



Information Resource Center (IRC)
Public Diplomacy Section
U.S. Embassy, Vientiane, Laos



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Article Alert: February, 2014

Dear All,

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center is very pleased to offer you **ARTICLE ALERT**, the monthly current awareness publication of the U.S. Embassy Public Diplomacy Section. Article Alert is designed to keep IRC users abreast of issues and concerns in the United States. **Full texts of all listed articles are available upon request** at irc.vientiane@state.gov or call us: 021 267089/267263, fax: 021 267160.

SPOTLIGHT: DEMOCRACY

1. "Assessing the Quality of Elections"

Pippa Norris, et al. *Journal of Democracy*, October 2013, 12 pages.

How do we determine whether or not an election has met international standards? The authors discuss the quality assessment of elections based on international standards, vote shares and turnout rates in specific polling places, and political science field experiments.

2. "Organized Labor and Democratization in Southeast Asia"

Michael Neureiter. *Asian Survey*, November/December 2013, 24 pages.

The author, a Ph.D. student in Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, analyzes the relationship between labor unions and democratic transition in Southeast Asia, focusing on the ability and potential of organized labor to challenge authoritarian rule and bring about democratic reform.

3. "The Next Democratic Century"

[Larry Diamond](#). *Current History*, January 2014, 4 pages.

The author, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, discusses the future of democracy, emerging democracies in the early 21st century, and the rise of authoritarian regimes following World War II and the end of the Cold War.

HUMAN RIGHTS

4. "Integrating Equality: Globalization, Women's Rights, and Human Trafficking"

Seo-Young Cho. *International Studies Quarterly*, December 2013, 15 pages.

Using panel data from 150 countries over the 1981-2008, the author examines whether globalization could be a driving force in improving women's rights, and if so, which types of globalization can be beneficial to women.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

5. "American Economic Power Hasn't Declined-It Globalized! Summoning the Data and Taking Globalization Seriously"

[Sean Starrs](#). *International Studies Quarterly*, December 2013, 14 pages.

The author discusses the implications of globalization on American economic power, arguing that virtually the entire three-decades long debate on the decline or persistence of American economic power is marked by a lack of empirical rigor and clarity on the one hand, and a failure to adequately consider the implications of the rise of transnational corporations on the other.

6. "The Roadblock"

Mohamed A. El-Erian. *Foreign Policy*, November/December 2013, 2 pages.

The author, CEO and co-chief investment officer of global investment management firm Pimco, examines the impact of U.S. political dysfunction on the global economy, particularly the developing countries' concerns of volatility in the international economic system and the uncertain outlook for multilateral reform that improves the common good.

7. "Why Growth in Emerging Economies Is Likely to Fall"

Anders Åslund. *PIIE Working Paper 13-10*, November 2013, 28 pages.

The author, an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, discusses why emerging-economy growth is likely to be lower in the future while the mature economies, many of which have been in crisis, should recover.

FINANCIAL SYSTEM

8. "Why Banking Systems Succeed -- and Fail"

[Charles W. Calomiris](#) and [Stephen H. Haber](#). *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2013, 14 pages.

Why do some countries suffer repeated banking crises, while others manage to avoid them altogether? The authors analyze the banking industry and financial crises in an attempt to determine if deeply rooted political and historical forces largely determine the quality of countries' banking systems.

9. "The System Worked: Global Economic Governance during the Great Recession"

Daniel W. Drezner. *World Politics*, January 2014, 42 pages.

The author examines the global response to the financial crisis and misperceptions about global economic governance that post-2008 global economic governance has been a failure, and offers some preliminary explanations for why the system worked.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

10. "The Kerry Doctrine"

Douglas Brinkley. *Foreign Policy*, November/December 2013, 2 pages.

The author, a history professor at Rice University, discusses U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's international diplomacy efforts, focusing on the Kerry Doctrine, which involves tackling the issues most likely to make a historic difference.

11. "The Meaning of the Cyber Revolution: Perils to Theory and Statecraft"

[Lucas Kello](#). *International Security*, Fall 2013, 34 pages.

The author, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School, discusses the importance of cyber threats, and assesses the potential consequences of cyberweapons for international communities.

GLOBAL ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

12. "Blue Carbon: Coastal Ecosystems, Their Carbon Storage, and Potential for Reducing Emissions"

Juha Siikamäki, et al. *Environment*, November/December 2013, 16 pages.

The authors discuss the relationship between coastal ecosystems, their carbon storage capacity, and potential for reducing emissions, focusing on the carbon storage in blue carbon environments and the economic potential for preserving it.

13. "Climate Change Is Causing Some Mixed-up Wildlife"

Katherine Bagley. *Audubon*, November/December 2013, 4 pages.

The author discusses how climate change impacts hybrids of wild life species, particularly how prevalent this intermingling of genes is helping bring to light some of the potential dangers posed by climate change.

GLOBAL HEALTH

14. "How Google Is Changing Your Brain"

Daniel M. Wegner and Adrian F. Ward. *Scientific American*, December 2013, 4 pages.

The authors discuss how the Internet affects the way humans think and memorize things, focusing on how people use the Internet to store and retrieve information. A "transactive memory system" which developed in a world of face-to-face interactions before the age of

JOURNALISM

15. "Feel me?"

James Fahn. *Columbia Journalism Review*, November/December 2013, 2 pages.

The author, Executive Director of Internews' Earth Journalism Network, discusses the use of sensors -- mechanical devices that monitor all sorts of biological, physical, and social data -- as a journalistic tool, focusing on the collection and analysis of data as an aspect of journalism.

16. "Press Freedom, Publicity, and the Cross-National Incidence of Transnational Terrorism"

Aaron M. Hoffman, et al. *Political Research Quarterly*, December 2013, 14 pages.
The authors analyze a relationship between press freedom and transnational terrorism, focusing on why cross-national studies show that the incidence of transnational terrorism is unrelated to press freedom.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

17. "Introduction: Assessing the Social and Political Impact of the Internet and New Social Media in Asia"

[Jason Abbott](#). *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, November 2013, 12 pages.
The author, Director of Center for Asian Democracy at the University of Louisville, examines the social and political impacts of new information communications technologies (ICTs) in Asia, with specific attention paid to new social media, particularly the effectiveness of ICTs as tools for mobilization and information exchange; mechanisms of censorship and control; and the nature of public discourse on the Internet.

EDUCATION

18. "Social Media as a Primary Source: A Coming of Age"

Vicki Coleman. *Educause Review*, November/December 2013, 2 pages.
What is a primary source in the Digital Age? The author, Dean of Library Services, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, discusses how the potential of social media sites can be harnessed to enhance research process and scholarly communications.

19. "Classroom Participation and Student- Faculty Interactions: Does Gender Matter?"

Holly E. Tatum, et al. *Journal of Higher Education*, November/December 2013, 24 pages.
The authors examine the effects of student and professor gender on college classroom participation and faculty-student interactions in the United States, focusing on classroom behaviors that initiate and maintain student participation.

LIBRARY TRENDS

20. "Uncertainty and the Future of Libraries"

[Daniel W. Rasmus](#). *Computers in Libraries*, December 2013, 5 pages.
What will be the role of libraries in 2023? The author, a professor of social media and strategy at Bellevue College, explores the critical uncertainties related to libraries and discusses how the future will turn out for them.