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Abe successfully managed US-J relations both under Obama and Trump administration. Not many leaders in the Western democracies were able to do both. Abe saw the need to restructure Japan's foreign policy and security policy due to new challenges surrounding Japan.

Despite the two being very different leaders, both Obama and Trump could be seen as a 'retrencher.' Abe's priority was to convince both of them that Japan is a good alliance partner and that US has to be a resident power in the region. Abe somehow succeeded in convincing both. This success was one of the reasons he was popular despite many setbacks domestically.

Suga will try to pursue Abe 2.0 foreign policy. However, this would be hard to do because of the COVID-19 crisis. He would have to focus on this issue as do other leaders around the world has to as well.

Biden will also have to focus on domestic issues. The recent editorial carried by Yomiuri Shimbun indicates that Japan is worried about US becoming more reluctant in playing a forward leaning role in international affairs. The erosion of the foundation of domestic democratic governance is also of a huge concern. The end of Trump era will not simply revive American global commitment. It is becoming difficult for American leaders to convince the American public of the need for a robust American internationalism.

Perhaps this worry is an overreaction in the short term. But if a strategic competition with China is to extend beyond the mid-century, the concern could not be dismissed as being overblown.

Then the questions is, what is Japan to do? We have yet to start asking that kind of question. As of today, many agree that US-J Alliance is on a firm foundation. But there are doubts about the sustainability of that. No sign of anti-Americanism or strong skepticism towards America. But the incoming Biden administration will not silence these doubts and concerns.