

# ARTICLE ALERT

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b><u>The Rule of Law</u></b> .....	<b>pp. 3-6</b>
1. Unilaterally shaping U.S. national security policy: The role of national security directives	
2. On improving nation-state governance	
3. Two parties, two types of nominees, two paths to winning a presidential nomination, 1972-2004	
4. Lessons from Europe	
5. Chinese national oil companies and human rights	
6. Iraq: A look back	
7. Polling the populace	
8. Robert's rules	
<b><u>Economics and Trade</u></b> .....	<b>pp.6- 9</b>
9. Board of hard knocks	
10. Living in America's fringe economy	
11. Pax Asia-Pacific? East-Asian integration and its implications for the United States	
12. Competitive advantage on a warming planet	
13. China and global energy markets	
14. The end of national currency	
15. Has globalization passed its peak?	
<b><u>Global Issues/Environment</u></b> .....	<b>pp. 9-11</b>
16. Whatever happened to the future?	
17. Losing the propaganda wars	
18. Here come the cleaner, greener cars	
19. The health of nations	
<b><u>Regional Security</u></b> .....	<b>pp. 11-13</b>
20. Roaring mice and a frightened elephant: Why a missile defense might save the United States from the evils of rogue states	
21. Al Qaeda strikes back	
22. The hatred of others: the Kremlin's powerful but risky weapon	
23. How to deal with South Korea	
24. Russia and the West: Taking the longer view	
25. Understanding the Taliban and insurgency in Afghanistan	
<b><u>U.S. Society and Values</u></b> .....	<b>pp. 13-15</b>
26. Is America ready for a black president?	
27. America's design for tolerance	
28. The measure of learning	
29. Responsive workplaces	
30. How America does art	

## **The Rule of Law**

### **1. UNILATERALLY SHAPING U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY: THE ROLE OF NATIONAL SECURITY DIRECTIVES**

Gordon, Vikki

Presidential Studies Quarterly, Vol. 37, No. 2, June 2007, pp. 349-367

Among the foreign-policy tools that the President has at his disposal is the little-known National Security Directive (NSD). This tool of unilateral action was established during the Truman administration, initially as policy research papers designed to help the President in his decision-making process. It was not until the Kennedy Administration that NSDs were used to articulate policy decisions. NSDs are also used to request information from government agencies and formulate a cohesive policy for national action. Most NSDs are classified and unless the Administration releases an unclassified version or a fact sheet (usually to garner public support for a policy), neither Congress nor the public is aware that the Executive Branch has acted unilaterally on a particular policy. From the Kennedy through the Bush I Administrations (NSDs during the Clinton and Bush II Administrations remain classified), the author believes that 1200 NSDs have been issued, covering such topics as guidance for treaty negotiations, management coordination, setting policies for countries or regions, developing national security doctrines, arms sales, economic policy or establishing positions on international issues such as space, science, environment, refugees, human rights or public diplomacy. NSDs have long-lasting influence since they remain in effect unless rescinded by a later administration. The author, a PH.D candidate at Oxford Brookes University, notes that very little research has been done on NSDs and their effects since they remain out of the public domain. For this reason, Congress does not have the opportunity to either acquiesce or overturn a policy generated through the NSD process.

### **2. ON IMPROVING NATION-STATE GOVERNANCE**

Rotberg, Robert

Daedalus, vol. 136, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 152–155

The author, a fellow of the American Academy, a Harvard professor and the president of the World Peace Foundation, argues for the creation of a universal system of ranking states with respect to their results in good-governance, just as the nongovernmental organization Transparency International is ranking states in respect to corruption. In the author's view, a transparent and objective ranking system would provide a stronger incentive to improvement and would have a more positive effect on the developing world than pressure from Washington, London or Brussels. He cites eight main categories of political services that numerous studies link to economic growth. The most important is security, followed by the rule of law, freedom to participate in the political process and economic opportunity. The other fundamental goods are health care, education, transportation and communication infrastructure, and the empowerment of civil society. As shown by numerous public opinion surveys in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, these are also the aspects of "good governance" that most people throughout the world agree upon, writes the author.

