

Information Alert

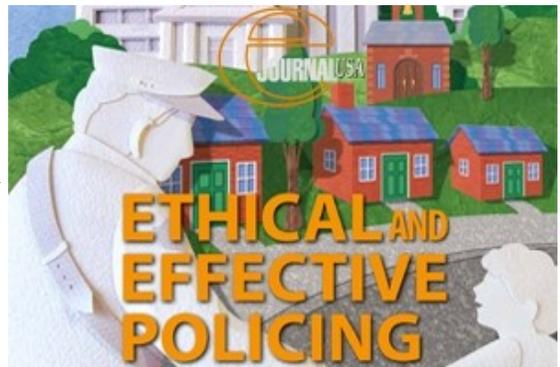
Inside this issue:

ARTICLE ALERT

Highlight Documents	1
U.S.-Pakistan Relations	2
Democracy and Global Issues	2
International Security	4
Economic Security and Trade	7
U.S. Society and Values	8
Video Alert	9
Book Alert	10

2-1/H
ETHICAL AND EFFECTIVE POLICING
 eJournal USA, Department of State, April 2011
<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>

As enforcers of the law, police play a crucial role in upholding democracy. In democratic societies, citizens grant increased authority to police in order to live in a safe community. They give police the power to detain, search, arrest citizens, and lawfully use physical force when situations dictate. In return, police departments must ensure that police officers adhere to high ethical standards. When they don't, the reciprocal trust between citizenry and police is disrupted, undermining the tacit social contract that is the basis of democracy. This issue of eJournal USA examines the ways in which citizens and police strive to sustain the social contract.



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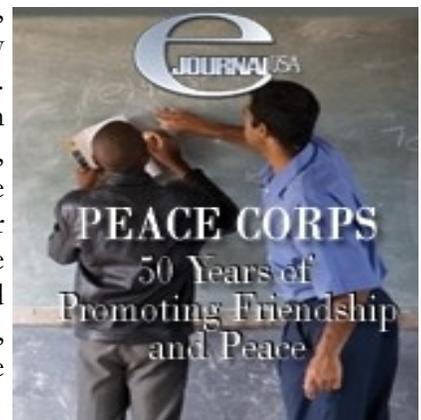
What's New

US Embassy Facebook Logo Contest

This summer, the U.S. Embassy is seeking for a new look. We're inviting YOU to help us create a new logo for our Facebook Fan page that represents the strength, vitality of the U.S-Pakistan relationship! Read more here: <http://www.facebook.com/pakistan.usembassy>

2-2/H
PEACE CORPS - 50 Years of Promoting Friendship
 eJournal USA, Department of State, May 2011
<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, read about the future of the Peace Corps in an essay by current Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams. During the 1960 presidential campaign, candidate John F. Kennedy asked a group of U.S. college students, "How many of you who are going to be doctors are willing to spend your days in Ghana? Technicians or engineers, how many of you are willing to work in the Foreign Service and spend your lives traveling around the world?" Within months of taking office in 1961, Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps.



U.S.— PAKISTAN RELATIONS

2-3/UP

THE CHALLENGE OF AID IN PAKISTAN: Is Cash on Delivery Part of the Solution?

By Wren Elhai

Center for Global Development, March 29, 2011

<http://www.cgdev.org>

A thorny set of obstacles stands in the way of the United States and other donors as they try to scale up development spending in Pakistan. The sheer scale of the country's population and development challenges requires effective mobilization of local resources and local institutions. Incentives for politicians to push for reform are weak. Monitoring spending is difficult, especially when it is spent through Pakistan's own government. Donors and local stakeholders may disagree about which development projects are most needed.

2-4/IS

DOUBLE GAME: The unintended consequences of American funding in Pakistan

By Lawrence Wright

The New Yorker, Vol. 87, No. 12, May 16, 2011.

"Eliminating, or sharply reducing, military aid to Pakistan would have consequences, but they may not be the ones we fear. Diminishing the power of the military class would open up more room for civilian rule. Many Pakistanis are in favor of less U.S. aid; their slogan is "trade not aid." In particular, Pakistani businessmen have long sought U.S. tax breaks for their textiles, which American manufacturers have resisted. Such a move would empower the civilian middle class," writes Wright.

