

## Article Alert

January 2010

### GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

#### 1. The World Needs Further Monetary Ease, Not an Early Exit

Joseph E. Gagnon. Policy Brief 09-22, December 2009, 18 pages.

The author, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, discusses the need for additional monetary stimulus, and specifies near-term strategies that could help move the world toward a solid recovery, including stable prices and a return to economic growth, by the end of 2011.

#### 2. Capitalism After the Crisis

Luigi Zingales. National Affairs, Fall 2009, 14 pages.

The author, the Robert C. McCormack Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, discusses the economic crisis that is endangering America's unique brand of capitalism, and examines the future of American capitalism.

#### 3. Rebalancing Growth in Asia

Eswar Prasad. Finance & Development, December 2009, 4 pages.

The author, the Tolani Senior Professor of Trade Policy at Cornell University, discusses how emerging Asian markets can improve their economic welfare and rebalance economic growth in the region. He focuses on growth patterns in the major Asian emerging markets - China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, and Thailand.

#### 4. Misleading Indicator

Megan McArdle. The Atlantic Monthly, November 2009, 3 pages.

The author, a business and economics editor for The Atlantic, discusses the need for a better measure of national welfare than the economic indicator known as the gross domestic product (GDP) – as GDP was never intended to be the measure of well-being. He offers three ways to design an index to measure well-being.

### U.S. POLICY TOWARD ASIA and THE WORLD

#### 5. The United States in the New Asia

Evan A. Feigenbaum and Robert A. Manning. Council on Foreign Relations Special Report No. 50, November 2009, 53 pages.

The authors examine Asia's regional architecture and its implication for the United States, and identify shortcomings in the region's existing multilateral landscape. The article also outlines six principles for U.S. policy toward Asia as a whole, and particularly highlights suggested policies toward Northeast and Southeast Asia.

#### **6. Power Shuffle: Will the Coming Transition Be Peaceful?**

Erik Gartzke. Current History, November 2009, 7 pages.

The author, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of California, discusses management of change in international politics as the United States loses its hegemony. He focuses on why uncertainty and the lack of information increase the chances for war in such conditions.

#### **7. American Grand Strategy from the Cold War's End to 9/11**

Jeremi Suri. Orbis, Fall 2009, 17 pages.

After the end of the Cold War, American policymakers sought to create a new grand strategy for the United States, but they failed in this endeavor. Why? The author, the E. Gordon Fox Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, examines the efforts toward strategy formulation in the administrations of George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, and analyzes their shortcomings.

### **SOCIAL ISSUES AND GOVERNANCE**

#### **8. Is Democracy a Dirty Word?**

Tara Mckelvey. The American Prospect, December 2009, 3 pages.

The author, a research fellow at New York University's School of Law's Center on Law and Security, discusses the Obama administration's approach to democracy promotion, focusing on whether democracy promotion should be featured in U.S. foreign policy and if the United States should help establish democracies in other countries.

#### **9. Politics or the Economy? Domestic Correlates of Dispute Involvement in Developed Democracies**

Philip Arena and Glenn Palmer. International Studies Quarterly, December 2009, 21 pages.

The authors examine the effect of economic circumstances on the international behavior of democracies, focusing on three sources of constraints on democratic leaders: the willingness of constituencies to support the use of force internationally; the macroeconomic preferences of their party's constituency; and the interaction of those preferences with the state of the economy.

#### **10. Energy Tea**

Jeffrey Bell. National Review, December 7, 2009, 6 pages.

The author, a visiting fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, discusses the unexpected timing and influence of ongoing movements that oppose the policies of U.S. President Barack Obama. The movements began early last year with “Tea Parties” protesting Obama’s economic stimulus and government spending. Will the movements lead to a defeat of President Obama’s reelection bid in 2012? The author notes a few similarities between current movements and organizations during former U.S. President Jimmy Carter’s term; they cost him re-election in 1981.

### **11. Measuring Changes in American Party Reputations, 1939-2004**

Jeremy C. Pope and Jonathan Woon. Political Research Quarterly, December 2009, 9 pages.

The authors measure temporal change in the two major parties’ relative reputations across several distinct policy areas. How strong are the parties’ relative reputations? How have these aspects of the parties’ reputations changed over time? In this article, the authors address these questions by presenting and analyzing new measures of the parties’ relative reputations by issue and over time.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

### **12. Facing Down the Hydro-Crisis**

Peter H. Gleick. World Policy Journal, Winter 2009/10, 7 pages.

The world of water is changing -- not just how much water is available, or who controls it, but the whole way we think about and manage this precious commodity. The author, co-founder and president of the Pacific Institute in Oakland, California, discusses a fundamental re-evaluation of water planning, policy, and management, focusing on a new approach to the global water crisis, called “Soft Path for Water”.

