CANON INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL STUDIES
November 21, 2018

"THE U.S. MIDTERM ELECTIONS AND JAPAN"
Glen S. Fukushima
Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress
Former President, American Chamber of Commerce in Japan
Former Deputy Assistant United States Representative for Japan and China

I. Introduction
   A. Background
   B. Today's topic

II. U.S. Midterm Elections of Nov. 6, 2018 (116th Congress)
   A. Democrats
       1. House: 232 vs. 198 (5?) (D+37) [218 of 435]
       2. 123 women (104 D v. 19 R) (40 of color)
       3. Governors: 23 vs. 27 (D+7) [50]
       4. Overall vote 7%+; millennials (18-29) 67/32, women 59/40
       5. White 44/54, African American 90/9, Asian American 77/23, Latino 69/29
   B. Republicans
       1. Senate: 47 vs. 52 (1?) (R+2) [51 of 100]
       2. 26 v. 9: Arizona, Nevada; North Dakota, Missouri, Indiana, Florida
       3. Texas, Tennessee
       4. Governors: Iowa, Ohio, Florida
   C. Implications
       1. House: subpoena power, investigations
       2. Senate: confirmation of nominees
       3. Impeachment?
   D. White House
       1. Domestic focus?
       2. Foreign focus?

III. America in 2018
   A. Divisions
       1. Geographic (West Coast, East Coast vs. Midwest, South)
       2. Urban vs. rural
       3. Gender (male vs. female)
       4. Race (white vs. nonwhite)
       5. Religion (Christian vs. Jewish vs. Muslim)
       6. Age (young vs. old)
       7. Sexual identity (LGBTQ)
       8. Wealth/income
       9. Education (college vs. non-college)
       10. Political party (Democrat vs. Republican)
   B. Context
       1. Economy: financial crisis of 2008
       2. Ideology: role of government
       3. Politics: government deadlock
       4. Race: election of Barack Obama
   C. Election of Donald Trump on November 8, 2016
       1. FBI Director Comey
       2. Russian hacking, Wikileaks, Facebook, etc.
       3. President Obama's inaction
       4. Democratic Party strategy
       5. Hillary Clinton

D. Results
  1. Popular vote: 62,984,828 vs. 65,853,514 (2,868,686)
  2. Electoral vote: 304 vs. 227 (46 = 77,744):
     a. Michigan (10,704)
     b. Wisconsin (22,748)
     c. Pennsylvania (44,292)
E. Common interests between Trump and the Republican Party
  1. Tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy
  2. Deregulation (financial, environmental, etc.)
  3. Repealing Obamacare
  4. Restricting immigration
  5. Conservative Supreme Court (abortion, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, racial equality, voting rights, criminal justice, gun control, labor unions, environment, campaign financing, etc.)
F. Donald Trump: Aberration or long-term future trend? Effect, not cause

IV. Presidential Election of Nov. 3, 2020
  A. Republicans (Trump; Pence, Ryan, etc.)
  B. Democrats (Michael Avenatti, Joe Biden, Michael Bloomberg, Cory Booker, Sherrod Brown, Steve Bullock, Julian Castro, Hillary Clinton, John Delaney, Eric Garcetti, Kirsten Gillibrand, Kamala Harris, John Hickenlooper, Eric Holder, John Inslee, John Kerry, Amy Klobuchar, Mitch Landrieu, Terry McAuliffe, Jeff Merkley, Chris Murphy, Martin O'Malley, Beto O'Rourke, Deval Patrick, Bernie Sanders, Howard Schultz, Elizabeth Warren, Mark Zuckerberg, etc.)

V. Reasons for Optimism (in the long term)
  A. Demographic trends in the U.S.
  B. Millennials (trade, immigration, environment, abortion, LGBTQ, gun control, etc.)
  C. California (Gov. Jerry Brown, Gavin Newsom; Attorney General Xavier Becerra)

VI. U.S.-Japan Relations
  A. "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (U.S.-Australia-India-Japan)
  B. National security
  C. Trade: U.S.-Japan FTA?
     1. Agriculture
     2. Automobiles
  D. Slides: (1) free trade; (2) fair trade; (3) Japan trade

VII. Conclusions
  A. Domestic focus
  B. Competition with China (VP Pence speech at Hudson Institute, Oct. 4, 2018)
  C. Cooperation with Japan

REFERENCES:

https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2018/10/11/commentary/world-commentary/u-s-midterm-elections-japan/?fbclid=IwAR0Y0D5Khr-qqXkMlWCnrfzWu84wJamQbWBnweBP6hAbboRdUSCY6C05WgQ#.W9DBfntKiyp

https://toyokeizai.net/articles/-/243630

https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2018/11/08/commentary/japan-commentary/u-s-midterms-implications/#.W-Tog6ZRd69

https://ql.mediasilo.com/#ql/5bd156ede4b094fe10762f9e/d106d9af-55cf-436f-958f-e7f1e74eaafa

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2018-10-26/abe-xi-meeting-will-produce-significant-results-says-center-for-american-progress-video?fbclid=IwAR0BYxEWUgUsVx9yjf2TYlEVQIXXMGZblyFNCe64OgYqKKeQ1xZuHscmPFA