2-5/DGI

GETTING THE MILITARY OUT OF PAKISTANI POLITICS

By Aqil Shah

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 90, No. 3, May/June 2011, pp. 69-82.

The US has a major stake in Pakistan's stability, given the country's central role in the US-led effort to, in US President Barack Obama's words, "disrupt, dismantle, and defeat" al Qaeda; its war-prone rivalry with India over Kashmir; and its nuclear arsenal. As a result, US policy toward Pakistan has been dominated by con-

cerns for its stability -- providing the reasoning for Washington's backing of the Pakistani military's frequent interventions in domestic politics -- at the expense of its democratic institutions. But as the recent eruption of protests in the Middle East against US-backed tyrants has shown, authoritarian stability is not always a winning bet.

2-6/UP

U.S.-PAKISTAN: Bad Union, No Divorce

By Michael E. O'Hanlon

Brookings Review, May 2, 2011

<http://www.brookings.edu>

We knew Islamabad had mixed views about groups like the Haqqani network and Afghan Taliban, who take sanctuary on Pakistani territory. It tolerated them even as those groups killed Americans and others in Afghanistan. Washington officials always tried to rationalize these actions away because of Pakistan's worries that it would need friends in Afghanistan should the North Atlantic Treaty Organization leave the region before the job there was done. Indeed, Pakistan's help is needed for any big breakthrough we might hope for in Afghanistan peace talks.

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

2-7/DGI

THE COPYRIGHT DILEMMA: Copyright Systems, Innovation and Economic Development

By Walter G. Park

Journal of International Affairs, Fall/Winter 2010, pp. 1-16.

The author, an associate professor of economics at American University, discusses the potential role of copyright laws in technological and economic development, and how copyright regimes affect education and scientific research through their impacts on the diffusion of knowledge embodied in copyrighted media.

2-8/DGI

FOI LAWS AROUND THE WORLD

By Greg Michener

Journal of Democracy, Vol. 22, No. 2, April 2011, pp. 145-159.

Are laws guaranteeing citizens freedom of access to public information (FOI laws) among the most impor-

tant democratic innovations of the last century? More than forty years after the UN mandated the norm in 1948, there were barely more than a dozen laws in existence. Difference has since accelerated. Even so, more than half the world's governments will operate without FOI regulations, and even optimistic experts agree that vast bulk of current FIO laws are highly problematic on paper and in practice.

2-9/DGI

THE FUTURE OF THE LIBERAL WORLD

ORDER: Internationalism after America

By G John Ikenberry

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 90, No. 3, May/June 2011, pp. 56-71.

As the United States' relative power declines, will the open and rule-based liberal international order Washington has championed since the 1940s start to erode? Probably not. That order is alive and well. China and other emerging powers will not seek to undermine the system; instead, they will try to gain more leadership within it.

2-10/DGI

FROM THE FRINGE TO THE MAINSTREAM

By Paul Farhi

American Journalism Review, Vol. 32, No. 4, Winter 2010, pp. 33-37.

The author, a Washington Post reporter, discusses the journalistic ethics surrounding U.S. news coverage of conspiracy theories and sensational allegations by fringe political groups, as well as the role of the internet in popularizing views that may not have gained a widespread audience prior to the 21st century.

2-11/DGI

INTERNET FREEDOM: Historic Roots and the Road Forward

By Alec Ross

SAIS Review of International Affairs, Vol. 30, No. 2, Summer-Fall 2010, pp. 3-15.

The author, Senior Advisor for Innovation to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, is tasked with maximizing the potential of technology in service of America's diplomatic and development goals. This article addresses the need to protect and promote the positive social and economic benefits of network technologies by mapping out the principles of Internet freedom, its history, contemporary context and conceptual frame-

work, and providing an overview of how the work of the State Department can help achieve its goals.

2-12/DGI

LANGUISHING LANGUAGES

By Ben Block

Worldwatch, Vol. 23, No. 4, July/August 2010, pp. 24-28.

