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Thank you. We will see whether the Japanese are as enthusiastic about China as the Chinese are about themselves. I will now give the floor to Kunihiro Miyake, who is Research Director of the Canon Institute for Global studies.

Kunihiro Miyake, Research Director, The Canon Institute for Global Studies, Japan

Thank you. I think that you made a big mistake in inviting me here because I am not always the right person to talk about this. Nevertheless, I will do my best to share with you how I see the world. I am not a scholar or an economist and I am not the prophet and am not divine. What I am going to tell you, therefore, is what I believe in as regards what is going on in this part of the world, or in the world in general. The most important element is the rise of nationalism on the planet. Nationalism is back and I think that we should focus on how to control it. The Russian bear is back in Europe.

When I look at the world, this is the fourth big power shift, which perhaps started in the late 18th century when the Industrial Revolution began and Pax Britannica started. There was then the challenge at the end of the 19th century and then two challengers survived, the Americans and the Russians, and they started the Cold War. This is therefore the fourth big power shift in the world since the 18th century.

In a sense, the Cold War froze and contained the unhealthy and potentially violent nationalisms in Europe and elsewhere. Unfortunately, the events in the Crimea in 2014 symbolise the end of the post Cold War era. Unfortunately, bears are back and dragons are back and we need to deal with them. What Russia is doing on the ground in Europe is similar to what our neighbours are doing on the water in East Asia. What they are possibly trying to do is to change the status quo by force and we cannot tolerate that.

Japan is not a young nation anymore. We are aging and we want to age gracefully. It is already seven years ago, but we are now a status quo power and we do not want to change the status quo. We are happy with the status quo. Unfortunately, there may be some elements either in the East or the West, most notably former empires – and empires strike back in our part of the world and in the European part of the world. My point is, therefore, how should we deal with the rise of nationalism?

For example, when I was in London just a few months ago people were talking about Scottish independence. Is this a joke? They were serious. That is one aspect of Scottish nationalism. The British were also talking about leaving the European Union (EU), which is another example of British nationalism. It is everywhere, in France, Germany and of course even in my own country. I do not deny that. However, I think that it is time for us and the Europeans, who are also status quo powers and not status quo changing powers, to act. The EU, possibly NATO, the US, Japan and perhaps a number of South East Asia countries, I do not want to name any more, all these like minded countries have to work together and discuss the means of controlling nationalism.

My answer to this question is quite simple, and it is democracy. We have some right wingers in my country. I do not deny that. However, if you go to Europe, you see more votes for right wingers. I was surprised by the election for the European Parliament in May because there were much more votes for right wingers in the European Parliament than in Japan.



However, I am still confident that democracy and universal values will prevent this from going too far. With democracy and universal values, we can control nationalism, which is potentially unhealthy, violent and dangerous.