### **3. TWO PARTIES, TWO TYPES OF NOMINEES, TWO PATHS TO WINNING A PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION, 1972-2004**

Berggren, D. Jason

Presidential Studies Quarterly, Volume 37, No. 2, June 2007, pp. 203-227

The author, instructor at Florida International University, examines U.S. presidential primary poll data over the last three decades to determine patterns in how candidates are selected by the Republicans and Democrats. Previous scholars did not include party affiliation in their analysis, probably concluding that frontrunners usually win their party's nomination. Berggren demonstrates this is not true. After reforms to the nomination process were completed in the early 1970s, almost all presidential nominees for the Democratic party from 1972-2004 have been unknown candidates who have entered the race late and only had single-digit support in the polls at the start (former Vice President Al Gore was the exception.) Early front-runners for the Democratic nomination have faltered, and the eventual party candidate can be predicted by looking at the results of the Iowa caucus, the New Hampshire primary and the first southern primary. In contrast, the first poll taken a year before the Iowa Caucus has been 100 percent accurate in selecting the Republican party presidential nominee, usually a well-known party elder. Berggren argues that differing cultures of the two parties consistently lead to these outcomes, and these styles are reflected in each party's nomination rules. Most state Republican parties use a winner-take-all method for allocating convention delegates, while the Democrats allocate delegates proportionately among those running. Under this scenario, Democrats are more likely to have a choice to make during the primary process with Republicans ratifying an established choice. Berggren concludes that future studies of the nomination process must take into consideration the differences between Democrat and Republican styles.

### **4. LESSONS FROM EUROPE**

Berman, Sheri

Journal of Democracy, vol. 18, no. 1, January 2007, pp. 28-41

The author, associate professor of political science in Barnard College, Columbia University, believes that during the 1950s and 1960s, the debate over democracy as the best form of modern political governance, was dominated by the preconditionists, who stressed the importance of various national prerequisites and deep structural factors such as levels of socioeconomic development, degrees of socioeconomic equality and group polarization, patterns of land ownership or agricultural production, or the prevalence of certain beliefs or cultural traits. In contrast, universalists contended that democracy could emerge through diverse paths and flourish in diverse circumstances. The "third wave" of global democratization that began in 1974 gave a strong push to the universalist view, as the shift from authoritarian to democratic rule was made in dozens of countries -- including many that preconditionists would not have considered ripe for such a move. As a result, scholarship began to focus less on the structures supposedly associated with successful democracy and more on the process of democratic transitions. However, the best way to understand how stable, well-functioning democracies develop is to analyze

the political backstories of most democracies, which include struggle, conflict, and even violence. Understanding past cases is a crucial step toward putting today's democratization and democracy promotion discussions into the proper intellectual and historical context.

## **5. CHINESE NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Chen, Matthew

ORBIS, vol. 51, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 41-54

China, in its race to meet its growing energy demand, is contributing to massive human rights abuses in Sudan and Burma, is entering into dangerous alliances with Iran and Venezuela, straining Sino-American relations, and is undermining international security by blocking multilateral crisis management efforts. The author calls on the international community to develop a comprehensive strategy to encourage “corporate social responsibility” in China’s state-owned energy companies to engage with international producers’ groups and human-rights oriented NGOs. By doing so, the international community can avoid a race to the bottom when it comes to turning a blind eye to dangerous and abusive regimes and help work toward reducing instability in energy-rich states.

## **6. IRAQ: A LOOK BACK**

King-Irani, Laurie

ORBIS, vol. 51, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 91-106

The author, a specialist in local governance and conflict resolution at Washington DC’s Catholic University, evaluates the prospects for postwar rehabilitation of Iraqi society. Historically, Iraq’s diversity has complicated efforts to develop a unified national vision, but today a common desire for stability unifies communities — particularly for the Ba’athist regime’s victims, the internally displaced, and those who have lost family members to ongoing sectarian violence. The new Iraqi government and the United States must learn from the mistakes of recent years and rededicate themselves establishing and upholding the rule of law if they are truly dedicated to building democracy. Without it, the author warns that the chaos will continue, and will likely spread throughout the region.