Almost half of the world's 6700 languages could become extinct by the end of this century, according to one estimate made by the United Nations. If those languages die, a unique view of the world will expire with them. People who live close to their land and rely upon its resources for their existence use their language to describe their environment with a precision and nuance that other languages can't approach. Currently, experts estimate that some 470 languages are on the critical list, 182 of them in the Western Hemisphere, 152 in the Pacific and the remainder divided among other regions.

2-13/DGI

LEARNING TO LOVE THE (SHALLOW, DIVISIVE, UNRELIABLE) NEW MEDIA

By James Fallows

The Atlantic, Vol. 307, No. 3, April 2011, pp. 34-49.

The author, a national correspondent for The Atlantic, discusses the role of online social media in 21st century journalism, arguing that the use of new media as a news source is evidence of changes in journalism and the news business in the U.S. Everyone from President Obama to Ted Koppel is bemoaning a decline in journalistic substance, seriousness, and sense of proportion. But the author, a longtime advocate of these values, takes a journey through the digital-media world and concludes there isn't any point in defending the old ways. Consumer-obsessed, sensationalist, and passionate about their work, digital upstarts are undermining the old media—and they may also be pointing the way to a brighter future.

2-14/DGI

MIND VS. MACHINE

By Brian Christian

The Atlantic, Vol. 307, No. 2, March 2011, pp. 1-11.

Artificial intelligence has advanced to the point that computers can very nearly pass for human. What are they telling us about ourselves? The author discusses the Loebner Prize and the Turing test, which com-

compares artificial intelligence with human intelligence to determine which is more human.

2-15/DGI

NATURAL LABORATORY

By Julie Cart

National Wildlife, April/May 2011.

<http://www.nwf.org>

Yellowstone National Park has become a foremost laboratory for study of the effects of global warming because it is so close to its original state and hosts such a wide variety of flora and fauna. Scientists have already recorded changes in water levels, a rise in destructive pine beetle infestations, and negative, or potentially negative, impacts on fish and wildlife species. Climate change presents a significant management challenge to this unique ecosystem. Scientists in Yellowstone look to create new strategies for protecting the diversity of such compromised natural preserves.

2-16/DGI

PAKISTAN IN 2010

By C Christine Fair

Asian Survey, Vol. 51, No. 1, January/February 2011, pp. 97-114.

The 2010 floods exacerbated Pakistan's lingering domestic weaknesses including fraught civil-military relations, perilous economic conditions, and the ineptitude of the civilian government. While a military coup is unlikely anytime soon, army Chief Ashfaq Pervez Kayani continues to consolidate his personal power, despite his cultivated democratic credentials, and that of the army, at the expense of the civilian leadership. The differences in the strategic interests of Pakistan and the U.S. seem stark, especially as the latter seeks to develop an exit strategy that would permit a cessation of its military action in Afghanistan.

2-17/DGI

QUALITY OF LIFE: India vs. China

By Amartya Sen

The New York Review of Books, Vol. 58, No. 8, May 12, 2011.

The rate of economic growth in India is steadily rising, and there is much speculation about whether and when India may catch up with and surpass China's growth rate. Despite the evident excitement that this subject seems to cause in India and abroad, it is surely rather silly to be obsessed about India's overtaking

China in the rate of growth of GNP, while not comparing India with China in other respects, like education, basic health, or life expectancy. Economic growth can, of course, be enormously helpful in advancing living standards and in battling poverty. But there is little cause for taking the growth of GNP to be an end in itself, rather than seeing it as an important means for achieving things we value.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

2-18/IS

THE BIN LADEN CONSPIRACY THEORIES:

Why Falsehoods Flourish in the Muslim World

By Matthew Gray

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 90, No. 3, May 4, 2011.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com>

Given how common conspiracy theories are, and how fragmented, conflict-prone, and anti-American the Middle East can be, is there any hope of conspiracy claims being countered? Direct counterargument is useless; it is exactly what conspiracy theorists expect from a plotter, and it may even strengthen their case. This is why it is a mistake for the U.S. State Department to engage conspiracy theories as it does, posting takedowns of them on its Web site. While understandable, such initiatives are probably futile in changing the views of those most being targeted. Likewise, releasing a photograph of bin Laden's body will convince only those who remain open-minded about bin Laden's death: it will have no impact on die-hard conspiracy theorists, or even those customarily suspicious of the United States.

