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G7 Research Group

The  
G7 Research Group  
at the Munk School of Global Affairs at Trinity College in the University of Toronto  
presents the

**Media Analysis of the G7  
and the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit**

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## Introduction and Research Methodology

*Giorgia Ponti*

This report summarizes the media coverage of the G7 and its member states of the 2016 Ise-Shima G7 Summit on May 26-27, 2016. By focusing on a two-month period from May 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, this report analyzes the leading media outlets from each member state assessing the nature of their coverage on G7 and non-G7 related issues.

An average of three newspapers were chosen for each G7 member state to provide a comprehensive snapshot of the national media landscape. The newspapers were selected based on daily circulation, political influence, and political orientation. In addition to previous reports, a daily economic newspaper was integrated when possible. The following newspapers were selected for each G7 member state:

G7 Country	Newspapers
Canada	The Globe and Mail The National Post La Presse Canadienne
France	Le Figaro Liberation Les Échos
Germany	Suddeutsche Zeitung Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung Handelsblatt
Italy	Corriere della Sera Il Sole 24 Ore La Repubblica
Japan	Asahi Shimbun Nikkei
United Kingdom	The Daily Telegraph The Financial Times
United States	The New York Times The Wall Street Journal The National Post

Analysts collected all the articles published in the two-month period from their country's respective media outlets through searches of the Factiva Dow Jones Database as well as each newspaper's website. An online survey tool, *SurveyMonkey*, was then used to analyze the content of each article collected, asking questions on countries, leaders and issues that received attention in each member state.

## Research Findings

*Giorgia Ponti*

### General Findings

Media coverage of the G7 and the Ise-Shima Summit presented various similarities and differences across all seven members states. Nevertheless, in each country's media, issues were covered and discussed from the perspective of national concerns and interests.

Overall, the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit was portrayed in a neutral light across all seven member states, with minimal reference to protestors. Being hosted by the G7's only Asian member state, Japan, the 2016 Summit failed to address important issues and thus did not leave many expectations for the Summit's efficiency nor agenda-setting goals.

For all member states the most prominent issue was the global economy. The Brexit dilemma was the primary global economic topic of discussion. Each newspaper discussed the economic consequences that a disengagement of the UK from the EU would have on the Union's future, its impact on the UK's future as well as the consequences Brexit could have on the newspapers' respective nation. Furthermore, the media coverage across European members focused on the ongoing Greek economic crisis. Naturally, the media coverage of countries with both a membership to the EU and the G7 was also steered by the negotiations of austerity measures in a struggling Eurozone.

Other prominent issues were regional security and terrorism. However, the focus on these issues varied in respect to each country's media landscape as each nation mirrored its national interests and concerns. For example, the prominence of issue of security in the South China Sea in the media mirrors the urgency and importance for Japan, the 2016 host. Even though it is not a member of the Group of Seven, China's importance remained consistent across G7 member states' media outlets, influencing decision-making, commitments, and compliance. Contrastingly, European member countries focused on the migrant crisis and its consequences on the European continent, while, countries like Japan and the United States concentrated on the rise of the North Korean nuclear threat on the world stage.

The coverage of member and non-member states was consistent throughout the media of the G7. When discussing member states, most newspapers focused on their respective country as well as their closest diplomatic allies. As for non-member states, the most noted was China. The rising Asian powerhouse was mentioned in the context of the conflict in the South China Sea, which, due to geopolitical factors, resulted as a significant and prominent issue for the host, Japan. In addition, Russia was also mentioned significantly through the media outlets, in reference to its controversial re-entry into the Group after its exclusion in 2014 caused by President Putin's annexation of Crimea. This topic was especially true for the United States, who is central to the negotiations after President Barack Obama's sanction on Russia. Furthermore, Syria was also noted in various media outlets, discussing the G7's involvement and contribution in Syria's ongoing civil war and its facilitating rise of terrorism.