### **13. The Damming of the Mekong: Major Blow to an Epic River**

Fred Pearce, Yale Environment 360, June 16, 2009

The Mekong River in Southeast Asia sustains one of the world’s largest fisheries, and has been a mainstay of the region for millennia; some 60 million people depend on the river for subsistence. The Mekong’s annual flood pours into the Tonle Sap River in Cambodia; this river flows backward once a year and creates a huge inland lake, where people raise billions of fish. The author notes that this remarkable ecosystem is threatened by a series of hydroelectric dams that China is building along the upper reaches of the Mekong, which could cut its flood-season flow by a quarter. Pearce notes that China never joined the Mekong River Commission (formed by the four downstream nations on the river, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand) nor has it even discussed its dam plans with the commission. China, notes Pearce, is not the only “upstream bully” on the world’s major rivers; international law is urgently needed to protect downstream nations, and to protect the ecological integrity of the world’s great rivers. Available online at <http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2162>

### **14. The Post-Scarcity World of 2050-2075**

Stephen Aguilar-Millan, et al. *The Futurist*, January/February 2010, 7 pages.

The world between 2010 and 2050 is likely to be characterized by scarcities: a scarcity of credit, a scarcity of food, a scarcity of energy, a scarcity of water, and a scarcity of mineral resources. The authors explore what the world may look like between 2050 and 2075, and what will come after decades of scarcity.

### **15. Asia's Wildlife Trade**

Bryan Christy. *National Geographic*, January 2010, 17 pages.

According to the author, the insatiable demand for traditional medicines, exotic pets, and culinary delicacies is driving some species to extinction while fueling a multibillion-dollar industry. The author discusses Asia's wildlife trade, the environmental and economic impact of animal trafficking, and the role of zoos in smuggling, including the movement of endangered species.

### **16. The Other Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis in Global Land Use**

Jonathan Foley, *Yale Environment 360*, October 5, 2009

Foley, Director of the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota, writes that the environmental effects of our current agricultural practices rival those of climate change. Already, humanity has converted over a third of the world's ice-free land surface to agriculture, which has been more disruptive to the earth's ecosystems than anything else since the last ice age. Given the world's growing population, we may have to double or even triple agricultural output over the next 30-40 years. Says Foley, "the future of our civilization and our planet requires that we simultaneously address the grand challenges of climate change and land use ... anything less will be a complete catastrophe." He believes that we need to have a larger international conversation to acknowledge the scope of the problem; among the goals he suggests is investing in new agricultural solutions and bridging the divide that has grown between production agriculture and environmental conservation. Currently available online at <http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2196>

## **AMERICAN VALUES AND SOCIETY**

### **17. Decline of the Honor Culture**

James Bowman. *Policy Review*, August/September 2009, 13 pages.

The author, a resident scholar at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, uses examples from various forms of American media to reference a culture of honor that has declined within the United States due to the prevalence of social mobility.

### **18. Revolution in a Box**

Charles Kenny. *Foreign Policy*, November/December 2009, 7 pages.

The rapid proliferation of television sets, along with digital and satellite channels around the globe, has made television a powerful force for shrinking the emotional distance between peoples within and between countries. The author examines the growth of global television access, and its impact on social change and governance.

### **19. Is the Foreign News Bureau Part of the Past?**

Diana Russo. *Global Journalist*, Fall 2009, 8 pages.

Despite increasing globalization of the economy and global issues such as climate change and international terrorism, news outlets continue to shutter foreign bureaus and slash foreign coverage at an alarming rate. The author, a journalism professor at Clarke College, Iowa, discusses the challenge foreign correspondents are now facing: cutbacks, and how to cope with them.

### **20. The Hive Mind**

Jessamyn West. *Computers in Libraries*, November/December 2009, 2 pages.

What should you do when you get an error message on your computer? The author, a community technology librarian in Randolph, Vermont, discusses the ways to receive help for error messages online, citing the difficulties some people have when it comes to getting technical support, as well as the challenges some face when it comes to researching help pages on the site responsible for the product or error message.

### **21. When Books Are Your Friends**

Daniel Chudnov. *Computers in Libraries*, November/December 2009, 3 pages.

The author, Information Technology Specialist of the Office of Strategic Initiatives at the Library of Congress, discusses how professionals can improve the process of digitizing libraries, citing the need to stay updated on processes and the difficulties involved, especially when it comes to tracking real-time changes and improvements.

### **22. Our Evanescent Culture and the Awesome Duty of Librarians**

Richard Heinberg. *Energy Bulletin*, October 7, 2009, 8 pages.

How secure is our civilization's accumulated knowledge in the digital world? The author discusses the problem of digitizing modern heritage and cultural preservation amid the ascendancy of electronic media, and offers his opinion on what librarians can do to tackle the challenge.

### **23. Twitter Lessons in 140 Characters or Less**

Kathleen Kennedy Manzo. *Education Week*, October 21, 2009, 5 pages.

The author, an associate editor for *Education Week*, discusses how or whether Twitter-like technologies could or should be used in schools, citing some examples of their use.

#### **24. Google Mapping Your Community**

Bob Coulter. Connect Magazine, September/October 2009, 2 pages.

The author, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden's Litzinger Road Ecology Center, discusses the role of technology in education, and how students can develop skills in critical analysis as well as use online tools such as Google Maps to offer tactful feedback.

#### **25. The Cosmopolitan Tongue: The Universality of English**

John McWhorter. World Affairs, Fall 2009, 8 pages.

Would it be inherently evil if there were not 6,000 spoken languages but one? The author, a professional linguist and lecturer at the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, discusses spoken language, the growing universality of the English tongue, and the fear that English domination will cause the extinction of other spoken languages.