2-19/IS

ENDING PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR ADDICTION

Arms Control Today, Vol. 41, No. 2, March 2011, pp. 4-5.

The people of Pakistan face multiple hardships: catastrophic flooding, a Taliban-affiliated insurgency, political assassinations, and chronic poverty. Yet, the country's powerful military establishment has directed much of the nation's wealth and perhaps even international nuclear technical assistance to building a nuclear arsenal that does nothing to address these urgent threats.

2-20/IS

FOREIGN FIGHTERS - Recent Trends

By Barak Mendelsohn

Orbis, Vol. 55, No. 2, 2011, pp. 189-202.

Beginning with a historical perspective on foreign fighters, this article then seeks to clarify ambiguities and biases that shape how we often analyze the foreign fighter phenomenon. The central focus is then on the evolving trends and activities of the movement. A new generation of fighters has emerged who are comfortable as terrorists, recruiters, trainers and media propagandist, among other specialties. The author concludes by assessing the significance of the problem today.

2-21/IS

IS INDIA ENDING ITS STRATEGIC RESTRAINT DOCTRINE?

By Sunil Dasgupta and Stephen P. Cohen

The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 34, No. 2, Spring 2011, pp. 163-177.

One of the most remarkable attributes of India as an independent state has been its reticence to use force as an instrument of policy. From the delay in sending troops to defend Kashmir in 1947 to the 24-year hiatus in testing nuclear weapons before 1998, Indian decisions on military force have come as an unwelcome last resort, and with rare exception, have been counterproductive, solidifying the wisdom of restraint. India's rapid economic growth, ambitious military modernization particularly the 1998 nuclear tests and rapprochement with the United States have raised the prospect of India's rise to great-power status, including an end to the country's enduring strategic restraint.

2-22/IS

ON THE TRAIL OF THE 'LIONS OF ISLAM':

Foreign Fighters in Afghanistan and Pakistan, 1980-2010

By Brian Glyn Williams

Orbis, Vol. 55, No. 2, 2011, pp. 216-239.

This article provides a review of the history of jihadi foreign fighters in Afghanistan over the last 30 years. It details the post-9/11 period and the invasion of Afghanistan by U.S. forces, focusing on the ethnic origin of the foreign fighters and how different groups engaged in different aspects of the conflict. Additionally, the piece explains that while the foreign fighters who came to fight alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan in-

cluded, among others, Uzbekistanis (not Afghan Uzbeks), Turks, and Arabs, there was also a significant force of Pakistanis—of both Pashtun and Punjabi origins—that joined, bolstering the Taliban army.

2-23/IS

PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR BUILDUP VEXES FMCT TALKS

By Peter Crail

Arms Control Today, Vol. 41, No. 2, March 2011, pp. 50-51.

Pakistan declared in January that it had strengthened its opposition to negotiating a treaty banning the production of fissile material as it prepared to bolster its nuclear arsenal. Islamabad's position threatens to prolong a 14-year stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the United Nations' arms control negotiating body, which operates on a consensus basis. Pakistan has been the only country blocking the start of negotiations on a so-called fissile material cutoff treaty (FMCT) at the CD for more than two years, leading some of the body's 65 member states to search for ways around the Pakistani roadblock, including holding negotiations outside the CD.

2-24/IS

PAKISTAN'S SECURITY-GOVERNANCE CHALLENGE

By Christine C. Fair

Current History, Vol. 110, No. 735, April 2011, pp. 136-142.

Pakistan not only lacks security but also suffers severe deficiencies in governance capacity. Because Pakistanis are denied a voice in the future of their state, and seem ever more vulnerable to natural disasters as well as to criminal and terrorist activities, the notion of security governance could hardly be a more pressing issue for the country, its citizenry, and the international community.

2-25/IS

THE RISE OF THE ISLAMISTS: How Islamists Will Change Politics, and Vice Versa

By Shadi Hamid

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 90, No. 3, May/June 2011, pp. 41-48.

