

ARTICLE ROUND UP

NOVEMBER 2009

ECONOMIC SECURITY

1. "The Dollar and the Deficits"

C. Fred Bergsten. *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2009, 19 pages.

The global economic crisis has revealed the folly of large U.S. budget and trade deficits, as well as the strong dollar that makes them possible. The author discusses how the Obama administration can prevent the next economic crisis, focusing on downsizing the dollar and avoiding large external deficits.

2. "Financial Order and World Politics: Crisis, Change and Continuity"

Randall Germain. *International Affairs*, July 2009, 19 pages.

The author explores the ways in which the current economic crisis is indicative of a fundamental transformation in the world's financial order. A review of the extent and scale of this crisis in relation to what is arguably its main historical analogue -- the financial crisis in 1931 -- is examined, as are three key axes around which the argument for transformation can be formulated.

3. "The Next Financial Crisis"

Peter Boone and Simon Johnson. *The New Republic*, September 23, 2009, 3 pages.

Though the U.S. Federal Reserve System managed to successfully rescue the majority of banks through financial bailouts, this action may actually create greater economic problems in the future, say the authors. Arguing that this method will exacerbate the long-term pattern of financial irresponsibility among banks, the piece discusses the critical role of Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

4. "The Global Talent Crisis"

Edward Gordon. *The Futurist*, September/October 2009, 6 pages.

Contrary to popular belief, there are plenty of job openings around the globe. The author takes a look at the skills shortage facing the world economy today, positing that a reinvention of the education-to-employment system is needed in order to prepare people for jobs in the age of ultra-high technology.

5. "Bad Debts: Assessing China's Financial Influence in Great Power Politics"

Daniel W. Drezner. *International Security*, vol. 34, no. 2, Fall 2009, pp. 7-45.

Drezner, Professor of International Politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, states that policymakers have voiced growing concerns about U.S. dependence on China and other authoritarian capitalist states as a source of credit to fund U.S. trade and budget deficits. He notes that many argue that if Beijing or another sovereign creditor were to flex its financial muscles, Washington could buckle. Drezner avers that the ability of creditor states to convert their financial power into political power suggests that the power of credit has been moderately exaggerated in policy circles. China's financial power increases its deterrent capabilities, but has little effect on its coercive capabilities. China can use its financial power to resist U.S. entreaties, but it cannot force the United States to change its policies. Financial power works best when a concert of creditors (or debtors) is maintained. The author describes two case studies—the controversy over regulation of sovereign wealth funds, and the protection of Chinese financial investments in the United States—which demonstrate the constraints on China's financial power. Currently available online at http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/international_security/summary/v034/34.2.drezner.html

GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND ENVIRONMENT

6. "The Economics of Agricultural And Wildlife Smuggling"

Peyton Ferrier, U.S. Department of Agriculture, September 16, 2009, 55 pages)

The United States bans imports of certain agricultural and wildlife goods that can carry pathogens or diseases, or whose harvest threatens wildlife stocks or endangers species. Despite these bans, contraband is regularly uncovered in inspections of cargo containers and in domestic markets. This study examines the economic factors affecting agricultural and wildlife smuggling by drawing on inspection and interdiction data from USDA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and existing economic literature.

7. "A New End, A New Beginning: Prepare for Life as We Don't Know It"

John L. Petersen. *The Futurist*, September/October 2009, 4 pages.

There are several indicators that suggest the end of the world as we know it may indeed be near -- peak oil prices, climate change, the financial meltdown, and the increasing cost of food -- are but to name but a few. The author, President of the Arlington Institute, asserts that these problems are a product of our values and principles, and all have the potential to significantly overwhelm the capabilities of government to respond to them. The author makes two specific recommendations that may help individuals prepare for the new world ahead.

8. "The Right to Food"

Olivier De Schutter. *Harvard International Review*, Summer 2009, 5 pages.

The author discusses the struggles of people in facing the global food crisis, focusing on the increasing prices of agricultural commodities in international markets. The piece also looks at the need to

approach the crisis and effectively assess agricultural production by focusing on small-scale farmers, landless agricultural workers, and the urban poor.

9. "Aquacalypse Now"

Daniel Pauly. The New Republic, October 7, 2009, 4 pages.