## Conclusions

*Giorgia Ponti*

Based on the analysis of all collected articles, the Media Studies group has arrived at the following conclusions about the media coverage of the G7 and the Ise-Shima Summit between May 1<sup>st</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016:

*(1) Media outlets framed the G7 and 2016 Ise-Shima Summit from the perspective of their national interests.*

This conclusion is consistent across the Media Studies reports in recent years. Even though all member states' media discussed international-oriented issues, such as world economy, regional security and terrorism, each nation discussed the subjects in ways directly linked to their interests, concerns, and leadership. The continuing prioritization of domestic interests over Summit events and agenda items demonstrates that global governance is not an entrenched norm in global society. For example, being hosted by Japan (its only Asian member) the issues of terrorism and regional security were not put into the agenda; however, it was one of the most prominent issues mentioned across all collected articles. The rise of radical extremism and terrorism has recently been a growing concern in European countries, such as France and the UK. Japan's national interests do not mirror the ones from European G7 members and thus the Japanese media gave little or no attention to these issues.

*(2) The tone and the focus of the collected articles diminishes the role and importance of the G7 as an international organization.*

The 2016 Ise-Shima Summit was portrayed across all member states' medias in a neutral light. This calls into question the perceived importance of the role of the G7. Most of the articles collected reported through the lens of their country's leaders, instead of commenting on the Summit and its agenda. This unilateral perspective is indicative of the lack of impact of the G7. Media outlets of the member states prioritize domestic and international matters, which is likely reflective of the interests of the domestic populations.

Furthermore, during both the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit and the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, protestors were given little to no attention from the media, with the exception of heavy German coverage of protestors during the 2015 Summit. This also directly connects to the diminished role that the outlets are portraying of the G7, blocking manifestations and opinions of the public.

## Country Reports

### Canada

*Brianna Guertin*

#### Newspapers

The newspapers chosen to study the Canadian media coverage of the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit are: The Globe and Mail, The National Post, and La Presse Canadienne (La Presse). 40 percent of articles surveyed were published by the Globe and Mail, 37 percent were published by the National Post, and 23 percent were published by La Presse. The large majority of articles were news articles, and portrayed the G7 summit neutrally. The only notable difference in media coverage between the three newspapers was the negative portrayal of Justin Trudeau by the National Post. 63 percent of analyzed National Post articles portrayed Trudeau negatively, compared with 0 percent of articles in the Globe and Mail and La Presse. This can be explained by the National Post's center – right ideological stance, which causes disagreement with Trudeau's center – left policies.

The use of vocabulary in headlines varied between the newspapers. All articles analyzed by La Presse contained the word G7 in the headline, no articles by the Globe and Mail and only 27 percent of articles by the National Post. 50 percent of analyzed articles by the The Globe and Mail contained the word "Canada", which reflects that Canadian focus adopted by most Globe and Mail articles in their reporting of the Summit, compared with The National Post and La Presse, which tended to focus more specifically on Prime Minister Trudeau than on Canada in general. The National Post had 100 percent of analyzed articles focusing on Canada, however, it focused its G7 reporting on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. 82 percent of analyzed articles by the National Post and 71 percent of analyzed articles by La Presse focused specifically on Trudeau, compared with only 25 percent in the Globe and Mail.

#### Summit Coverage

The summit portrayal was highly neutral in the Canadian media, with 96 percent of analyzed articles portraying the summit in a neutral light. The neutral portrayal of the summit reflects that the Canadian media coverage focused greatly on the Canadian contribution to the summit and not the events or outcomes of the summit itself.

Only one of the analyzed articles mentions street protesters, and this article neutrally discussed protests in Germany in opposition to the Canada – European Union Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement.

#### Issue Coverage

The world economy was the most popular issue, covered in 50 percent of analyzed articles. The high coverage of the world economy can be explained by Canada's dependence on the world markets for its prosperity and by a new wave of opposition to free trade, during a time when Canada is actively pursuing trade agreements worldwide. There was also some speculation over the implications of the potential Brexit and the impact it would have on Canadians.

Terrorism was mentioned in 23 percent of articles in the context of Justin Trudeau's efforts to gain support for his stance on not paying ransom to terrorists. Ransom is particularly sensitive to Canadians because of the recent beheading of Canadians Robert Hall and John Ridsdel after the Canadian government refused to pay ransom to Abu Sayyad, a Filipino terrorist group, in exchange for their release.

Regional security was mentioned in 30 percent of surveyed articles. Regional security was largely covered in the context of conflict in the South China Sea. Other topics mentioned include climate change (27 percent), terrorism (23 percent), African development (17 percent), global health (13 percent) and food security (10 percent). Trudeau's decision to take a day off of the Summit to celebrate his wedding anniversary was notably the main topic of 10 percent of surveyed articles. Energy security, non-proliferation, intellectual property and outreach and expansion were not mentioned in any of the analyzed articles.