For decades, US policy toward the Middle East has been paralyzed by "the Islamist dilemma." Now, it seems, the US no longer has a choice. Popular revolu-

tions have swept US-backed authoritarian regimes from power in Tunisia and Egypt and put Libya's on notice. If truly democratic governments form in their wake, they are likely to include significant representation of mainstream Islamist groups. Like it or not, the US will have to learn to live with political Islam. To guide the new, rapidly evolving Middle East in a favorable direction, the US should play to these instincts by entering into a strategic dialogue with the region's Islamist groups and parties. Through engagement, the US can encourage these Islamists to respect key Western interests, including advancing the Arab-Israeli peace process, countering Iran, and combating terrorism. The US can take precautions -- and it should -- but this does not alter an unavoidable reality. Anti-Israel public opinion will remain a feature of Middle Eastern politics until a final and equitable peace treaty is struck.

2-26/IS

SOVEREIGNTY AND THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN CYBERSPACE

By Lewis, James

Brown Journal of World Affairs, Vol. 16, No. 2, Spring/Summer 2010, pp. 55-65.

The author, Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, writes that "the concept of cyberspace being a global commons due to its supposed lack of borders is best seen as a wish rather than a description". The Internet was never designed to be a system upon which hundreds of millions of people would depend, and in which so much economic activity would take place. Lewis believes that government is crucial to defending the Internet, because sophisticated intelligence and military services would overwhelm private efforts.

2-27/IS

WHY THE PAKISTAN ARMY IS HERE TO STAY: Prospects for Civilian Governance

By Christine C. Fair

International Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 3, May 2011, pp. 571-588.

This article explores the prospects for civilian governance over Pakistan's military in the policy-relevant future. After reviewing the Pakistan army's past interference in the country's judicial and political affairs, it turns to the ongoing political maneuvering of the current Chief of Army Staff, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, despite Pakistan's ostensible democratic dis-

penation. The article dilates on the impact of US engagement on the robustness of the Pakistan army's dominance and questions the newfound US commitment to promoting democratization and civilian control. The article argues that while conventional wisdom places the onus disproportionately upon the military's penchant for interventionism, the army has intervened only with the active assistance of civilian institutions, which are subsequently further eroded with every military takeover. It concludes with a consideration of whether or not genuine civilian control would result in a significant change in Pakistan's foreign and domestic policies, particularly Pakistan's well-known utilization of Islamist militants in India and Afghanistan.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

2-28/ES

CURRENCY WARS, THEN AND NOW: How Policymakers Can Avoid the Perils of the 1930s

By Liaquat Ahamed

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 90, No. 2, March/April 2011, pp. 92-106.

The global economy was still mired in a depression that had begun more than three years earlier. In the two countries hardest hit, Germany and the US, unemployment was above 30%. The UK, the nations of the British Empire, and a handful of other European countries with close commercial ties to London had abandoned the gold standard in late 1931, leaving exchange-rate arrangements in complete disarray. Meanwhile, Germany, after a banking crisis in the summer of 1931, had suspended payments on most of its international debts and imposed severe currency and capital controls.

2-29/ES

MADE IN THE USA

By Brendan I. Koerner

Wired, Vol. 19, No. 3, March 2011, pp. 104-110.

After many problems outsourcing the production of their headphones in China, Mark Krywko, CEO at Sleek Audio, and Jason Krywko, cofounder of the company, decided to bring production back to the US. They found Dynamic Innovations, a maker of computers and equipment near their company headquarters. Each earphone costs about 50% more to produce in Florida than it did in China, however, Krywko is

happy to pay the price so that his company will not go broke because of botched orders and delays in shipping. Many companies are starting to take a look at the limitations of outsourcing. Labor costs have doubled in China between 2002 and 2008 and the value of the yuan has risen steadily. One of the big reasons companies are abandoning China is quality.

2-30/ES

A TRULY REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR AFGHANISTAN

By Andrew C. Kuchins

The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 34, No. 2, Spring 2011, pp. 77-91.

