada Tomomi visits South Sudan to inspect the SDF working on PKO there. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, she stays for 7 hours in Juba. Officers of the local government and executives of the UNMISS (United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan) explain that the peace and order there has improved and expect Japan's commitment to increase in the operation. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 2/13/2017)</p>
<p>10.9</p>	<p>Komeitō leader Yamaguchi Natsuo says that his party will not accept the entirety of the LDP's constitutional draft. In a radio program, he indicates that, regarding constitutional revision, Komeitō is fundamentally different from the LDP, which has contended that the US wrote the constitution and forced it on the Japanese people. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/1/2017)</p>
<p>10.9</p>	<p>Jiji Press reports that the Japanese government considers aiming to recover two of the four islands that Japan and Russia have disputed over and conclude a Japan-Russia peace treaty. The Japanese government would focus on the recovery of Habamai and Shikotan, postponing Kunashiri and Etrofu until after the conclusion of the peace treaty. PM Abe and President Putin will have a summit in Peru (November) and in Japan (December). (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 2/13/2017)</p>
<p>10.12</p>	<p>The Asahi Shimbun reports that PM Abe has avoided constitutional discussion in the Diet. According to Jiji Press, he indicates that he ought to answer questions about the governmental bills and budget but not the constitution in the budget committee. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 1/31/2017) (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 1/31/2017)</p>
<p>10.13</p>	<p>New DP executives hold their first constitutional research commission meeting after gaining the position. In the meeting, they decide to discuss the problems of the LDP's 2012 constitutional draft and push for constitutionalism in the Commission on the Constitution of the Houses of Representatives and Councilors. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 2/2/2017)</p>

<p>10.13</p>	<p>The LDP decides to treat their 2012 constitutional draft as "a historical official document". According to the Mainichi Shimbun, by doing this, the LDP aims to show their flexibility to the opposition parties to promote constitutional discussion. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed 2/7/2017)</p>
<p>10.13</p>	<p>Reuters reports that Japan will expand a SDF's base in Djibouti next year as a counterweight against growing Chinese influence in the region. (Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 2/13/2017)</p>
<p>10.14</p>	<p>The Tokyo Shimbun reports that a citizen's group lead by lawyers will present a musical about the constitution for the first time after a fifteen-year interval in Saitama Prefecture. The musical was first performed in 1993. (Source: Tokyo Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/8/2017)</p>
<p>10.14</p>	<p>The Huffington Post reports that the Japanese government has paused its contributions to UNESCO. It is expected that the Japanese government aims to criticize UNESCO for accepting the Chinese government's application to add the Nanjing Massacre to the list of Memories of the World, claiming that UNESCO did not fairly investigate the history for China and Japan. According to the Huffington Post, Japan has been the country that has provided the most high-priced donation since the US halted its payment to protest Palestine joining UNESCO since 2011. (Source: Huffington Post digital version; accessed on 2/14/2017)</p>
<p>10.17</p>	<p>Yasukuni Shrine holds an annual autumn festival and PM Abe sends a ritual offering to the Shrine for dead soldiers, Reuters reports. (Source: Reuters.om; accessed on 2/16/2017)</p>
<p>10.17</p>	<p>The advisory panel on the Emperor's abdication starts discussion at Kantei. According to the Asahi Shimbun, the members will discuss not only the abdication but also how to reduce the Emperor's official duties and summarize their opinions by 2018. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/16/2017)</p>
<p>10.18</p>	<p>The LDP holds the first meeting of its headquarters for the promotion of constitutional reform after the general upper house election in July. Chair of the headquarters Yasuoka Okiharu states that the LDP will not withdraw the 2012 constitutional draft, the Huffington Post reports. (Source: Huffington Post digital version; accessed 2/14/2017)</p>
<p>10.19</p>	<p>LDP Vice President Kōmura Masahiko says that he is considering resolving the problem that some constituencies of the upper house election are over prefectural boundaries via constitutional revision. It is expected that the LDP will push constitutional discussion in the Commission on the Constitution with this precinct issue, reports the Asahi Shimbun. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/14/2017)</p>
<p>10.21</p>	<p>The Ministry of Defense makes an announcement that the SDF and the US Armed Forces will hold a joint practice, "Keen Sword", from the end of October to the beginning of November. Jiji Press reports that it will be the first joint Japan-US practice since the security legislation was enacted. The practice will assume a situation that is significantly dangerous to Japan's peace and security determined by the security legislation. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 2/15/2017)</p>

<p>10.21</p>	<p>A South Korean fund starts payment for former comfort women in cash, Jiji Press reports. The fund was established in July and the Japanese government provided one billion yen based on the Japan-South Korea agreement to resolve the comfort women issue. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 2/16/2017)</p>
<p>10.25</p>	<p>Chief Secretary General Suga Yoshihide expresses unpleasantness regarding a Chinese Press Secretary remark. The remark was that if there were a memorial statue for comfort women in Tokyo, it would be helpful for Japan to reduce its historical burdens and gain understanding from Asian neighbors, Jiji Press reports. (Source: Jiji Press; accessed on 2/15/2017)</p>
<p>10.25</p>	<p>The LDP decides to extend its presidential terms of office from two terms (six years) to three terms (nine years). According to the Nikkei Shimbun, it is expected that PM Abe will run for his third term. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/16/2017)</p>
<p>10.26</p>	<p>PM Abe and the Philippines' President, Rodrigo Duterte, had a summit at Abe's office in Tokyo. They make an agreement that the two countries will look for a peaceful settlement for the territorial disputes over the South China Sea. The detailed summary of the summit is available on Kantei's website. Reuters reports that Duterte indicates that he would support Japan based on the Permanent Court of Arbitration's judgement over the dispute between Japan and China. (Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 2/15/2017) (Source: Kantei's website; accessed on 2/15/2017)</p>
<p>10.27</p>	<p>Prince Mikasa (Takahito) passes away at 100. The Mainichi Shimbun reports that he argued that the Imperial Household Law should stipulate the Emperor's abdication in 1946. The Yoshida administration denied the argument. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/14/2017) (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 2/14/2017)</p>
<p>10.28</p>	<p>A Kyodo News poll shows that 55% of Japanese people oppose constitutional revision during the Abe administration while approximately 60% think the constitution needs to be amended at some point, the Japan Times reports. On the other hand, as regards war-renouncing Article 9, although 49% say that it is not necessary to change it, 45% think otherwise. (Source: Japan Times digital version; accessed on 2/16/2017)</p>
<p>10.30</p>	<p>The Asahi Shimbun reports that a Japanese NGO, WAM (Women's Active Museum on War and Peace), declared that they received a bomb threat postmarked September 30. The bomb warning demanded to remove their exhibition and the sender introduced itself as Asahi Sekihōtai (□□□□□). The museum is known for its exhibition of documents related to comfort women. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/16/2017)</p>
<p>11.1</p>	<p>The Japanese government protests to the Chinese government against China's new engineering development project in the South China Sea, reports Nippon TV. (Source: Nippon Television digital version; accessed 2/21/2017)</p>
<p>11.1-5</p>	<p>De facto leader of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi visits Japan. On the 2nd, PM Abe announces that Japan will provide approximately eight hundred billion yen for aid to Myanmar, the</p>