**Coverage of Member and Non-Member Countries**

Canada was by far the most mentioned country, with 87 percent of articles featuring Canada most prominently, and 100 percent of articles mentioning Canada. Japan was mentioned in 90 percent of articles, most often in the context of being the summit host nation. The United States was mentioned in 50 percent of articles, which is easily explained both by its dominance as a world power and its proximity and relative importance to Canadians. The United Kingdom was mentioned in 43 percent of articles, mostly in the context of Brexit. The least mentioned countries were Germany (30 percent), France (27 percent) and Italy (17 percent). The most mentioned non-G7 countries were China (30 percent), followed by the Philippines (16 percent), mentioned in the context of the beheading of Robert Hall and John Ridsel, followed by Russia (10 percent).



## France

Ernest Leung

### Newspapers

Three French national daily newspapers were used in the analysis of the French media coverage of the G7 Summit in Ise-Shima, Japan: *Le Figaro*, *Libération*, and *Les Échos*. All three newspapers have a far-reaching national audience. L'Office de justification de la diffusion ("Circulation Audit Office"), a non-profit organization that validates newspaper circulation in France, reported that *Le Figaro* circulated an average of 264,559 copies per issue in 2016, while *Les Échos* circulated 127,475 copies and *Libération* circulated 77,094 copies. 50 percent of the articles sampled came from *Le Figaro*, 32 percent came from *Les Échos* and 18 percent came from *Libération*. On the whole, the vocabulary and tone used throughout each of the articles was very neutral, seeming to adhere to unbiased reporting. None of the articles sampled were front page articles.

*Le Figaro* is widely regarded as politically aligning itself on the more right-wing side of the political spectrum. *Libération* is center-left; however, it is considered pro-European. *Libération* uses images and graphics to portray the news, and appeals to a different type of citizen in France than *Le Figaro* does. *Les Échos*, on the other hand, supports economic liberalism and often focuses the intersection between environmental impacts and the global economy.

### Summit Coverage

The G7 was mentioned in 77 percent of articles. Of those articles, 35 percent mentioned the G7 in a position light, and 65 percent mentioned the G7 in a neutral light.

68 percent of articles sampled covered the Ise-Shima Summit. Of those articles, 31 percent portrayed the summit in a positive light, and the remaining were neutral. None of the articles mentioned protestors.

### Issues Coverage

73 percent of all articles focused on or mentioned the global economy, making it the most covered topic. The second most covered topic was regional security, mentioned in 22 percent of articles. 14 percent discussed terrorism and global health, 9 percent of articles discussed outreach and expansion, non-proliferation, and climate change, and 4 percent discussed food security. None mentioned intellectual property issues, African development, or energy security issues.

### Coverage of Member and Non-Member Countries

France was mentioned by 55 percent of all articles, with 42 percent of mentions being positive and 58 percent neutral. Italy was mentioned by 18 percent of articles, with all portrayals being neutral. The United Kingdom was mentioned by 41 percent of articles, with 78 percent of mentions being neutral and 22 percent negative. The United States was mentioned by 41 percent of articles, with 67 percent being neutral, 22 percent positive and 11 percent negative. Japan was mentioned by 55 percent of articles, with 83 percent of mentions being neutral and 17 percent being positive. Canada was mentioned by 23 percent of articles and all were neutral. Germany was mentioned by 27 percent of all articles and all mentions were neutral. France and Japan were mentioned most frequently because France was the country of newspaper coverage and Japan was the host country for the summit. The US was mentioned frequently because it is a relatively powerful actor. The UK was also mentioned frequently, commonly in the context of the possibility of a Brexit.

Russia was mentioned by 18 percent of articles, China by 23 percent, and India and South Korea by 4 percent. The tone in which China and Russia were mentioned highlighted their opposition to the Western liberal democratic world; for example, Russia was negatively portrayed in the context of its territorial issues with Ukraine. A non-state actor, the European Union, was discussed frequently, often in the context of Brexit. The articles speculated how a Brexit would shape the future of the European and world economy, as well as relations between states.

## Germany

*Anton Rizor*

### Newspapers

Three newspapers were selected for an analysis of the German media coverage of the G7 Summit in Ise-Shima, Japan: The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, the Süddeutsche Zeitung and the Handelsblatt. All three newspapers covered the summit almost equally. 38 percent of the analyzed articles stemmed from the Handelsblatt, 34 percent were published in the Süddeutsche Zeitung and 28 percent were written in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. While the summit was closely covered, only in 3 percent of cases did an article concerning the summit appear on the front page of the newspaper. Though there were cases of profiles and opinion pieces, close to 90 percent of the articles were informative news pieces.

