

Article Round-up

February 2010

REGIONAL SECURITY

1. A Road Map for Asian-Pacific Security

Gary J. Schmitt. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research Outlook Series #3, December 2009, 10 pages.

The author, Director of the Program on Advanced Strategic Studies at American Enterprise Institute, examines the Obama administration's foreign policy approach to Asia and presents a road map for current and future U.S. policy, focusing on the strategic needs of the United States to maximize its influence in the region.

2. Systemic Neglect? A Reconsideration of U.S.-Southeast Asia Policy

Alice Ba. Contemporary Southeast Asia: A Journal of International & Strategic Affairs, December 2009, 30 pages.

Has the United States lost its standing and its influence over the balance of power in Southeast Asia? The author, the Director of the East Asian Studies Program at the University of Delaware, examines the systemic forces shaping the challenges of U.S.-Southeast Asia policy and relations during the presidency of George W. Bush. The article also highlights policy adjustments on both sides, and concludes that changes may ultimately prove healthy for both the United States and its Southeast Asian partners.

3. Good Start, Long Road

Joseph S. Nye. The American Interest, January/February 2010, 2 pages.

The author, the University Distinguished Service Professor at Harvard's Kennedy School, discusses the world affairs dilemma facing the Obama administration, and looks at how Obama can manage the Bush administration's legacy and realize his own vision of how Americans should interact with the world.

4. The World Still Needs a Leader

Leslie H. Gelb. Current History, November 2009, 3 pages.

The author, President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, examines America's role in the modern era -- one in which no great power predominates world politics (as was the case historically). The article examines one view on how power is distributed in the 21st century and how U.S. leaders can effectively use their power.

5. The Long Road to Zero

Charles D. Ferguson. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010, 9 pages.

In a world where the strongest conventional military power cannot envision giving up its nuclear weapons before all other nations have abandoned theirs, how will humanity ever rid itself of these weapons? The author, Adjunct Senior Fellow for Science and Technology at the Council on Foreign Relations, looks at how the United States can overcome obstacles to create a nuclear weapons-free world.

ECONOMICS AND TRADE

6. Moral Bankruptcy

Joseph E. Stiglitz. *Mother Jones*, January/February 2010, 4 pages.

According to the author, a world-renowned economist and Nobel Prize laureate, the economic crisis exposed not only flaws in the U.S. economic system, but also uncovered the moral deficits in American society. The article discusses the perceived lack of accountability in the banking and financial industries after the global economic crisis of 2008-2009.

7. Feeble Critiques

Jagdish Bhagwati. *World Affairs*, Fall 2009, 10 pages.

The author, Senior Fellow in International Economics at Columbia University, argues that despite the difficulties caused by recent global troubles, capitalism is a sound economic process. In this article, the state of global capitalism – in the wake of the international financial crisis of 2008-2009 and the subsequent worldwide recession – is reviewed.

8. A Never-Ending Economic Crisis?

David M. Smick. *Commentary*, January 2010, 6 pages.

The author, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Johnson Smick International, Inc., discusses the future of the U.S. economy in the wake of the global financial crisis of 2008-2009.

9. Fortifying the Financial Architecture: Unanswered Questions

Barry Eichengreen. *Current History*, January 2010, 7 pages.

The author, Professor of Economics and Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, discusses strategies to strengthen global financial architecture so as to prevent a recurrence of the kind of crisis the world suffered in late 2008.

10. Imaginative Obstruction: Modern Protectionism in the Global Economy

Philip I. Levy. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, Summer/Fall 2009, 8 pages.

As international trade has growing exponentially in recent decades, so has the variety of motivations for individual countries to institute trade protections, according to the author, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. The article examines protectionist policies and offers a definition and taxonomy of modern protectionism.

11. The Financial Crisis and the Scientific Mindset

Paul J. III Cella, *New Atlantis*, Fall 2009 / Winter 2010

The author states that what is becoming clear about the financial collapse in 2008-2009 is that the U.S. economy has been driven by a financial system that relies on a complicated structure of speculative debt, that it is possible only because of modern technology, and it is totally dependent on abstractions and mathematical formulas. As it turned out, this system can only be kept alive through government intervention. On the surface, the development of a shadow banking system appears to be a technocratic revolution in capitalism, but on a deeper level it is “a failure of the modern mind ... and of the reckless grandiosity of modern technological civilization”. Cella observes that Wall Street was infatuated with “the engineered abstraction, produced by mathematical brilliance and computing capacity”, and believed that the untidy reality of the everyday world could be made predictable through their formulas. He notes that this mindset “is singularly susceptible to falsely imagining that ideas are more real than men . . . This is the simple wisdom that modern finance forgot.” Currently available online at <http://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/the-financial-crisis-and-the-scientific-mindset>

SOCIAL ISSUES & GOVERNANCE

12. From Beneficiaries to Change Agents: The Rise of Women’s Leadership in International Development

Kirrin Gill; Ann Warner, et al. *SAIS Review*, vol. 29, no. 2, Summer-Fall 2009, pp. 23-38

The authors assert that women are unquestionably the biggest new player on the world stage today; and that they are shaping local, national, and global change in a variety of innovative ways. Notably, in recent years, women have changed from passive beneficiaries of international development efforts into powerful leaders that help bring about such change. The authors state that the implications for practitioners of development are clear: focused research and bold policies are needed to better explore the contours of this change, and to maximize the rich leadership potential offered by women in today’s world.

13. Populism, Pluralism, and Liberal Democracy

Marc F. Plattner. *Journal of Democracy*, January 2010, 12 pages.

Despite the obstacles that democracy has encountered in recent years, it continues to endure remarkably well, opines the author, Director of the International Forum for Democratic Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy. The article analyzes the resilience of democracy and the nature of modern democracy, focusing on why liberal democracy has shown itself to be so durable.

