

## ***China's Application for TPP and the Asia-Pacific (Summary)***

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This paper summarizes the circumstances and impacts of China's application for membership in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in September 2021.

The TPP was promoted by the Obama administration in the United States as a framework for creating rules for liberalization of trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific in response to the China's political and economic rise. With the advent of the Trump administration in 2017, the United States left the framework, with the remaining members centered around Japan renegotiating and entering into force in 2018 as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

China's application for TPP (CPTPP), which was made in a situation where the conflict between the United States and China had become more serious, is not merely a check on the United States, but China intends to be involved in the formation of international economic rules.

On the other hand, the rise of domestic protectionist political forces in the United States has made it difficult to utilize FTAs, including tariff elimination, as a policy tool. Therefore, in 2022, the United States has proposed the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), a framework that does not involve the elimination of tariffs, in response to China's move.

Based on this situation, this paper looks at a desirable choice for Japan, which is in the leading position of the TPP in the midst of the conflict between the United States and China.

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