The author, Principal Investigator of the Sea Around Us Project, discusses the global depletion of ocean fish species that has been ongoing since the 1950s. Focusing on the role that global politics, corporate fishing fleets, fisheries' economists, and fisheries' biologists play in the depletion, root causes, and strategies to end the phenomenon are explored.

10. "Growing Season"

Mara Lee, Washington Post Magazine, October 25, 2009, pp. 18-22.

The move toward sustainable agriculture has some young adults deciding to spend a season, or a lifetime, in the fields, as they turn to small farms to make a fresh start, or enter a new career. They are often young, educated, politically motivated workers drawn to farms that embrace humane and eco-friendly practices. Such operations are getting a boost from Community Supported Agriculture, a system that lets customers pay in advance for a weekly share of a nearby farm's crops. The number of people participating in CSAs grew 50% between 2007 and 2009. The number of farmers' markets in the United States has jumped by almost 13% over the last year, and now even the White House has its own organic garden. Currently available online at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/16/AR2009101601714.html>

GLOBAL SECURITY

11. "The Forgotten Front"

Christopher S. Bond and Lewis M. Simons. Foreign Affairs, November/December 2009, 12 pages.

The authors examine why U.S. policymakers can no longer afford to ignore Southeast Asia, opining instead that they should concentrate efforts there, with a particular focus on what the United States should do to prevent terrorism and alleviate poverty in the region.

12. "Restraining Order for Strategic Modesty"

Harvey M. Sapolsky, et al. World Affairs, Fall 2009, 11 pages.

Though the Cold War is long over, there is still temptation for, and some encouragement for, U.S. intervention in post-Cold War conflicts. Nevertheless, the United States may be better off pursuing a different "grand strategy" in moving forward -- one of restraint. The author explains why such an approach would offer an opportunity to reinvigorate the foundations of America's strength, while at the same time meet the challenges of globalization and terrorism.

13. "Avoiding a Nuclear Crowd"

Henry Sokolski. Policy Review, June/July 2009, 18 pages.

The author, Executive Director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, discusses how the development of nuclear weapons and technology is escalating on a global scale, and examines how nuclear weapons reductions in the United States and Russia could actually intensify military threats.

SOCIAL ISSUES AND GOVERNANCE

14. "Revitalizing Democracy Assistance: The Challenge of USAID"

Thomas Carothers. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, October 2009, 66 pages.

Revitalizing U.S. democracy assistance would significantly help the Obama administration reinvent how it promotes democracy, opines the author, Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The piece examines the roles and responsibilities of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and reaches a conclusion that deep-reaching reforms are required if the Obama administration hopes to adequately address challenges to democracy around the world.

15. "Smarter Democracy Promotion"

Howard J. Wiarda. American Foreign Policy Interests, September 2009, 5 pages.

The author, Dean Rusk Professor of International Relations and the founding head of the Department of International Affairs at the University of Georgia, examines democracy promotion as an instrument of foreign policy. Suggestions about advocating for states that have few prospects of becoming democracies, as well as for states that possess the prerequisites of democracy, are presented.

16. "Inequality and Democracy: Why Inequality Harms Consolidation but Does Not Affect Democratization"

Christian Houle. World Politics, October 2009, 34 pages.

Under what conditions do democracies emerge and consolidate? Why do some autocracies democratize while others do not? Why do some democracies endure and consolidate while others backslide to dictatorship? The author explores the relationship between inequality and democracy, focusing on existing theories that link inequality to democratization.

17. "Rich Dem, Poor Dem"

Thomas B. Edsall. The New Republic, October 7, 2009, 2 pages.

The author takes a look at the political support President Obama received from both poor and wealthy Democrats before and after his election, focusing on the different views held by these two groups of

Democrats with respect to health care reform and the bailout of the U.S. financial system. The impact that both groups may have on Obama's political career in the future is examined.

18. "Bearing Witness"

Nik Gowing. *World Today*, August/September 2009, 4 pages.

The author discusses the impact of mobile digital devices on the reporting of human rights violations and political violence worldwide, noting that cellular telephones and digital cameras are making it more difficult for repressive regimes to deny that such acts are being perpetrated.