	<p>Sankei Shimbun reports. According to the Asahi Shimbun, Suu Kyi also receives an honorary doctorate at Kyoto University on the 3rd.</p> <p>(Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/21/2017)</p> <p>(Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/21/2017)</p>
11.2	<p>Several media outlets report about a political scandal of the Park administration in South Korea, that President Park has divulged confidential information to an ordinary person outside of the government. The Japan Times expects that the scandal will put a cloud over the governmental agreement regarding the comfort women issue that was made between PM Abe and her.</p> <p>(Source: Japan Times digital version; accessed on 2/21/2017)</p>
11.3	<p>The Mainichi Shimbun reports that Takubo Tadae, the Chair of Nippon Kaigi, has insisted on revision of Article 24. The educational DVD about constitutional revision that Nippon Kaigi released finds an ideal family form in a Japanese famous cartoon, "Sazae-san". Nippon Kaigi points out that the current Article 24 has dissolved families and caused various social problems. He claims that a "Sazae-san" family should be a model; three generations live together in the family.</p> <p>(Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 2/17/2017)</p>
11.4	<p>Former comfort women from South Korea and the Philippines have a press conference at the Foreign Correspondent's Club of Japan. According to the Asahi Shimbun, they criticize the Japan-South Korea agreement in December, 2015 for ignoring victim's voices and excluding sufferers in countries other than South Korea.</p> <p>(Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/18/2017)</p>
11.7	<p>The SDF and the US Armed Forces open their joint practice to the media. According to the Sankei Shimbun, the practice is a part of "Keen Sword" and becomes the first one under the new security legislation. The practice is held offshore in eastern Okinawa.</p> <p>(Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/18/2017)</p>
11.9	<p>PM Abe meets a LDP lawmaker, Nukaga Fukushima, who is a member of the Japan-Korean Parliamentarians' Union. Nukaga reports the union's general meeting on the 4th. Abe says that the agreement on the comfort women issue in December 2015 is a promise between the two countries and he wants South Korea to keep it.</p> <p>(Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/18/2017)</p>
11.9-10	<p>Donald Trump wins the US presidential election on the 9th. PM Abe talks with him via phone and they agree to meet on the 17th in New York, the Nikkei Shimbun reports.</p> <p>(Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/21/2017)</p>
11.13	<p>The SDF, the Japan Coast Guard and the police have a joint exercise for the first time, simulating an intrusion at a Japanese island by armed fishermen, the Japan Times reports. According to the Tokyo Shimbun, the exercise takes place at Eniyabanare Island (□□□□□), one of the Amami Islands.</p> <p>(Source: Japan Times digital version; accessed on 2/21/2017)</p> <p>(Source: Tokyo Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/21/2017)</p>
11.14	<p>The cabinet approves a new mission under the security legislation, a "rescue mission", for the SDF unit in South Sudan. According to the Asahi Shimbun, Minister of Defense Inada</p>

	<p>Tomomi will officially announce the mission to the SDF on the 18th. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/21/2017) (Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 2/21/2017)</p>
11.16	<p>The Commission on the Constitution of the House of Councilors holds a regular meeting 9 months after the previous one was held. The attendees discuss how to think about the constitution. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, the LDP argues that determination of the SDF in the constitution is vague and Article 9 should be amended to make it clear. The LDP also brings some other parts of the constitution to be discussed such as the preamble, election system and local government. On the other hand, the DP contends that the current constitution will be more significant in the future. A detailed summary, report and video of the meeting are available on Commission on the Constitution of the House of Councilors website. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 2/21/2017) (Source; Commission on the Constitution of the House of Councilors website; accessed on 2/21/2017)</p>
11.16	<p>The comfort women fund says that they have provided one hundred million won to 23 of 46 surviving comfort women (as of December 28th, 2015). According to Jiji Press, a citizen's group supporting former comfort women, the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, has been against the Japan-South Korea agreement on the issue in December 2015. The group has also criticized President Park for her political scandal and called for her resignation. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 2/23/2017)</p>
11.16	<p>Former LDP member of the House of Representatives Okuno Seisuke passes away at 103. He is known as a "hawk". When he served the Takeshita administration as the Director General of National Land Agency, he said that Japan did not intend to be aggressive regarding the Sino-Japanese War, reports Jiji Press. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 2/25/2017)</p>
11.17	<p>The Commission on the Constitution of the House of Representatives starts discussion after a one year and five month interval. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, while the LDP has geared up for constitutional revision, the DP has been deliberate and wanted to discuss fundamental issues such as the definition of constitutionalism. A detailed summary is available on the Commission on the Constitution of the House of Representatives website. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 2/22/2017) (Source: Commission on the Constitution of the House of Representatives website; accessed on 2/21/2017)</p>
11.17	<p>The Mainichi Shimbun reports that 11 local district courts have been brought a class action against the Japanese government for the security legislation. The accusers have contended that the security bills infringe on their constitutional rights. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 2/22/2017)</p>
11.19	<p>PM Abe meets President-elect Trump at his residence in New York. Trump will be inaugurated as the US President in January 2017. According to the Asahi Shimbun, the government conceals the content of the one-hour meeting, but Abe says that the US-Japan alliance is significant and Trump is trustworthy at a press conference. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/24/2017)</p>