14. Poverty, Disconnected

Ravi Kanbur, *Finance & Development*, vol. 46, no. 4, December 2009

Kanbur, Professor of Economics at Cornell University, notes that relying on official statistics such as GDP often paints too rosy a picture regarding the incidence of poverty; economists have long sought ways to provide a more complete picture of the state of the poor. He notes that the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, established by the French government, goes a long way toward addressing this discrepancy. Kanbur highlights the numerous ways in which the disconnect between the optimistic picture of poverty painted by official data, and the more pessimistic assessment by grassroots activists, manifests itself. If the population of a given country is growing faster than the poverty rate is declining, then the absolute number of people living in poverty is in fact growing. Privatizing public services may show a growth in official GDP, but this does not reflect the decline in well-being that results from the disappearance of these public services. Measuring the per-capita consumption by individual households in many developing countries does not reflect the reality that, often, women and children receive a much smaller share of household consumption than men. Kanbur notes that “there is plenty of work to be done” in helping authorities design policies that enable more people to escape poverty. Available online at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2009/12/kanbur.htm>

GLOBAL ISSUES & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

15. The World’s Water Challenge

Erik R. Peterson and Rachel A. Posner. *Current History*, January 2010, 4 pages.

The authors examine the global challenge of water resources, focusing on why the demand for water is rising so rapidly and how to address the challenge. Key opportunities for developing solutions to this potential crisis are discussed.

16. Greenwashing Hydropower

Aviva Imhof; Guy Lanza, *Worldwatch*, Vol. 23, No. 1, January/February 2010, pp. 8-14

Big dam construction is increasing worldwide, often in the name of “clean energy” – yet these projects displace millions of people and destroy precious environmental resources. The authors note that ambitious hydropower projects in countries such as China, Brazil, Thailand and India are at the forefront of the upsurge in dam construction; however, these big dam projects create significant environmental damage, including loss of arable land, increased pollution in the water, rivers drying up, and seismic effects in earthquake-prone areas. Many dam construction projects are also plagued with corruption; many dams, particularly in China, are being built or planned on international rivers with no evaluation of extraterritorial impact. In Africa, where climate change is already altering water availability, authorities continue to propose large hydropower projects. The authors encourage increased efficiency; new energy sources; low impact, non-dam hydropower; and other less destructive solutions to meet electricity needs.

17. The New Population Bomb

Jack A. Goldstone. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010, 13 pages.

A series of looming demographic trends will greatly affect international security in the 21st century. How policymakers adjust to these changes now will determine the course of global political and economic stability for years to come. The author, a professor at the George Mason School of Public Policy, discusses four alarming demographic trends that will transform international security in the 21st century.

18. Against the Grain

Carlisle Ford Runge and Carlisle Piehl Runge. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010, 7 pages.

The "green revolution" dramatically boosted crop yields throughout the world, but it also bred overconfidence and complacency, resulting in a situation where global food stocks are now too low and food prices are too high. The authors discuss the food supply and food price crises that resulted from the green revolution and subsequent technological advances.

AMERICAN VALUES & SOCIETY

Media and Communication

19. The Dawn of the Post-literate Age

Patrick Tucker. *The Futurist*, November/December 2009, 5 pages.

The author, Director of Communications for the World Future Society, discusses the decline of reading in the post-literate era and the challenges facing traditional literacy in today's Information Age. A focus on how information technology, cybernetics, and artificial intelligence may render written language "functionally obsolete" by 2050 is also provided.

20. The Reconstruction of American Journalism

Leonard Jr. Downie and Michael Schudson. *Columbia Journalism Review*, November/December 2009, 24 pages.

The authors provide a view of the function of the American press and the future of "accountability" journalism, which is viewed as a public service, during this time of crisis in the news media. The author offers six recommendations for the support of credible, independent and original news reporting.

21. Are Next-Generation Journalists the Future for a Profession in Transition?

Christopher Connell. *Carnegie Reporter*, Fall 2009, 13 pages.

The author, an independent journalist, introduces News21, a multi-million-dollar experiment by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the James S. and John L. Knight Foundation that looks to

determine whether a new crop of journalists can awaken interest in news – an area in which older and more experienced journalists have failed.

22. When Service Matters

Charles London. *Library Journal*, January 2010, 4 pages.

The author examines the impact that the global recession (and the effects of the challenging economic situation in the United States) is having on U.S. library services, particularly unemployed customers. Cases in which librarians have gone above and beyond their job descriptions to provide additional assistance to needy patrons are discussed.

Education

23. Twenty-First-Century Skills in Everyday Teaching

Wayne Thornes. *Connect Magazine*, January/February 2010, 3 pages.

What is 21st-century learning and what does it mean for teaching? The author, a curriculum and technology integration specialist, discusses the challenges of teaching 21st-century skills in his school in Tucson, Arizona, through the adoption of a 21st-century “learning framework” implemented across the curriculum.

24. What Makes a Great Teacher?

Amanda Ripley. *The Atlantic*, January/February 2010, 8 pages.

According to the author, some teachers are an inspiration, capable of moving students’ achievement levels ahead of those of their classmates, while other teachers are not. The author, a *TIME Magazine* contributor, discusses what it takes to be a great teacher.

25. Soul of a Writer

David Geffner. *Humanities*, November/December 2009, 5 pages.

The author, a journalist and filmmaker based in Los Angeles, narrates work by filmmaker and author Jim Thompson. Thompson, author of numerous hard-boiled crime novels like *A Hell of a Woman*, *Savage Night* and *The Killer Inside Me*, stands in the ranks of such classic pulp-fiction writers as James M. Cain and Dashiell Hammett.

End.