19. "Take a Stand"

Brent Cunningham. *Columbia Journalism Review*, September/October 2009, 8 pages.

According to the author, traditional journalism is little more than record-keeping for the benefit of influential people and organizations, which are rarely subject to critical scrutiny. The article calls on the press to take on a new mission: being true arbiters of a nation's discourse. The article also questions whether or not the press has the will and the means to do exactly that.

AMERICAN SOCIETY AND VALUES

20. "Social Networking Strategies for Professionals"

Marshal Breeding. *Computers in Libraries*, October 2009, 3 pages.

The author, Director for Innovative Technologies and Research at Vanderbilt University, offers tips for career-building through online social networking sites, focusing on the field of library science. Among the tools discussed are Facebook, LinkedIn, microblogging services, and Twitter. The article also discusses how library professionals can use social networking effectively.

21. "The Dewey Dilemma"

Barbara Fister. *Library Journal*, October 1, 2009, 4 pages.

An increasing number of libraries in the U.S. have stopped shelving their books according to the Dewey decimal system and instead have started to shelve them according to a system called BISAC (Book Industry Standards and Communications), as it is viewed as more user-friendly. The author, a librarian at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, takes a survey of opinions from librarians across the U.S. to gauge if the Dewey system is indeed obsolete.

22. "The World At Your Fingertips"

Gail Fineberg, *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, vol. 68, no. 5, May 2009, pp. 87-91.

On April 21, 2009, Librarian of Congress James Billington launched the cultural-heritage website World Digital Library (WDL) for an international audience at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris. Ahead of the launch, UNESCO members were invited to encourage their cultural institutions to participate in the development of the project, since one of UNESCO's mandates is to promote the free flow of all forms of information about education, science, culture and communication. WDL contains cultural treasures: twenty-five institutions in eighteen countries contributed to this new global library, which features some 1200 digital items, and includes content about all 192 UNESCO member countries. WDL contains works by many noted poets, mathematicians, theologians, philosophers, astronomers, cartographers and historians in addition to rare books, maps, and manuscripts, along with works in more modern formats, such as films, sound recordings, prints and photographs. The WDL interface is in seven languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. <http://www.wdl.org>

23. "Improving English Instruction through Neuro-Linguistic Programming"

David Jay Helm. Education, Fall 2009, 4 pages.

The author examines background information and the application of neuro-linguistic programming as it applies to improving English instruction, including the modalities of eye movement, the use of predicates, and posturing.

24. "Curbing Cheating"

Don McCabe and Daniel Katz. The Education Digest, September 2009, 4 pages.

Cheating among students is on the rise due to the proliferation of new technologies, as well as increased pressure to do well placed on children by their parents, and the rising threat of lawsuits against teachers and schools if children are punished for cheating. The authors discuss the growth of cheating and the high stakes attached to education.

25. "International Students"

Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 13, November 20, 2009

The Chronicle of Higher Education featured several articles on international students, timing the series to coincide with International Education Week. In the issue's lead story, "Students Flooded into U.S. in 2008," Karin Fischer looks at the Institute of International Education's annual Open Doors Report, which recorded stunning increases in both total annual enrollment by international students at U.S. colleges and universities (8 percent) and in first-time student enrollments (nearly 16 percent). Fischer finds the stronger growth in undergraduate rather than graduate enrollment, and the huge increase in Chinese undergraduate enrollment (60 percent), "potentially worrisome". In "Top Destinations for Growing Numbers of Foreign Students", Aisha Labi writes that the U.S., Australia, Canada and Britain face growing competition from traditional sending regions such as Singapore, South Korea, and China, which are now trying to improve and expand their own education systems. Beth McMurtrie ("Study-Abroad Programs Diversify as Their Popularity Grows") covers the section of the IIE Open Doors Report devoted

to U.S. students studying abroad. There is strong growth in study-abroad programs for U.S. students in such non-traditional areas as China (up 19 percent), India (up 20 percent), South Africa (up 15 percent), Japan (up 14 percent), and Argentina and Costa Rica (both up more than 13 percent). In “The Chinese Are Coming and They Need Help with the Admissions Process”, Bruce Hammond urges American institutions to communicate with Chinese parents in their native language and to cultivate relationships with Chinese high schools.

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