<p>11.19</p>	<p>The Mainichi Shimbun and the Tokyo Shimbun report that Japan and Australia will hold a 2+2 meeting in December to conclude a revised Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) that would enable the SDF to exchange ammunition with the Australian Defense Force. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, the amended ACSA would follow the security legislation. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 2/22/2017) (Source: Tokyo Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/22/2017)</p>
<p>11.19</p>	<p>PM Abe has a summit with Russian President Putin in Lima, Peru, where national leaders get together to join an APEC meeting. As regards the Northern Territories Issue, Abe says that it is not easy to resolve the issue, but he wants to make progress step by step. They will have a summit in Japan in December. Abe talks with President Obama and President Xi as well, the Mainichi Shimbun reports. Abe and Obama express their gratitude with each other before Obama retires from office in January. Abe and Xi agree with the idea that both countries should strive for improvement of the relationship. (Source: Tokyo Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/24/2017) (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 2/24/2017)</p>
<p>11.21</p>	<p>At the Tokyo District Court, 865 people accuse the Japanese government of breaking the law by enacting the security legislation, claiming that the security bills violate the constitution. According to the Asahi Shimbun, it is the second lawsuit of the case at the court. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed 2/22/2017)</p>
<p>11.21</p>	<p>A new SDF unit arrives at Juba in South Sudan to join the UN's PKO. The unit will work on planning a new type of mission, a rescue mission, which was allowed after the security legislation was enacted, the Asahi Shimbun reports. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/25/2017)</p>
<p>11.23</p>	<p>The Japanese and South Korean governments concludes General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA). According to the Nikkei Shimbun, it is expected that the two countries will cooperate with each other regarding the nuclear threat by North Korea. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 2/25/2017)</p>
<p>11.24</p>	<p>The Commission on the Constitution of the House of Representatives has a regular meeting. The members from each party discuss the definition of constitutionalism. According to the Asahi Shimbun, DP lawmaker Edano Yukio claims that the LDP's 2012 constitutional draft violates constitutionalism. CPJ parliamentary member Ōhira Yoshinobu says the security legislation is an outrage against constitutionalism. SDPJ member Teruya Kantoku criticizes the Abe administration for being out of control, and also claims that they are anti-constitutionalism. LDP representative Nakatani Gen contends that the LDP 2012 draft does not deny constitutionalism and the opposition parties' comments about the security legislation just aims to protest against the Abe administration. Kōmeitō affiliate Saito Testuo proposes thinking about new human rights and mentions environmental issues. A detailed summary is available on the Commission on the Constitution of the House of Representatives website. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 2/22/2017) (Source: Commission on the Constitution of the House of Representatives website; accessed on 2/21/2017)</p>
<p>11.25</p>	<p>The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) sends five members of a nationalist group to the prosecutor's office because they interfered with a demonstration against the security</p>

	<p>legislation. According to Jiji Press, SEALDs and Association of Scholars Opposed to the Security-related Laws held the demonstration. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 2/22/2017)</p>
11.28	<p>The South Korean government publishes the original draft of its state-authored school history textbook that is supposed to be introduced in the 2017 school year, reports Jiji Press. According to the Japan Times, the textbook specifies that the Japanese Military forcibly enlisted comfort women during WWII. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 2/23/2017) (Source: Japan Times digital version; accessed on 2/25/2017)</p>

<p>12.1</p>	<p>The Commission on the Constitution of the House of Representatives holds an organizers' meeting. They decide to cancel the next regular session. According to the Sankei Shimbun, although the LDP suggested having the session to discuss the fundamental principles of the Japanese constitution, the DP rejected the suggestion because the LDP has refused their proposal to extend the current Diet period. (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/2/2017)</p>
<p>12.4</p>	<p>A national referendum rejects constitutional revision in Italy. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, the opposition rate reaches 59.6% and the supportive rate remains 40.4%. Accepting the referendum result, PM Renzi says that he will resign on the 5th. Renzi aimed to get the constitutional revision bill approved to control the power of the House of Lords. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/2/2017)</p>
<p>12.5</p>	<p>PM Abe and President Obama visit Pearl Harbor. They offer condolences for soldiers who died during WWII. According to Reuters, Abe becomes the first prime minister on active service who visits Pearl Harbor. Abe emphasizes the strength of the Japan-US alliance at the press conference. A detailed report of the conference is available on Kantei's website. (Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 3/3/2017) (Source: Kantei website; accessed on 3/3/2017)</p>
<p>12.6</p>	<p>The NHK management committee assigns committee member Ueda Ryōichi to be the next NHK Chair. The current Chair, Momii Katsuto, will retire on January 24th, 2017. The Nikkei Shimbun reports that when Momii took the office in 2014, he aroused criticism for his remarks regarding historical issues. According to the Huffington Post, he said that there were comfort women in many countries during the war and criticized South Korea for demanding "compensation" from the Japanese government. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/6/2017) (Source: Huffington Post digital version; accessed on 3/6/2017)</p>
<p>12.6</p>	<p>The Japanese government decides to raise the compensation for deaths for SDF members in South Sudan rescue missions from 60,000,000 yen to 90,000,000 yen. According to the Sankei Shimbun, the government also decides to provide an extra daily wage to SDF personnel on the duty. (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/6/2017)</p>
<p>12.7</p>	<p>The advisory panel on the Emperor abdication decides to appeal to the government to create a special exemption law to allow only the current Emperor, Akihito, to abdicate. According to the Asahi Shimbun, the panel will submit a report to summarize related issues at the beginning of 2017. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/6/2017)</p>
<p>12.8</p>	<p>Reuters reports that a Japanese kindergarten, the Tsukamoto Kindergarten, teaches their children pre-war ideals. Every morning, the pupils sing the national anthem in front of the country's flag and recite the Imperial Rescript on Education. Additionally, PM Abe's wife, Abe Akie, has visited the kindergarten, Reuters report.</p>