### Summit Coverage

The G7 were largely portrayed in a neutral light. However, 13 percent of the articles viewed the group positively, while 6 percent portrayed it negatively. In over 90 percent of the articles the Ise-Shima summit is mentioned, hinting at the importance of the conference in relation to the G7 group. No article mentioned protestors, a significant difference to the 2015 Elmau summit, during which protestors were at the center of coverage by German media. As the host country, Japan was generally portrayed in a positive light. No article describes the host Japan negatively.

### Issue Coverage

There was a diversity of issues covered in the German media. The world economy was a focal point in the coverage, with 61 percent of the articles focusing on economic issues. Significant economic topics that were covered were: international and free trade, structural reforms, cooperation to combat Greece's ongoing financial weakness, the slowing growth of Japan's economy and investments in international development. 35 percent of the articles sampled mention regional security. This increased focus on regional security can be partially explained by pressing security issues like the South Chinese Sea dispute, Russia's continuous aggression towards Ukraine and the war in Syria. Meanwhile, 6 percent of the articles mentioned global health – specifically focusing on the G7's efforts to prevent the spread of viruses like the Zika virus. Equally as many articles targeted African Development as the industrial players hoped to formulate a strategy against the continuous hunger and refugee crisis. Given that the summit was held in Japan and President Obama visited Hiroshima, Nuclear Non-Proliferation was also a topic covered in 6 percent of the articles. Climate Change, Terrorism, Food Security and Outreach and Expansion were least covered, only being mentioned in 3 percent of the articles. The precarious issues regarding economic development overshadowed other topics.

### Coverage of Member and Non-Member Countries

Germany featured most prominently in the coverage of the G7 summit with 55 percent of the articles mentioning it. 10 percent of the articles focused on the United States and 6 percent mentioned Japan most prominently. The United Kingdom, Canada and France also received substantial recognition in 3 percent of the articles. Italy was not prominently mentioned. Out of non-member states, Russia was the focal point of 68 percent of the articles. Meanwhile, China was mentioned most prominently in 26 percent of the articles. South Korea also received special focus in 6 percent of the articles. Other countries mentioned were Greece, Vietnam, Taiwan, Ukraine and Syria.

Naturally, the German media mainly focused on Germany at the summit. The performance of German representatives, but also the statements of the German delegation were carefully reported. As a significant partner in trade and security, the United States is a traditional focal point in German news coverage of world issues. Given that the US was in an election year in 2016, it is not surprising that the country was frequently reported on. Japan as the host country also attracted a larger amount of attention. The second year after Russia's exit from the G8, the country remained at the center of coverage of non-member states. The announcement of new sanctions as a result of continuous aggression in the region, particularly the conflict with Ukraine and its involvement in Syria, but also allegations surrounding Russian cyber warfare caused

media attention towards Russia. Similarly, China's role in the South China Sea dispute and its crucial role in the world economy help explain why it was mentioned prominently.

## Italy

Francesca Benvenuti

### Newspapers

Three prominent newspapers were chosen for the analysis of Italian media coverage of the 2016 G7 Ise – Shima Summit: *La Repubblica*, *Corriere della Sera* and *Sole 24 ore*. As of March 2015, *Corriere della Sera* had a daily circulation of 319,484; *La Repubblica* reached 275,415 copies; and *La Stampa* 188,582 copies. Although disputable, the highly demanded *Corriere della Sera* is the most prominent daily newspaper throughout the nation. *La Stampa* and *La Repubblica* are considered less eminent, particularly the former, as it covers more regional-related issues. 37 percent of the articles analyzed were published in *La Repubblica*, 34 percent in *Corriere della Sera* and 29 percent in *Il Sole 24 Ore*. 34 percent of the articles appeared on the front page. 37 percent of articles had G7, G8, Group of Seven or Group of 8 in the headline. 74 percent of the articles were news; 11 percent were editorial; 8 percent were opinion and 8 percent were interviews.

