



*Japan, the European Union  
and Global Governance*

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Publishing (2021).

# Introduction

- ‘Build a house’ of common understandings brick by brick = level playing field and transparent rules in times of “turbulence in world order” (J. Rosenau)
- “foster shared norms, principles and standards” = what does this mean?

- 2018 *Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)*
- 2018 *Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA)*
- 2019 *Connectivity Partnership*

# From competition to deeper cooperation

- 1970s, 1980s, 1990s = turbulent times in EU-Japan relations
  - Government subsidies
  - NTBs
  - 1980: European Commission communication: reexamine the trade policy towards Japan (protective measures)
- Turning point: 1991: "Hague Declaration" = "common attachment to freedom, democracy, the rule of law and human rights"
- 2001: Action Plan for EU-Japan Cooperation = including peace and security
- Yet: "untapped potential" (trade) remained: NTBs addressed in EPA

## **Global governance:**

change the usual path of cooperation (= born from disputed trade relations) to more than economic partners

- 25 May 2020 (Ch. Michel, U.von der Leyen & Sh. Abe):

“foster global solidarity, cooperation and effective multilateralism” & Covid 19 “spare no effort to protect lives, and mitigate the social and economic consequences in keeping with their principles and values of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and non-discrimination.”

> engage with other powers on the base of their relationship.

# The EU-Japan partnership and global governance: beyond bilateralism

## → Impact of EPA

Global trade: impact on economic welfare in the rest of the world (third countries will benefit from increased demand from the EU and Japan as aggregate income goes up in the two partners) > ripple effect of the EU-Japan EPA across the world economy

## → Impact of SPA

Often defended the same interests and values (WTO, IMF, UN,..) > values discourse recurrent > shaping global rule-making

EU-Japan Cooperation in Criminal Matters

Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement

→ Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure between the European Union and Japan (27 September 2019) = “Connectivity Partnership” (sustainability = *the* shared value ex. Fiscal capacity and debt sustainability of partner countries in infrastructure countries)

“promote free, open, rules-based, fair, non-discriminatory and predictable regional and international trade and investment”

first PTA to include the Paris Agreement & includes the UNFCCC (EPA “trade and sustainable development”)  
(also important areas of cooperation: global data management and promoting of e-commerce)

**Ambitious! Will it become the stepping stone for engagement with other regions?**

# What can be expected from EU-Japan cooperation?

**Ambition = shape rule-making and governance**

- Not an easy task:
  - 1) Trade conflict US-China
  - 2) China reshaping global governance = less or different normativity, less conditional (i.e. BRI & AIIB)
  - 3) Unclear what the role of the US will be in the future (cfr. Japan-US trade agreement 2019 not compatible with the rules of the WTO, GATT Art. 24.8(b))
  - 4) Regional instabilities (EU: ex. post-Brexit, Japan: ex. South Korea, all: post-Covid-19)
- Remain distant friends, “untapped potential” ? or meet each other in an effective partnership? Robust bilateral partnership will have a positive impact on the multilateral order

**window of opportunity**

# Structure of this volume

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# EU-Japan cooperation in times of Covid-19

- How will this impact European and Japanese societies and economies, and their domestic, regional and international politics in the short as well as mid and long term.
- Rethink porosity of borders?
- Rethink easy mobility?
- Or more connectivity?

## **Yuval Noah Harari:**

we face the choice between “nationalist isolation and global solidarity” to tackle problems that do not stop at the border.

“humanity needs to make a choice. Will we travel down the route of disunity, or will we adopt the path of global solidarity? If we choose disunity, this will not only prolong the crisis, but will probably result in even worse catastrophes in the future.”

(FT, 20 March 2020)