



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



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Article Alert: February, 2015

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 487000 ext. 7406 /7012.

SPOTLIGHT: ASIA

1. "Understanding a Changing Asia"

Ezra Vogel and Zhang Yunling. *Global Asia*, Winter 2014, 8 pages.

What is the key to the Asian miracle success? What are the impacts of the change of social structure and political formation in the region? Will the conflicts between China and its neighbors lead to a war? Can Asians manage this? Two veteran Asia scholars share their thoughts on the shaping of modern Asia.

2. "A Strategic Functional Theory of Institutions and Rethinking Asian Regionalism"

Kai He. *Asian Survey*, November/December 2014, 25 pages.

The author, an associate professor of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen, discusses a strategic functional theory of institutions to explain the diverse roles of institutions in various strategic settings in world politics, focusing on the utility of ASEAN-centered regionalism in the Asia Pacific.

3. "Asia Goes Nuclear"

Elbridge Colby. *The National Interest*, January/February 2015, 10 pages.

The author, the Robert M. Gates Fellow at the Center for a New American Security, discusses the military balance of the Asian-Pacific region, the build-up of nuclear weapons in Asia during the early 21st century, and how it may impact the American and Chinese national security plans.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

4. "Considering Alternative Nuclear Targeting Strategies"

Mark A. Gallagher and Justin E. Sorice. *Comparative Strategy*, November-December 2014, 15 pages. The authors discuss how nuclear powers, particularly the United States or Russia, should contemplate deterrence policy as they consider reducing their nuclear weapon quantities. The current challenges to a counter-force targeting strategy and alternative targeting strategies are discussed.

5. "Obama's Last Chance"

Leslie H. Gelb. *The National Interest*, November/December 2014, 7 pages. The author, President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, discusses American power in the world and U.S. President Barack Obama's final two years in the presidential office, particularly his foreign policy towards Asia.

ECONOMICS AND TRADE

6. "The Strategic Logic of Trade"

Michael B. Froman. *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2014, 8 pages. U.S. Trade Representative Forman discusses U.S. trade policies and the strategic aspects of trade, focusing on why rules-based open trading systems such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) are the key to continued U.S. influence in global trade.

7. "Wall Street Rises Again"

William D. Cohan. *The Atlantic*, January/February 2015, 3 pages. The author discusses the new golden age of the U.S. financial industry six years after the 2008 financial crisis, focusing on the increase of the power that Wall Street yields in state and national politics.

8. "Trends at Work: An Overview of Tomorrow's Employment Ecosystem"

Timothy C. Mack. *The Futurist*, November/December 2014, 6 pages. The author, former President of the World Future Society, discusses the factors responsible for the changing trends of the economic, social and technological landscape in the workplace environment and alterations in the future workplace.

9. "Open Trade, Closed Borders Immigration in the Era of Globalization"

Margaret E. Peters. *World Politics*, January 2015, 41 pages. What explains variation in immigration policy, especially policy regulating low-skill workers? Based on a new data set of *de jure* immigration policy for nineteen countries from 1783–2010, the author examines the interaction of immigration and trade policy, particularly how trade policy affects immigration policy toward low-skill immigrants in low-skill labor-scarce states.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

10. "Food Fight"

Rene Ebersole. *Audubon*, November/December 2014, 5 pages. The author interviews Michael Pollan, the author of *The Botany of Desire*, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, and, most recently, *Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation*, about the effects of the food system on the climate and the role of farming in the prevention of climate change.

11. "Will Global Warming Make Me Look Fat?"

James Hamblin. *The Atlantic*, January/February 2015, 3 pages.

The author explores how global warming could change the metabolism of people and give rise to obesity and chronic disease.

DEMOCRACY PROMOTION

12. "Why Is Democracy Performing So Poorly?"

Francis Fukuyama. *Journal of Democracy*, January 2015, 11 pages.

What are the factors of many democratic setbacks? The author, the Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law at Stanford University, explores why global democracy performance has been so disappointing.

13. "Is Democracy in Decline?"

Marc F. Plattner. *Journal of Democracy*, January 2015, 7 pages.

Does the apparent geopolitical tilt toward authoritarianism? Based on the world's perception of democracy, the author, Vice-President for Research and Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy, discusses whether democracy is declining.

JOURNALISM

14. "Should Journalism Worry about Content Marketing? "

Michael Meyer. *Columbia Journalism Review*, November/December 2014, 6 pages.

The author examines the concept of content marketing and its application to journalism, focusing on "brand newsrooms" in which commercial product companies cover news relevant to its customers.

EDUCATION

15. "An Aging America: Higher Education's New Frontier"

Barbara Vacarr. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, December 12, 2014, 4 pages.

The author, Director of the Higher Education Initiative for Encore.org, discusses the future of U.S. higher education in light of demographic transition and the engagement of older people in new careers, focusing on why U.S. universities and colleges should market themselves to older people as potential non-traditional students.

16. "Teaching Computer Science-Without Touching a Computer"

Annie Murphy Paul. *The Education Digest*, January 2015, 4 pages.

The author, a fellow of the New America Foundation, discusses ways to teach computer science to schoolchildren without using a computer, focusing the importance of developing students' computational ability and the use of real-life objects to convey abstract entities such as computer data and memory.

LIBRARY TRENDS

17. "Let the Library Deluge Begin!"

Nancy K. Herther. *Online Searcher*, January/February 2015, 9 pages.

The author, a librarian for American studies, anthropology, Asian American studies and sociology at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus, examines the impact of the expansion of the global e-book market on libraries, and discusses the shift in the role of librarians from the access end of publishing chain.

18. "The Convenience Factor in Information Seeking"

William Badke. *Online Searcher*, November/December 2014, 3 pages.

The author, an associate librarian at Trinity Western University, discusses the importance of convenience in academic research or information seeking, focusing on how and why individuals engage with technology when seeking information, and the move of libraries to embrace the convenience factor.