### Summit coverage

39 percent of articles portrayed the G7 in a positive light, while only 17 percent depicted it in a negative light. 8 percent did not mention the G7 at all, and 36 percent did not show any clear rating of the G7. 44 percent of articles mentioned the Ise-Shima Summit, with 28 percent of articles portraying the summit neutrally, 11 percent portraying it negatively and 61 percent portraying it neutrally. None of the articles mentioned protestors.

### Issue Coverage

The most covered issues were: world economy, regional security and terrorism. The world economy was the most prominently featured issue in the 71 percent of articles, most of which referred to Brexit. Regional security was the focus of 17 percent of articles, and terrorism in 11 percent, generally in the context of immigration and Islamic extremism. The frequency of coverage of these issues can be explained by the Italy's first-line position in the accepting of migrants. Other topics discussed were: global health (6 percent), African development (3 percent), and intellectual property (3 percent).

Climate change, food security, energy security, non-proliferation, and outreach and expansion, were not mentioned in any of the analyzed articles.

### Coverage of Member and Non-Member Countries

Unsurprisingly, Italy was the most prominently mentioned country, with 31 percent of articles focusing on Italy. In the articles collected, 14 percent did not mention any particular country. Aside from Italy, the G7 countries that were most prominently mentioned throughout the articles was the United Kingdom, mentioned in 23 percent of analyzed articles, generally in the context of Brexit. Japan and the US were both mentioned in the 11 percent of the articles. Japan was mentioned as the host country, and the US was mentioned in most of the articles in the context of populism and the upcoming American election. Germany was mentioned only in 9 percent of articles. France and Canada were not mentioned.

Of non-G7 countries, the most frequently mentioned was China. China was mentioned in the 20 percent of articles, often in reference to China's position as a large economic power. Russia was mentioned in the 9 percent of articles, in particular for its role in Middle-East. Greece was also mentioned in 9 percent of articles.

## Japan

*Yukari Kosaka*

### Newspapers

The two newspapers used to analyze the Japanese media were The Nikkei and Asahi Shimbun. The Nikkei focuses on financial, economic, business issues and also calculates the stock market index for the Tokyo Stock Exchange. As it has a specific focus for its publication, the main readers of the paper are working men in their 30s to 50s and the average household income of those who subscribe are higher than other national newspapers.

Of the 31 newspaper articles that were collected for analysis, 16 were by the Asahi Shimbun and 15 were by the Nikkei Shimbun. The majority, 48 percent, of the articles collected were editorials while others were news and opinion articles with 35 percent and 16 percent respectively.

### Summit coverage

The G7 was portrayed neutrally by 74 percent of analyzed articles, while 19 percent viewed the G7 positively and 6 percent negatively. The majority of articles portrayed the G7 in a neutral perspective despite uncertainty of the long-term effects of Brexit and the outcomes of the US presidential elections. The Ise-Shima Summit was mentioned in all of the analyzed articles, with 29 percent portraying the summit positively and only 2 percent portraying it negatively.

Of the articles analyzed, none mentioned protests or protestors at the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit.

### Issue Coverage

Two topics that were heavily discussed at the 2016 Summit were the world economy and regional security, being covered most prominently by 71 percent and 32 percent of the articles researched. Articles focused on the issues of Russian aggression in Ukraine, the continuing conflict in the Middle East with the Islamic State, the slowing down of economic growth in the international economy, and effects of Brexit.

The majority of articles focused on world economy, which can be in part explained by the fact that the Nikkei holds its reputation as a financial newspaper. Nevertheless, the world economy has continued to be a crucial topic of discussion as economic growth is in a decline internationally and the debates are difficult to conduct without the rising economic powers such as China and India from the G20.

Other topics were given more attention at the 2016 Summit compared to the previous years were: global health (because of the Zika virus epidemic), the refugee crisis, and women's rights and empowerment.

### Coverage of Member and Non-Member Countries

Both newspapers focused heavily on Japan, with Japan being the main focus of 74 percent of the articles analyzed. As the host of the 2016 Summit, 51 percent of the articles portrayed Japan in a neutral perspective, while 32 percent had positive and 13 percent had negative views. Other G7 member states that were most prominently mentioned were the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany covered in 13 percent, 3 percent and 3 percent respectively. Only 3 percent of the articles portrayed the US negatively, whereas Germany and the UK were seen negatively by 26 percent and 39 percent of the articles. A key factor that led to the negative outlook of the UK and Germany, along with France and Italy, was the effects of Brexit in the European and international political and economic balance. With the United Kingdom withdrawing itself from the European Union, many newspaper articles suspected the uncertainty of its long-term effects. Meanwhile, the only factor of concern about the United States had been the then upcoming presidential election. The United States and former President Barack Obama were portrayed in a more positive or neutral light, especially with his planned visit to Hiroshima, 71 years after the atomic bomb was dropped during World War II.