Two events in the past year have shifted the focus of efforts to stabilize Afghanistan as President Obama's July 2011 deadline for beginning a drawdown of U.S. forces approaches. The first was the Kabul Conference, held July 20, 2010, where Afghan President Hamid Karzai announced that Afghanistan would take full responsibility for its sovereignty and security by the end of 2014. The November 2010 NATO conference in Lisbon the second event confirmed this benchmark for full transition to Afghan sovereignty as well as a longer-term commitment to a "strong partnership" beyond 2014. While there are certain caveats about "conditions-based" decisions regarding these benchmarks, this timeframe should guide the strategic planning of the Afghan government, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and regional partners.

2-31/ES

WOMEN MANAGING FARMS AND FORESTS IN SOUTH ASIA

By Bina Agarwal

Solutions, Vol. 2, No. 2, March 2011, pp. 16-20.

Agarwal, Director and professor of economics at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University, notes that, for millions of women and children in developing countries, rights to agricultural land are crucial to their well-being. She writes, however, that inheritance laws and custom favor men, and women lack the resources to buy or lease land, or are unable to cultivate land effectively, due to the small size of plots. Agarwal advocates a group approach, whereby women would pool their resources to create joint farm enterprises. Agarwal notes that in some former Soviet-bloc countries, groups of families have banded back together to form agricultural cooperatives. She says that

similar successes can be accomplished with forest-protection cooperatives.

2-32/ES

THE RESURRECTION

By Michael Hirsch

National Journal, March 26, 2011.

In this profile of Citigroup and its CEO Vikram Pandit, the author notes that the resurgent "too big to fail" Wall Street banks are growing bigger and more global than before, earning more of their profits overseas and pushing out or buying up smaller competitors. Hirsch notes that many of the regulatory reforms enacted after the 2008-2009 financial crash have yet to take effect; regulators abroad agree even less on a common strategy than do those in Washington. He notes that the underlying instabilities that resulted in the global crisis have remained unresolved. As these giant financial institutions expand their global reach, Hirsch warns that the U.S. government may be put in the position of becoming the guarantor of last resort for banks over which it has even less control and oversight than previously.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

2-33/SV

HOW SKYSCRAPERS CAN SAVE THE CITY

By Edward Glaeser

The Atlantic, March 2011, pp. 1-12.

Besides making cities more affordable and architecturally interesting, tall buildings are greener than sprawl, and they foster social capital and creativity. The author, an economics professor at Harvard University's Department of Economics, discusses the development of skyscrapers in cities throughout history.

2-34/SV

THE LEGACY OF MALCOLM X.

Atlantic Monthly, Vol. 307, No. 4, May 2011, pp. 100-107.

The article discusses the influence of African-American human rights activist and public speaker Malcolm X on the actions and perspectives of U.S. President Barack Obama. This influence is explored in light of the release of the book "Malcolm X: A Life of

Reinvention" by Manning Marable. The article describes the influence of the work and imprisonment of Malcolm X on the experiences of African Americans in the 1960s, who the author says were mistreated and judged by white pundits.

2-35/SV

THE NEXT AMERICA

By Ronald Brownstein

National Journal, March 31, 2011, pp. 1-7.

The author, an editorial director of National Journal Group, discusses the growing minority population in the United States and its implications for the 2012 U.S. presidential election. Minorities are increasing in number faster than just about anyone expected. That could have important implications for the 2012 presidential race. The 2010 census showed that the minority share of the population increased over the past decade in every state, reaching levels higher than demographers anticipated almost everywhere, and in the nation as a whole.

2-36/SV

THE PARADOX OF AMERICAN UNIPOLARITY: Why the United States May Be Better Off in a Post-Unipolar World"

By Richard Maher

Orbis, Vol. 55, No. 1, Winter 2011, pp. 53-68.

The author, a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Brown University, examines the relationship of unipolarity and the declination of U.S. power in world politics, focusing on how the United States can maintain its predominance and how best to position itself in the "post-unipolar" world. The decline in the United States' relative position is in part a consequence of the burdens and susceptibilities produced by unipolarity. Contrary to the conventional wisdom, the U.S. position both internationally and domestically may actually be strengthened once this period of unipolarity has passed.

2-37/SV

THE TEA PARTY AND AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

By Walter Russell Mead

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 90, No. 3, March/April 2011, pp. 1-17.

