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## **JAPAN MULLS ALTERNATIVES TO SUEZ CANAL AFTER EVER GIVEN SHOCK**

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Al Jazeera (9 May 2021)

Michael Penn

When the Ever Given, one of the worlds largest container ships, lost control in the midst of a dust storm and high winds on March 23, and became wedged across the Suez Canal, it was an event of international significance that also rekindled Japanese interest in finding alternative routes to Europe.

The blocking of the Suez Canal accelerated things, said James D J Brown, associate professor at Temple University Japan, even if the concerns about over-dependence on the canal have been around for a long time.

The canal is one of the most important arteries in global trade, and was completely blocked for six days.

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