Russia, who has not been part of the G8 discussions since the 2014 Summit, was covered in 45 percent of the articles for its continuing intervention in the Crimean Peninsula and how their involvement in the European

trade may change after Brexit. China was covered in 77 percent of the articles as an important nation in discussing world economy as a prominent member of the G20 and of the developing nations despite the recent decrease in its economic growth. China was also discussed on the topic of regional security as the Senkaku/Diaoyu Island and the South China Sea disputes continue with Japan and the Southeast Asian nations. Syria and the Islamic State were also brought to attention in regional security talks as the tension in the Middle East continues not only causing casualties but also creating refugee issues. As for regional security in Japan, missile testing by North Korea and US military bases in Okinawa were also mentioned.

## United Kingdom

*Tatiana Ferrara Menezes*

### Newspapers

Two prominent daily newspapers were selected for an analysis of the British media coverage of the G7 Summit in Ise-Shima, Japan: The Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph. The Financial Times tends to express center to left political support, with a prominent focus on business affairs and news. The Daily Telegraph is regarded as being supporting of the Conservative Party. According to the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the average daily circulation of these newspapers, as of September 2016 are as follows: The Financial Times: 193,553; The Daily Telegraph: 458,272.

With regards to distribution of G7 coverage, the majority of the articles gathered were from the Financial Times (69 percent). The remaining 31 percent of articles analyzed were from Daily Telegraph. 37 percent of the articles used the terms G7, Group of Seven, Group of Eight, and G8 in the headline. 80 percent of articles mentioned the recent Summit. With regards to the tone of the articles when discussing the G7, the majority provided no clear tone. 63 percent of the articles gave either a neutral tone or no clear perspective. 20 percent of the articles provided a positive portrayal of the G7, while 17 percent gave a negative portrayal of the group.

71 percent of articles analyzed mentioning the G7 were classified as news articles. There is an even number of editorial and opinion articles, with each of these classifications appearing at 11 percent. In the minority, 6 percent of the articles are classified as features. Also, a large majority of articles that depicted any G7-coverage were not on the front page. 11 percent of the article appeared on the front page of the newspapers, while 89 percent of the articles did not appear on the front page.

### Summit Coverage

In terms of the recent G7 Summit coverage, many articles in the media did not indicate a clear perspective on the Ise-Shima Summit. 72 percent of the articles showed either a neutral rating or no clear perspective on the summit. 22 percent of the articles displayed a positive perspective on the summit, while 6 percent of articles depicted a negative perspective. The articles that were analyzed did not mention summit protestors. In general, the G7 was portrayed with the manner of not indicating a clear perspective on the summit. Much of the portrayal of the Summit was neutral, with a minority of positive and negative perspectives. The articles that were sampled did not mention protestors.

### Issue Coverage

The topic of world economy was discussed a great deal, in preparation for the United Kingdom's Brexit referendum. Thus, the effects and repercussions of the Brexit outcome alongside the world economy was of the most frequently issues covered in the articles. The issue of world economy was most prominently discussed, at 54 percent of the articles in the United Kingdom's media. Other prominent issues mentioned included: regional security (6 percent), global health (6 percent), and outreach and expansion (6 percent). The issue of regional security tended to focus on events in Syria. Moreover, the issue of global health can be related to the spreading of 'superbugs' and the desire to have more control on the prescribing of antibiotics. The issue of outreach and expansion can be related to investment and prosperity of Asian countries, with China as a prominent country of focus.

### Coverage of Member and Non-Member Countries

Many of the G7 member countries were mentioned in the articles. As these articles were taken from prominent news outlets in the United Kingdom, this country was mentioned the most at 77 percent. Most articles were related to the anticipated Brexit referendum a month following the summit. Other countries mentioned most prominently in the articles include Japan, the United States, and Germany. 9 percent of the articles mentioned Japan most prominently, in the context of it being the host country of the 2016 Summit. 6 percent mentioned the United States most prominently. This can be related to the political situation of the presidency of the country that was upcoming close to the end of the year. 3 percent of the articles mentioned Germany most prominently, while 6 percent did not mention any G7 member country most often.

