

Ishiba Gets Trump's Support on Key Issues, Must Push Forward

石破茂首相とトランプ大統領が初の対面会談を行いました。会談や共同記者会見は概ね友好的な雰囲気だったといわれています。共同声明では「日米関係の新たな黄金時代を追求する」と謳いました。あなたは今回の会談に対してどのような感想を持ちますか？また、もし日本の首相だとしたら、アメリカとの外交関係において、最も優先すべき課題はどのようなことだと思いますか？



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

The just concluded Japan-US summit meeting was a success. During his visit to the United States, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba held his first face-to-face meeting with President Donald Trump. He was only the second foreign leader, after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to meet Trump since he took office on January 20.

Their meeting and joint press conference were held amidst a friendly atmosphere. Concerning **bilateral** defense cooperation, Trump made the following statement. "The United States is totally committed to the security of Japan. We will extend the full strength of American **deterrence** capabilities and defense of our friend and ally, one hundred percent. In the years to come, the Prime Minister and I will be working closely together to maintain peace and security."

Most significantly, Japanese and American leaders have aligned themselves on security issues in the face of common threats from China and North Korea.

Emphatically, the background to the success of this meeting was the mutual trust **forged** between former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Trump.

Continued on next page.

Source : Ishiba Gets Trump's Support on Key Issues, Must Push Forward

JAPAN Forward

1. Article

That was further promoted by successive administrations in Japan since the time of the Abe Cabinet.

The joint statement issued after the summit confirmed the importance of upholding a "free and open Indo-Pacific." It also made clear that Article 5 of the Japan-US Security Treaty — which obliges the United States to defend territories under Japan's administration from armed attack — applies to the Senkaku Islands. Finally, it also reaffirmed the common goal of maintaining "peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait."

Moreover, there was a firm statement of American support for Japan's determination to solve North Korea's abductions of Japanese nationals as soon as possible.

After this summit, Prime Minister Ishiba should not become complacent and neglect continued diplomacy with the US. Strengthening the alliance is essential to pursue the "golden age of US-Japan relations" mentioned in the summit's joint statement.

In that joint leaders' statement, the Prime Minister committed "to fundamentally reinforcing Japan's defense capabilities beyond FY 2027." That is the year the current total spending of ¥43 trillion JPY (\$284 billion USD) is due to end. His pledge must now be reliably fulfilled before any visit to Japan by Chinese President Xi Jinping takes place.

As for economics, both sides confirmed the importance of pursuing their respective national interests. The US side appears to understand Japan's [track record](#) of contributing to the US through investment and employment. It also seems to appreciate Prime Minister Ishiba's desire to increase Japanese investment in the US to the \$1 trillion level.

A recent hot point has been the proposed Nippon Steel buyout of US Steel. On this, the two sides agreed that instead of purchasing US Steel, Nippon Steel would make a sizable investment in the American company. How the matter will be eventually resolved remains unclear. However, we view this as progress in overturning the Biden administration's decision to close the door on Nippon Steel.

Ishiba and Trump also agreed that the US will increase exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other products to Japan. This would be significant from a security perspective. In addition, it would diversify Japan's sources for LNG [procurement](#) and allow for continued imports in times of emergency.

On the US side, it would also help reduce the trade deficit with Japan. However, the considerable costs involved, including for pipeline construction, should be carefully considered before proceeding.

The summit meeting did not eliminate the possibility that the high tariff policy being promoted by the Trump administration might be applied to Japan at some future date. The Ishiba administration must now strive to develop even closer channels of communication with the American government.

Source : [Ishiba Gets Trump's Support on Key Issues, Must Push Forward](#)
[JAPAN Forward](#)

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. **bilateral** 双方向の、二国間の；両面のある

A **bilateral** approach is necessary to resolve the territorial dispute.

2. **deterrence** 抑止力；阻止、抑止

Nuclear weapons are often considered a form of **deterrence** against potential threats.

3. **forge** (努力して関係などを) 築く、構築する、形成する；炉、鍛冶場、鉄工所；
(金属を) 鍛造する、プレスする；(違法に偽物を) 偽造する、でっち上げる

The two companies decided to **forge** a strategic partnership.

4. **track record** (過去の) 実績、業績、経歴；陸上競技の成績

His **track record** as a reliable leader made him the ideal candidate for the position.

5. **procurement** (特に政府、軍隊、組織などによる物資の) 調達、入手

The government is responsible for the **procurement** of military equipment.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What commitment did Trump make regarding Japan's security during the summit?
2. What economic agreement did Japan and the US reach regarding Nippon Steel and US Steel?
3. What are the potential challenges related to the US increasing LNG exports to Japan?
4. Japan and the US discussed economic cooperation in the summit. What do you think are the benefits and risks of international economic partnerships?
5. If you were the Prime Minister of Japan, what would be your top priority in diplomatic relations with the US?

4. 日本語関連記事： 日米首脳会談 同盟強化を確実に進めよ

今回の日米首脳会談を評価したい。

訪米した石破茂首相がトランプ大統領と初の対面会談を行った。トランプ氏の就任後、イスラエルに続く2番目の首脳会談だ。

会談や共同記者会見は友好的な雰囲気だった。トランプ氏は防衛協力に関連し「米国の抑止力、能力を使って友好国、同盟国を100%守る。石破首相と私は密接に協力し、平和を維持する」と語った。

共通の脅威である中国や北朝鮮に対し、日米の首脳が安全保障で足並みをそろえた意義は極めて大きい。

今回の会談の背景には、安倍晋三元首相とトランプ氏の信頼関係や、安倍政権以来の歴代内閣の安保政策の推進があった点を強調しておきたい。

共同声明は「自由で開かれたインド太平洋」の堅持や、日米安保条約第5条の尖閣諸島への適用、「台湾海峡の平和と安定」維持の重要性を確認した。拉致問題の即時解決への日本の決意を米国は支持した。

石破首相は今回の会談に安堵（あんど）して対米外交を疎（おろそ）かにしてはいけない。共同声明で謳（うた）った「日米関係の黄金時代」の追求には同盟強化が欠かせない。

共同声明で首相は、総額43兆円の支出が終わる2027年度よりも先の防衛力の抜本的強化の継続を約束した。確実な実行が必要だ。トランプ氏は訪日招待に応じた。習近平中国国家主席の訪日よりも先に実現すべきだ。

経済では双方が国益を追求する重要性を確認できた。日本が投資や雇用で米国に貢献した実績や、対米投資を1兆ドル規模にしたいとの石破首相の意向が一定の理解を得たのだろう。

次頁に続く

出典：日米首脳会談 同盟強化を確実に進めよ
JAPAN Forward

4.

日本語関連記事： 日米首脳会談 同盟強化を確実に進めよ

日本製鉄のUSスチール買収計画については「買収ではなく多額の投資」との認識で一致した。最終決着は見通せないが、日鉄への門戸を閉ざした前政権の判断を覆す上で前進と受け止めたい。

液化天然ガス（LNG）などの対日輸出増も合意した。調達先の多角化や有事の輸入継続につながる安保上の意義に加え、対日貿易赤字削減にも資する。パイプライン建設などのコストも吟味して進めてほしい。

今回の会談で米国の高関税政策が日本に及ぶ可能性が否定されたわけではない。石破政権は米政府との意思疎通を一層緊密にしなければならない。



出典：日米首脳会談 同盟強化を確実に進めよ
[JAPAN Forward](#)