## **7. POLLING THE POPULACE**

Walters, Jonathan

Governing, Vol. 20, No. 7, April 2007, pp. 66-68

Local officials are surveying their citizens to learn of preferences in services, priorities in new programs, and indicators of performance. Whether the survey is by mail or phone, or face-to-face in a focus group, the information gathered from these selected respondents is considered more reliable than that obtained from comments at public hearings or on web sites. Officials and administrators are using the information to make local government more responsive to citizen needs. One survey administrator commented that the information “helps frame the debate, and it helps you stay vigilant about doing the right thing and being responsive.” The author cites the case of city officials in Chippewa Falls,

Wisconsin, who made budget decisions that contradicted survey findings; the public turmoil that ensued led the mayor and several other officials to forgo reelection. Available at <http://www.governing.com/manage/pm/perf0407.htm>

## **8. ROBERT'S RULES**

Rosen, Jeffrey

Atlantic Monthly, vol. 299, no. 1, January/February 2007, pp. 104-113

In a lengthy interview, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts offers his views on what makes a successful chief justice. Roberts believes that the “temperament of a chief justice can be as important as judicial philosophy in determining success or failure.” His ideal is John Marshall, chief justice from 1801-1835, who “gave everyone the benefit of the doubt; he approached everyone as a friend ... it was just in his nature to get along with people ... I think that had to play an important role in his ability to bring the Court together, to change the whole way decisions were arrived at, to really create the notion that we are a Court -- not simply an assemblage of individual justices.” Roberts believes that “a chief justice’s authority is really quite limited ... and the dynamic among all the justices is going to affect whether he can accomplish much or not.” Chief justices assign cases to the different associate justices, and Roberts intends to use this power to strive for consensus as much as possible. “It’s not my greatest power; it’s my only power. Say someone is committed to broad consensus, and somebody else is just dead set on ‘My way or the highway.’ Well, you assign that [case] to the consensus-minded person, and it gives you a much better chance, out of the box, of getting some kind of consensus.”

## **Economics and Trade**

### **9. BOARD OF HARD KNOCKS**

Byrnes, Nanette; Sasseen, Jane

Business Week, No. 4018, January 22, 2007, p. 37

As a result of the passage of the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the authors look at how corporate board members are now facing “real financial liability in a smattering of lawsuits” following a spate of corporate scandals in recent years. Board members are paying more attention to CEO compensation, which includes providing a breakdown of all compensation given to executives, including, for the first time, severance and deferred pay. Additionally, corporate boards of directors are now required to justify their reasons for the amounts of CEO compensation they have set, as well as to oversee financial audits and conduct internal investigations. Due to time and energy spent on these details, they do not have much time on advising the CEOs. Nonetheless, these changes are seen by many as improving corporate boards.

### **10. LIVING IN AMERICA'S FRINGE ECONOMY**

Karger, Howard

AlterNet, posted December 29, 2006

Businesses that engage in predatory financial transactions with low-income or heavily indebted consumers, by charging excessive interest rates and fees or exorbitant prices

for goods and services, are not new in the U.S. Karger, professor of social work at the University of Houston, and author of *SHORTCHANGED: LIFE AND DEBT IN THE FRINGE ECONOMY*, writes, however, that the “fringe economy” in the U.S. has grown explosively in recent years, taking advantage of the growing proportion of the U.S. population whose lives are economically insecure. Additionally, the expansion of nationwide chains of payday lenders, pawnshops and check-cashing stores are being fueled by a number of major banks. The profits raked in by these chains rivals the federal government assistance programs to low-income households. Contrary to the predatory lending industry’s claims that they charge higher rates to make up for the increased risk of doing business with poor people, the author notes that studies have shown that the default rates on these transactions are quite low; the net result is that people already struggling to make ends meet are enmeshed in a web of debt. Karger notes that at least one major bank in this field has plans to export its operations to Poland, China, Mexico, Britain, France, India, and Brazil. He notes that it will take a variety of strategies, such as community-based lending institutions, higher minimum wages, stricter usury laws and more robust banking regulations “to restrain this growing and out-of-control economic beast.” Available online at <http://www.alternet.org/story/45813/>