	(Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 3/6/2017)
12.9	The Mainichi Shimbun reports that the Commission on the Constitution of the Houses of Representatives and Councilors will not hold any more sessions during the current Diet period. One session in the House of Councilors and two sessions in the House of Representatives have been held. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 3/2/3017)
12.10	A memorial museum of comfort women is opened in Taiwan. The Nikkei Shimbun reports that the citizen's group that led the project demands an apology and compensation from the Japanese government. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/3/2017)
12.10	A Korean-Americans' group has a ceremony to exhibit the girl statue that is a symbol of comfort women in a park in Washington D.C. According to Jiji Press, the group aimed to install the statue in order to mark Human Rights Day on the 10 th . However, they could not find a place for the statue because their activities have been regarded as "political", Jiji Press reports. (Source: jiji.com; accessed on 3/3/2017)
12.11	The Japan Coast Guard (JCG) recognizes three ships of the Chinese Coast Guard infringing Japanese waters around Senkaku Islands. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, the JCG has noticed Chinese ships in Japanese waters on the 5 th as well and their infringement has counted 35 times in 2016. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/3/2017)
12.13	Defense Minister Inada Tomomi meets the Dutch Defense Minister. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, they sign a memorandum that entails the two governments exchanging opinions regarding sea security and ballistic missiles. It is the first Defense Minister meeting after 12 years between Japan and Holland. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/3/2017)
12.14	The US military explains that they did not find any systematic problem regarding the water crash-landing that an Osprey aircraft made, the Nikkei Shimbun reports. A US military leader, General Lawrence Nicholson, says that another Osprey made a belly landing on the 13 th as well. As the two accidents made people in Okinawa feel worse toward the US military bases, Nicholson apologizes to them for the accidents. The Tokyo Shimbun points out that he aims to try to calm them down ahead of a restoration ceremony of several training ranges in northern part of Okinawa planned on 22 nd . According to Jiji Press, the Mayor of Okinawa, Onaga Takeshi, says that he will not attend the ceremony to protest against the US military, contending that they have continued dangerous practices with Osprey aircrafts. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/6/2017) (Source: Tokyo Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/6/2017) (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 3/6/2017)

<p>12.14</p>	<p>The Australia Japan Community Network (AJCN) submits a legal complaint to Australia's Human Rights Commission as regards a girl statue to symbolize comfort women in a Sydney Church. According to Reuters, the group claims that the statute is a racial vilification against Japanese people. (Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 3/6/2017)</p>
<p>12.14</p>	<p>A South Korean citizen's group, the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, hold a protest meeting that they have organized every Wednesday. According to Jiji Press, they contend that the Japan-South Korea agreement on the comfort women issue in December 2015 should be voided. They also call for President Pak's resignation. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 3/3/2017)</p>
<p>12.15</p>	<p>The Ministry of Defense allows the media to report a SDF rescue training in Shintō Village in Gunma Prefecture. According to Jiji Press, the training is for a new mission under the security legislation. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 3/3/2017)</p>
<p>12.15-16</p>	<p>PM Abe and President Putin have a summit in Yamaguchi Prefecture on the 15th. On the 16th, they meet at Kantei. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, they make the agreement that Japan and Russia will cooperate for joint economic activity in the four Northern Islands that the two countries have disputed. Reuters reports that PM Abe evaluates the summit as a significant step toward the conclusion of peace treaty, but he also says that there still will be difficulties to solve the territorial issue. (Source: Kantei website; accessed on 3/3/2017) (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/9/2017) (Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 3/9/2017)</p>
<p>12.17</p>	<p>The Asahi Shimbun reports that the videos of the parliamentary discussions on the security legislation will be removed by the 18th from the House of Councilors website. The House of Councilors publishes videos of its parliamentary discussion for a limited period while the House of Representatives keeps the videos available without any restriction. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/8/2017)</p>
<p>12.20</p>	<p>The Eastern Seoul Court sentences Prof. Park Yu-ha of Sejong University to three years' imprisonment for defaming former comfort women in her book, Comfort Women of the Empire. According to the Asahi Shimbun, the court will pass judgment on the case on January 25th. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/9/2017)</p>
<p>12.21</p>	<p>The government decides on a yearly budget for the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Forces that reaches the highest amount, 210 billion yen, in its history. The Nikkei Shimbun reports that it is expected that the JMSFC will intensify Japan's security around Senkaku Island. According to Bloomberg, the Abe administration has increased the defense budget for the last five years.</p>

	(Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/9/2017) (Source: Bloomberg digital version; accessed on 3/9/2017)
12.22	The Japanese National Security Council (NSC) decides on principles of how to use weapons in order to protect allied militaries under the security legislation. Defense Minister Inada Tomomi emphasizes that the new principles would strengthen the US-Japan alliance and secure Japan more. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 3/7/2017)
12.25	The Mainichi Shimbun reports that the former Imperial Household Agency grand steward, Kazaoka Noriyuki, officially presented Emperor Akihito's speech draft on abdication to the prime minister's office in the fall of 2015. He suggested that Akihito would announce his wish to abdicate at a press conference on the occasion of his birthday, December 23 rd . (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 3/10/2017)
12.26	Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga Yoshihide has a press conference and confirms that three Prime Ministers, Yoshida Shigeru (1951), Hatoyama Ichiro (1956) and Kishi Nobusuke (1957), have visited the Headquarters of US Pacific Command at Pearl Harbor. The Huffington Post reports that PM Abe will become the first PM to visit the USS Arizona Memorial, which was founded in 1962. (Source: Huffington Post digital version; accessed on 3/9/2017)
12.26	Three ships of the China Coast Guard infringe Japanese waters. According to Jiji Press, Chinese public vessels have violated territorial waters 36 times in 2016. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 3/9/2017)
12.26	The Mayor of Ishigaki-City announces that the city will accept Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces' deployment to defend Senkaku against China. According to the Asahi Shimbun, the deployment is supposed to be composed of at least 500 – 600 SDF personnel. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/9/2017)
12.27	PM Abe visits Pearl Harbor with President Obama. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, they comfort the spirits of those who died in the war. PM Abe expresses regret about the continuous accidents of Osprey jets in Okinawa at the summit. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 3/9/2017) (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/9/2017)
12.28	A South Korean citizen's group installs a girl statue that symbolizes comfort women in front of the Consulate General of Japan in Busan. According to Jiji Press, it was removed four and half hours later by the local government. Spontaneously, a large balloon artwork of the statue was exhibited in Seoul. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 3/9/2017)
12.29	Defense Minister Inada Tomomi visits Yasukuni Shrine for the first time since she took office in August. According to the Asahi Shimbun, PM Abe refrained from comment about it.