Non-member countries were also mentioned by the United Kingdom's news sources. China was mentioned in 31 percent of the newspaper articles, usually in the context of China's activity in the South China Sea. There was also mention of Russia (23 percent), who is no longer a member of the G8, hence it becoming the G7. South Korea was also mentioned in 6 percent of articles. Other countries mentioned include: Greece, Spain, North Korea, Switzerland, Norway, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, the United Arab Emirates, Luxembourg, Syria, Iran, Pakistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Vietnam, and the Netherlands.



## United States

*Serena Ceco*

### Newspapers

In analyzing American media coverage of the 2016 G7 Summit in Ise-Shima, Japan, three American newspapers – the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post – were studied and 27 articles were surveyed. 15 percent of articles surveyed were published by the New York Times, 44 percent were published by the Wall Street Journal and 41 percent by the Washington Post. Overall, 89 percent of articles were classified as news, 4 percent were opinion pieces, and 4 percent were editorials. Given the limited number of opinion pieces and editorials, the vocabulary used by almost all articles was neutral. Of those articles surveyed, 22 percent were located on the front page of their respective newspapers and 78 percent of the articles were not. Finally, each newspaper covered the same breadth of topics, as discussed in further detail below, and, despite their respective ideological leanings, approached each in a similar manner.

### Summit Coverage

Of the 27 articles surveyed, 23 articles took a neutral stance when discussing the G7, while two articles took a positive stance and one took a negative stance. One of the articles surveyed did not speak to the merits of the institution whatsoever. Only one of the articles surveyed mentioned protestors. When mentioned, protestors were painted in a neutral light. The neutrality established in the majority of articles is best explained by the fact that, when mentioned, the G7 was typically mentioned as a peripheral institution. Instead of addressing the events of the summit itself, most articles instead referenced the G7 when discussing their statements in response to Britain's vote to leave the European Union, American President Barack Obama's visit to Hiroshima, or the events in Ukraine. The only true intense study of G7 objectives and methods at the Ise Shima Summit came in the form of an editorial published by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the lead up to the summit.

### Issue Coverage

44 percent of articles surveyed focused on the world economy. In turn, 19 percent focused on regional security, 15 percent focused on non-proliferation, and 4 percent focused on terrorism. 20 percent of articles surveyed did not focus on any one specific issue. Continued Russian presence in Crimea ensured that regional security was a predominant issue, as well as President Barack Obama's scheduled visit to Hiroshima, Japanese instigation of discussions of non-proliferation and the role of atomic weapons in today's world.

In comparison, 63 percent of articles surveyed referenced the world economy, 41 percent referenced regional security, 26 percent referenced non-proliferation, 15 percent referenced terrorism, 11 percent referenced global health, 7 percent referenced energy security, and 7 percent referenced climate change. 4 percent of articles surveyed referenced African development and another 4 percent referenced food security.

### Coverage of Member and Non-Member Countries

In their discussion of specific G7 members 37 percent of articles mentioned the United States, 22 percent mentioned the United Kingdom, and 19 percent mentioned Japan. 4 percent of articles surveyed mentioned Germany and no articles mentioned Canada, Italy, or France. 19 percent of articles did not focus on any one specific G7 country. Given the topics covered by each article, as outlined above, it is not surprising to find that the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan received the greatest coverage. While all eyes turned to the UK and Europe in anticipation of Brexit, Japan also received recognition as the host state. Moreover, the United States, heavily entangled in most, if not all, issue areas relating to the G7, received additional attention due to the fact that it was in the midst of an election cycle at the time of the summit.

Non G7 countries mentioned include China, Russia, South Korea, India, and Mexico. Of those listed, 37 percent of articles surveyed mentioned China, 33 percent mentioned Russia, 22 percent mentioned South Korea, 7 percent mentioned India, and 4 percent mentioned Mexico. Other non G7 states briefly noted include Vietnam, Bangladesh, Syria, Ukraine, Greece, North Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Iran, and South Sudan. The frequency with which specific non G7 states were mentioned correlates to their proximity

to the G7 and their involvement in the issues of the day. Specifically, China's rising economic influence and its role within the global economy and international relations as a whole were of prime interest. Russia's continued presence in Ukraine and South Korea's proximity to North Korea – an aspiring nuclear state – ensured their mention in articles discussing regional security. Finally, the war in Syria and the refugee crisis it has spurred also got a brief but notable mention.