The author, the James Clarke Chance Professor of Foreign Affairs and the Humanities at Bard College,

examines the rise of the U.S. Tea Party movement and its implications on U.S. foreign policy. What does rise of the Tea Party movement mean for U.S. foreign policy? Since today's populists have little interest in creating a liberal world order, U.S. policymakers will have to find some way to satisfy their angry domestic constituencies while also working effectively in the international arena.

VIDEO ALERT

The following videos are available in the "Information, Research and Communication Unit in the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad.

For more information, please call at 051-2082786

SOUNDTRACK FOR A REVOLUTION

Actors: John Legend, Wyclef Jean

(DVD), (Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo), 82 Minutes

In this musical documentary, Nanking directors Bill Guttentag and Dan Sturman showcase the anthems that fueled the civil rights movement, recounting major developments through newsreel footage and first-person recollections. Congressman John Lewis, an aid to Martin Luther King Jr., explains that the music "created a sense of solidarity" during the sit-ins, marches, boycotts, and freedom rides that took place throughout the South.

WHICH WAY HOME

Director: Rebecca Cammisa

(DVD), 90 Minutes, 2011

Nominated for a 2010 Academy Award, Which Way Home, through its shocking depictions of neglected immigrant children struggling to sneak into America by train, manages to charm viewers into concern for its audacious young stars. Director Rebecca Cammisa's choice to focus almost exclusively on interviews with the train-hopping children, who range in age from roughly 8 to 18, makes this documentary infinitely more touching and effective. One gets a more well-rounded impression of the socioeconomic problem here; for every feeling of liberation the children experience, there are dangers lurking around the corner, several of which come to fruition during the filming period covered.

THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

**Actor: Anna Wintour
(DVD), 90 Minutes, 2010.**

An intimate, funny and surprising behind-the-scenes look at VOGUE'S legendary editor-in-chief Anna Wintour and her team of larger-than-life editors, this is the captivating story of how they create the must-have bible of fashion: THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE. At the eye of this annual fashion hurricane is the two-decade relationship between Anna and Grace Codrington, incomparable creative director and fashion genius. Through them, we see close-up the delicate creative chemistry it takes to remain at the top of the fashion field. Now, with the biggest issue ever hanging in the balance, Anna and Grace confront the runways of Fashion Week, the back rooms of the world's biggest designers, the high-stakes photo shoots – and each other – as the VOGUE team scrambles to find the perfect look for each page. Director R.J. Cutler delivers this riveting look into the world of fashion that is as fun, fabulous and fast-paced as the world it captures.

KURT COBAIN - ABOUT A SON

**Actors: Kurt Cobain, Michael Azerrad,
(DVD), 96 Minutes, 2008**

Kurt Cobain was deeply suspicious of journalists, but he trusted Rolling Stone's Michael Azerrad enough to give him unprecedented access during the writing of the book *Come As You Are: The Story of Nirvana*. Consisting entirely of Cobain's never-before-heard musings and recollections recorded by Azerrad and laid on top of newly shot footage of the places that he lived, *Kurt Cobain: About A Son* offers an intimate portrait of the rocker's troubled formative years and meteoric rise to stardom. The result is the story of one of rock's greatest icons as it's never been told before.

BOOK ALERT

The following books are available in the 'Lincoln Reading Lounge at the National Library of Pakistan, Islamabad. For more information, please call at 051-9206436.

CLOTHING THROUGH AMERICAN HISTORY

By Ann Buermann Wass and Michelle Webb Fandrich

Greenwood, February 2010

COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL TERRORISM: searching for a new paradigm

Edited by Steven Y. Tsang

Greenwood Publishing Group, 2009

A CULTURAL HISTORY OF TERRORISM

By Michael Burleigh

HarperCollins Publishers, 2010

THE ELECTORAL CONDITIONS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: how democracies select their leaders affects their foreign policy

By Denis Rey and others

Edwin Mellen Pr, June 2010

THE ETHICAL JOURNALIST: making responsible decisions in the pursuit of news

By Gene Foreman

John Wiley, Sons, 2009

GLOBALIZATION IN WORLD HISTORY

By Stearns Peter

Routledge 2009