	(Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/9/2019)
2017	
1.5	PM Abe attends a meeting to mark the start of the new year at the LDP's headquarters. According to Jiji Press, he expresses passion for realizing constitutional revision in the new year. (Source: jiji.com; accessed on 3/10/2017)
1.6	The Japanese government imposes countermeasures against South Korean government and makes Japanese ambassador Nagamine Yasumasa temporarily come back to Japan over the comfort women issue. The Japanese government condemns South Korea for not following the governmental agreement on the comfort women issue from 2015. A new girl statue that symbolizes comfort women has been installed in Busan, Korea. Although it was removed once, it was reinstated again in front of the building of Consulate General of Japan in Busan. (Source: jiji.com; accessed on 3/13/2017)
1.6	A Tokyo Court suspends publication of a book about Nippon Kaigi. According to the Asahi Shimbun, the book, "Nippon Kaigi no Shōtai", illustrates a history of Nippon Kaigi. Nippon Kaigi is known for pushing for constitutional revision. The accuser was an executive member of Seichō no Ie, the predecessor organization of Nippon Kaigi. He argues that the book defames him. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/14/2017)
1.7	Jiji Press reports that the DP retains its deliberative attitude on constitutional revision while the LDP gears up for it by refining significant points to revise. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 3/10/2017)
1.8	The Japan Coast Guard recognizes three Chinese Coast Guard ships infringing on Japanese waters. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, the JCG has continuously noticed Chinese government's ships around Senkaku Islands for eight days. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/13/2017)
1.8	PM Abe demands South Korea to remove the girl statue that was erected in Busan by a citizen's group to protest against the Japanese government concerning the comfort women issue. According to the Asahi Shimbun, he emphasizes that Japan donated to the fund based on the agreement with the South Korean government in 2015. He insists that it should be South Korea's turn to show its good faith toward the governmental agreement. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/13/2017)
1.9	The leader of the biggest opposition party in South Korea (Minjoo Party of Korea) says that he will demand South Korean Foreign Minister to give one billion yen back to PM Abe; the Japanese government provided one billion yen to a South Korean foundation to follow the governmental agreement regarding comfort women. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, South Korean opposition parties have criticized Abe for contending that the girl statue in front of the

	<p>Consulate General of Japan in Busan should be removed. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/13/2017)</p>
1.9	<p>The US Ambassador to Japan, Caroline Kennedy, leaves Japan before the Trump administration is inaugurated on the 20th. According to the Sankei Shimbun, the Japanese government highly praises her negotiation arrangements over the issues related to US bases in Japan. (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/14/2017)</p>
1.11	<p>The Mainichi Shimbun reports that PM Abe regards free education as a key part of constitutional discussion. The Ishin (Nippon Ishin no Kai) had suggested that the government provide free education from early childhood to university age. Abe gave this idea as an example of constitutional revision at a meeting with Yasuoka Okiharu, the Chair of the LDP headquarters for promotion of constitutional revision in October 2016. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 3/14/2017)</p>
1.11	<p>At a public hearing of the Upper House, Rex W. Tillerson, the former chair of ExxonMobil, says that the US-Japan alliance covers the dispute over Senkaku Island. He is nominated as the next Secretary of State under the Trump administration. According to the Asahi Shimbun, he indicates that the US would follow the agreement with Japan if China attacks the region. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/13/2017)</p>
1.12	<p>One of the biggest organizations composed of Koreans living in Japan, Mindan, has a meeting for the start of the new year. The chair of the group suggests the memorial statues of comfort women in Busan should be removed. According to the Asahi Shimbun, he confirms that Mindan generally keeps distance from South Korean politics, but Koreans in Japan (Zainichi) are victimized seriously for the issue. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/13/2017)</p>
1.12	<p>TBS announces that they found a tape that recorded a talk between Japanese writer Mishima Yukio and British translator John Bester in February 1970. Mishima passed away three months after the interview. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, Mishima said that the Japanese so-called "Peace Constitution" was hypocritical and the constitution told Japanese people to die. As regards the contradictions between the constitution and Article 9, he indicated that Japanese people deceived themselves and he cannot bear to live like that. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/14/2017)</p>
1.12-13	<p>PM Abe visits the Philippines and meets President Duterte. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, at a summit on the 12th, Abe emphasizes the importance of the US-Philippines alliance. He says that it is inevitable to involve the US to keep peace in Asia and Japan wants to cooperate with the Philippines. A detailed summary of his visit in the Philippines is available on the MOFA website and Kantei website. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 3/13/2017) (Source: FOFA official website; accessed on 3/13/2017)</p>

	(Source: Kantei official website; accessed on 3/13/2017)
1.13	Jiji Press releases the result of a poll regarding constitutional revision. According to the survey, 49.5% say that constitutional revision is not an urgent issue while 36.5% disagree. Jiji Press held this poll from the 5 th to 9 th . (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 3/10/2017)
1.13	According to Reuters, the South Korean Foreign Minister says "our government is not against the installment of a girl statue... but I think we need to pool our wisdom on the issue of location" regarding the statue in front of the building of Consulate General of Japan in Busan. (Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 3/17/2017)
1.14	PM Abe visits Australia and has a summit with PM Turnbull. Australian Broadcasting Corporation News (ABC News) reports that Abe says that regional security is the main priority of his visit. According to Jiji Press, they agree to encourage tourism between the two countries. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 3/13/2017) (Source: ABC News official website; accessed on 3/14/2017)
1.15	PM Abe visits Indonesia. According to Jiji Press, he has a summit with President Joko Widodo and they agree to work together for securing the South China Sea on the assumption that China has developed its military activities there. A detailed summary of the summit is available on the MOFA and Kantei's websites. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 03/13/2017) (Source: MOFA official website; accessed on 3/13/2017) (Source: Kantei official website; accessed on 3/13/2017)
1.16-17	PM Abe visits Vietnam. Abe has a summit with PM Nguyễn Xuân Phúc on the 16 th in Hanoi. According to Jiji Press, Abe indicates that Japan will provide six patrol ships to secure the South China Sea. They agree to cooperate on security over the region. A detailed summary of the summit is available on Kantei and MOFA's website. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 3/16/2017) (Source: Kantei official website; accessed on 03/16/2017)
1.16	PM Abe summarizes his visit to four countries mainly in South East Asia at a press conference. He says that he could confirm the significance of the US presence in the region with the leaders of the four countries. (Source: Nippon TV website; accessed on 03/16/2017)
1.16	The assembly of Gyeonggi Province set up a donation box to install a girl statue that symbolizes comfort women in the Liancourt Rocks (Takeshima/Dokdo Islands). Japan and South Korea have disputed who can control the islands. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 3/17/2017)
1.19	The South Korean Foreign Ministry says that it is not appropriate that a South Korean

	<p>legislator's group plans to establish a girl statue related to the comfort women issue in Liancourt Rocks, Nippon TV reports. (Source: Nippon TV website; accessed on 3/17/2017)</p>
1.20	<p>A regular Diet session is convened. PM Abe gives a policy speech in the Houses of Representatives and Councilors. According to the Asahi Shimbun, he emphasizes the significance of the US-Japan alliance. He also calls for a deep constitutional discussion to mark the 70th anniversary of the enforcement of the Japanese constitution. The full script of his speech is available on Kantei's website. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/15/2017) (Source: Kantei official website; accessed on 3/16/2017)</p>
1.20	<p>The Cabinet decides on the Emperor's visit in Vietnam and Thailand in February. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, the Emperor and Empress will visit Vietnam for the first time and stop in Thailand to mourn for the former King of Thailand, King Bhumibol. (Source: Digital Mainichi accessed on 3/20/2017)</p>
1.21	<p>The Turkish Diet approves a proposal to revise the Turkish constitution. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, the bill proposes to abolish the parliamentary cabinet system and concentrate political power with the president. Source; Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/15/2017)</p>
1.22	<p>The Mayor of Miyakojima-City in Okinawa-Prefecture, Shimoji Toshihiko, wins the election to keep his office. He has favored inviting the Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces to set up its deployment in the city. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, he has been re-elected three times. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 3/20/2017)</p>
1.22	<p>The LDP Chief Secretary, Nikai Toshihiro, suggests constitutional revision during the current Diet in an NHK debate show. According to the Asahi Shimbun, this remark has alienated some insiders of the LDP; many LDP legislators say that it is not realistic to revise the constitution during this Diet period. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 03/15/2017)</p>
1.23	<p>The advisory panel on the Emperor abdication holds their 8th session and publishes a report summarizing discussion points on the issue. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, the report enumerates the disadvantages of abdication. The report stresses that the possibility of abdication may only be for the current Emperor generation. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun; accessed on 3/20/2017)</p>
1.24	<p>The SDF launches its first communication satellite in order to reinforce security over the East China Sea, Reuters reports. (Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 3/20/2017)</p>
1.25	<p>The governor of North Gyeongsang Province in South Korea visits the Liancourt Rocks</p>

	<p>(Takeshima/Dokto Islands) that Japan and South Korea have disputed. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga Yoshihide expresses disappointment about their visit at a press conference. (Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 3/20/2017)</p>
1.25	<p>The Eastern Seoul Court find Prof. Park Yu-ha innocent in a trial. She was accused of defaming former comfort women in her book, Comfort Women of the Empire. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 03/16/2017)</p>
1.25	<p>A South Korean sports association sends a letter to the Japanese Olympic Committee claiming that they should deal with the issue that a large Japanese hotel chain, APA Hotels & Resorts, has included the owner's book in guest rooms; the owner denies the Nanking Massacre in the book. The 2017 Asian Winter Games will be held in Sapporo in February, and the hotel chain is designated as a hotel for the athletes. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, the Chinese government has already asked Chinese travelers not to use the hotel chain. (Source: Mainichi Shimbun; accessed on 3/20/2017)</p>
1.28	<p>PM Abe talks with the new American president, Donald Trump, over phone. Abe celebrates the inauguration and they agree that Abe will visit Trump to meet on February 10th. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/16/2017)</p>
1.28	<p>The Sankei Shimbun reports that the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan discloses a new curriculum guideline that will be in enforcement starting in April. According to the guideline, social studies textbooks in elementary and middle school stipulate that Takeshima Island and Senkaku Islands are Japan's inherent territories. Japan and its neighbor countries have disputed control of these Islands. (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/16/2017)</p>
1.29	<p>The Nikkei Shimbun releases the result of a poll regarding the Japanese ambassador to South Korea saying Japan should protest the girl statue memorializing comfort women in Busan. According to the survey, 72% support the ambassador not returning to Seoul. 78% of male respondents and 64% of female respondents say the ambassador should not return to Seoul. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/20/2017)</p>
2.2	<p>The Chair of the Central Board of Secretaries of Komeitō (Chūō Kanji Kai), Urushibara Yoshio, says that creating an emergency article in the constitution is worth considering at a press conference. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, the LDP has discussed the creation of an article that would allow the government and the Diet to gain power in emergency situations such as natural disasters and terrorist attacks. In order to make a clear difference from the LDP, Urushibara emphasizes that the emergency article should be invoked only in an truly urgent situation. For example, if a natural disaster hits Japan at the end of a Diet period, the emergency article would extend the legislators' term of service to let them work on the urgent circumstance. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/21/2017)</p>

<p>2.3</p>	<p>The discussion over "the conspiracy law" has heated up in the Diet. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, the government submitted a bill to revise the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Control of Crime Proceeds to add a new target crime, "preparation for a terror attack". The opposition parties have criticized the bill for allowing the government to easily arrest people using the law. On the 3rd, PM Abe says that the bill the government brought in the current Diet is totally new. He continues that the bill describes necessary conditions clearly enough to remove people's negative feelings. The "conspiracy related law" bill has been discarded three times so far. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 3/21/2017)</p>
<p>2.3-4</p>	<p>The Japanese government determines the official Japanese name of the girl's statue that symbolizes comfort women, "statue of comfort women". According to the Sankei Shimbun, as of the next day, major newspapers still had not followed the government direction. The Asahi Shimbun and Yomiuri Shimbun continue to use the previous way of describing the statue, "girl statue that symbolizes the comfort women (issue)" while they report on the government's determination. The Mainichi Shimbun, the Nikkei Shimbun and the Tokyo Shimbun do not even report that the government has an official name for the statue. (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 03/21/2017)</p>
<p>2.4</p>	<p>Japanese Defense Minister Inada Tomomi and US Secretary of Defense James Mattis have their first meeting at the Ministry of Defense office in Tokyo. According to the Asahi Shimbun, they confirm the significance of the US-Japan alliance. Mattis says that reforming the US military is important to lighten burden of the bases in Okinawa and expresses an expectation that the Futenma base will be smoothly transferred to Henoko. He also appreciates the security legislation and stresses that both countries keep investing in defense. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/21/2017)</p>
<p>2.5</p>	<p>The Chair of the Kōmeitō central board, Urushibara Yoshio, suggests to discuss environmental rights and the emergency article on a Radio Nippon program. He also proposes deliberative constitutional discussion. (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 4/3/2017)</p>
<p>2.7</p>	<p>The Defense Ministry of Japan partially publishes the SDF's daily report on their PKO mission in South Sudan associated with the United Nations. However, the published daily report is partially obfuscated with black ink. DP lawmaker Gotō Yūichi criticizes the defense ministry for concealing the report, pointing out that they had withheld it for more than one month. He also claims that Defense Minister Inada Tomomi should take the responsibility on herself for the concealment and resign. Regarding the daily report, according to the Toyko Shimbun, there had been complicated circumstances. According to the Tokyo Shimbun, Inada Tomomi said that Defense Ministry informed her that they disposed of the daily report on December 26, 2016. She immediately demanded her ministry to re-investigate the missing daily report and the defense ministry admitted that they found the report later on the same day, Dec. 26. However, they told Inada about it one month later, on January 27th, 2017. The daily report's entry (entries) in July stipulates that a "battle (□□)" occurred in Juba, South Sudan. However, Inada explains that</p>

	<p>the "battle" was not any part of international military conflicts that Article 9 determines that Japan cannot get involved in. (Source: Tokyo Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/22/2017)</p>
2.7	<p>Foreign Minister Kishida Fumio talks with US Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson. TV Asahi reports that Tillerson reaffirms that Article 5 in the US-Japan security treaty would be applied to a case in the Senkaku Islands. (Source: TV Asahi website; accessed on 3/21/2017)</p>
2.7	<p>The LDP headquarters for promotion of constitutional reform has its first meeting in 2017. The headquarters starts working on summarizing the issues of constitutional discussion. On the 7th, they discuss the Emergency Article, which enables the government to afford flexibility under emergency situations such as natural disasters. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, they are going to bring the summary to the Commission on the Constitution of the House of Representatives and Councilors. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 4/3/2017)</p>
2.8	<p>In a budget committee of the House of Representatives, Defense Minister Inada Tomomi admits that there have been some conflicts in South Sudan where the SDF has joined a UN PKO. According to the Asahi Shimbun, she says that she has used "encounter (□□)" to describe the situation instead of "battle", which would be in violation of Article 9. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/22/2017)</p>
2.9	<p>Reuters reports that the Japanese government accepted 28 refugees in 2016 while 10,901 sought asylum in Japan. (Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 3/22/2017)</p>
2.9-13	<p>PM Abe visits the US to meet President Trump. According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they have a joint press conference after a summit on the 10th in Washington DC. They reach a joint statement to express their strong will to reinforce the alliance and the economical relationship between the two countries. The Nikkei Shimbun reports that they stay at Trump's villa in Florida on the 10th and 11th. They play golf on the 11th. The Nikkei Shimbun expresses that Trump's personal hospitality toward Abe is "exceptional". A detailed summary of the summit is available on MOFA's website. According to Reuters, PM Abe also visits Arlington National Cemetery and mourns the war deaths of unknown soldiers on the 10th. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/21/2017) (Source: MOFA official website; accessed on 3/21/2017)</p>
2.10	<p>Protesters demand that the government should halt sending the SDF to South Sudan. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, the protesters question the legitimacy of the SDF serving there, as their daily report repeatedly mentioned "battle" in the region. They claim that what has been happening there are not "encounters" as Defense Minister says, but "battles". (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 3/22/2017)</p>
2.11	<p>Masahiko Shimizu, a professor of constitutional law at Nippon Sport Science University,</p>

	<p>suggests that Japan switch to republicanism from the emperor system. According to the Japan Times, he says that the emperor system is based on feudalism and involves discrimination. He claims that the nation should discuss whether Japan should retain the emperor system instead of the emperor's abdication.</p> <p>(Source: Japan Times digital version; accessed on 3/22/2017)</p>
2.12	<p>PM Abe condemns North Korea for its missile launch with President Trump at their joint press conference. The statement is available on Kantei's website.</p> <p>(Source: Kantei official website; accessed on 3/22/2017)</p> <p>(Source: Huffington Post digital version; accessed on 3/22/2017)</p>
2.13	<p>North Korea announces its test launch of a ballistic missile held on the 12th. According to the Asahi Shimbun, it becomes North Korea's first missile test after President Trump took office.</p> <p>(Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/22/2017)</p>
2.13	<p>The Japan Times reports that according to a poll by Kyodo News, 70% of Japanese people are satisfied with the summit between PM Abe and President Trump.</p> <p>(Source: Japan Times digital version; accessed on 3/22/2017)</p>
2.13	<p>Japan conveys disappointment toward Russian regarding the Russian government naming three uninhabited islands near the disputed Northern Islands after a Russian/Soviet politician and soldier, Jiji Press reports.</p> <p>(Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 4/5/2017)</p>
2.14	<p>The Asahi Shimbun reports on the content of the "Home Education Support Bill" that the LDP has sought to enact in the current Diet. The bill aims to determine fundamental principles of home education and demand local residents to work with central and local governments to support their home education policies. Some of the opposition parties criticize the bill for allowing the government to intervene with the people's privacy.</p> <p>(Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 4/6/2017)</p>
2.14	<p>In a Diet session, Defense Minister Inada Tomomi receives questions about the legal definition of "battle". According to the Asahi Shimbun, sending the SDF to a "battle (□□)" field conflicts with Article 9 and Inada avoids to use the word "battle" to describe the circumstances in South Sudan. DP legislator Tsujimoto Kiyomi asks Inada's view on Syrian civil war related to ISIL's attacks. While Inada repeats that (the government) has not legally defined the incidents there, PM Abe cuts into the interpretation saying that the government has not examined whether the Syrian current situation is a "battle" or an "encounter (□□)" because the government has not considered sending the SDF there for combat support against ISIL.</p> <p>(Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/21/2017)</p>
2.16	<p>The foreign ministers of the US, Japan and South Korea release a joint statement that condemns North Korea for firing a missile, Reuters reports. The ministers have a discussion on the sidelines of the G20 foreign minister meeting.</p>

	(Source: Reuters.com; accessed on 4/6/2017)
2.17	The LDP publishes a draft of its 2017 campaign policy. The Mainichi Shimbun reports that the draft stipulates that the LDP will propose a bill to revise the constitution in 2017. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 4/6/2017)
2.17	The acting DP leader, Hosono Gōshi, reacts positively to the proposed addition of free education to the constitution. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, originally the Ishin had argued for free education and recently PM Abe mentioned it as well in the context of constitutional revision. However, DP leader Renhō has insisted that it is not necessary to revise the constitution in order to realize free education. It is expected that the DP will submit a bill for free education to the Diet in the near future. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/23/2017)
2.17	The South Korean and Japanese Foreign Ministers meet in Bonn, Germany during a G20 Foreign-Minister assembly. According to the Tokyo Shimbun, Japanese Foreign Minister Kishida Fumio pushes the South Korean minister, Yun Byung-se, to remove the girl statue in Busan. Yun says that the establishment of a statue in front of a foreign embassy is not appropriate and the South Korean government will endeavor to remove the girl statue. (Source: Tokyo Shimbun digital version; accessed on 3/23/2017)
2.20	The Kōmeitō Chair of the Commission on the Constitution says that constitutional revision should start with urgent and significant issues. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, in this context, he cites the proposed Emergency Article as an example. (Source: Digital Mainichi; accessed on 3/23/2017)
2.21	The Minister of State for Special Mission on territorial issues, Matsumoto Jun, says that a cabinet officer will attend a ceremony to mark the Day of Takeshima on the 22 nd . The celebration will be organized by Tottori-Prefecture. According to the Nikkei Shimbun, a parliamentary officer has attended the ceremony for five years since 2013. (Source: Nikkei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 4/4/2017)
2.21	The Supreme Court rejects former Prime Minister Kan Naoto's appeal that insisted that PM Abe defamed him regarding the Kan administration's policy on the nuclear power plant disaster in Fukushima in 2011. According to the Asahi Shimbun, Kan claims that Abe's newsletter defamed Kan by criticizing his mistake for failing to stop contaminated sea water from flowing. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 4/5/2017)
2.22	The Asahi Shimbun reports that a private school in Ōsaka, Moritomo Gakuen, has made pupils recite the Imperial Rescript on Education every morning. According to Ōsaka-Prefecture, the kindergarten also had distributed racially discriminatory documents, mainly targeting Korean people in Japan and Chinese people. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed 4/5/2017)
2.23	Japan's Crown Prince, Naruhito, has a press conference to mark his 57 th birthday. According to Jiji Press, he says that he was moved by the Emperor's video message regarding his

	<p>abdication, which was published in August 2016. (Source; Jiji.com; accessed on 4/6/2017)</p>
2.23	<p>Moritomo Gakuen's principal Kagoike Yasunori appears in the Diet to testify about a suspected bribe related to his school. Kagoike asserts that PM Abe's wife, Ms. Abe Akie, provided one million yen to him, saying that it was from her husband, PM Abe. This has aroused suspicion that the school received unjust discount from the government to buy nationally-owned land because of an improperly close relationship between the school and Mr. and Mrs Abe. (Source: Huffington Post digital version; accessed on 4/3/2017)</p>
2.23	<p>Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga Yoshihide says that the Japanese government condemns Russia for planning a military build-up in the Northern Islands claimed by both countries. According to Jiji Press, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu announced that the government would deploy an additional military unit in the Kuril Islands, which includes the Northern Islands. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 4/6/2017)</p>
2.24	<p>The opposition parties focus on PM Abe's responsibility regarding a suspected bribe during the budget session in the House of Representatives. They contend that Moritomo Gakuen bribed the government to buy nationally-owned land for an unreasonably low price to open a new elementary school. The opposition parties criticize Abe and his wife for their inappropriately close relationship with the school. Abe denies any secret alliance with the school and says that his wife, Abe Akie, already resigned her role as emeritus principal of the school. He also expresses his disappointment that Moritomo Gakuen collected donations to found a new school under Abe's name without his permission; Moritomo Gakuen called their proposed new school the "Abe Shinzō Memorial Elementary School" in the donation campaign, the Huffington Post reports. (Source: Huffington Post digital version; accessed on 4/3/2017) (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 4/3/2017)</p>
2.24	<p>Chair of the LDP Headquarters for Promotion of Constitutional Revision Yasuoka Okiharu says that proposing approximately three articles/clauses of the constitution in each Diet would be appropriate, Asahi Shimbun Reports. The national referendum law enacted in 2007 with constitutional revision in view limited the number of topics in the constitution that could be changed at once. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 3/23/2017)</p>
2.25	<p>The Japan Times reports that the Air SDF deployed two fighter jets capable of scrambling against China. According to the Sankei Shimbun, the government sources says that the ASDF added two more jets on the assumption that China has ramped up its military activities around the Senkaku Islands. (Source: Japan Times digital version; accessed on 4/7/2017) (Source: Sankei Shimbun digital version; accessed on 4/7/2017)</p>
2.27	<p>The DP criticizes Tsukamoto kindergarden which is run by Moritomo Gakuen, for violating the Fundamental Law of Education in a budget committee of the House of Representatives. According to Jiji Press, the kindergarden has had the pupils say "Go go PM Abe The Fundamental Law of Education bans political education to support a specific political party. (Source: Jiji.com; accessed on 4/5/2017)</p>

2.27	Representatives of three of the Six-Party Talk participants, the US, Japan and South Korea, hold a meeting in Washington, D.C. They exchange opinions over the North Korean missile firing and the assassination of Kim Jong-nam, the brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Source: Asahi Digital; accessed on 4/5/2017)
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