## **11. PAX ASIA-PACIFICA? EAST ASIAN INTEGRATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES**

Kurlantzick, Joshua

Washington Quarterly, Vol. 30, No. 3, Summer 2007, pp. 67-77

Kurlantzick, a fellow at the Pacific Council on International Policy and a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, describes how the countries of East Asia have begun to integrate and move toward the formation of a true regional community focused on “actors within the region such as China, rather than the United States, to resolve security and economic disputes.” He attributes the beginning of this movement to the slowness of the United States to respond to the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s, which created the impression that the region was not important to the Americans, and to China’s efforts to normalize ties with its neighbors. The East Asia Summit (EAS), a meeting of all Asian nations which first convened in 2005, could be the first step toward integration along the lines of the European Union. Some in Washington see this as a threat to U.S. influence in the region, but Kurlantzick discounts this, saying that U.S. opposition to Asian integration “will only enhance the appeal of China.” He proposes instead that Washington encourage integration and revitalize its public diplomacy in the region, tasking Foreign Service officers to specialize in one country, developing close contacts with business and political leaders. The U.S. should also support democratization in the region and publicly back the idea of an Asian currency unit.

## **12. COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE ON A WARMING PLANET**

Lash, Jonathan; Wellington, Fred

Harvard Business Review, vol. 85, no. 3, March 2007, pp. 95 – 102

From traditional smokestack industries to investment banking and other “clean” service businesses, companies throughout the world are going to feel the effects of global climate change, argue the authors, the president and a senior financial analyst of the World Resources Institute, an environmental research organization in Washington. Climate change presents the business community with an array of new risks -- regulatory and litigation costs, supply chain problems, reputation risks and physical threats by droughts, floods, storms and rising sea levels. It also offer a number of new opportunities -- increased demand for new technologies and new services, like managing the already flourishing market for carbon allowances. In the coming decades, the ability to limit a company’s exposure to climatic threats, knowledge of how to assess and quantify new risks, and readiness to take advantage of new opportunities will become important economic factors deciding the likelihood of a company’s failure or success, predict the authors. Even today, investors are discounting share prices they deem “poorly positioned to compete in the warming world,” and consumers are considering a company’s environmental record before making purchasing decisions, they say. Under those circumstances, “doing well by doing good” may no longer be enough as business climate policies are becoming an area of constant innovation and intense competition.

### **13. CHINA AND GLOBAL ENERGY MARKETS**

Cornelius, Peter; Story, John

ORBIS, vol. 51, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 5-20

A rising China’s struggle to meet its ever-increasing demand for oil is shaping global energy markets as well as the international security agenda. The authors assess oil’s role in China’s energy mix (22 percent and growing), as demand for automobiles increases as its domestic oil reserves dwindle. While China has raised eyebrows with its global push to seek out new resources, the authors argue that the key to China’s energy future hinges on the maze of conflicting domestic actors driving its energy policy. They note that China is facing a major turning point: will the Communist Party follow its WTO accession commitment to open its financial markets to international competition and stop shielding its domestic market from rising oil prices? Their decision will have major ramifications for the future of Sino-American relations, but the authors conclude that as long as they open their markets and global price mechanisms continue operating efficiently, conflict between Washington and Beijing will be far from inevitable.

### **14. THE END OF NATIONAL CURRENCY**

Steil, Benn

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 86, No. 3, May-June 2007, pp. 83-96

Steil, director of international economics at the Council on Foreign Relations, relates how President Nixon in 1971 effectively ended the link to gold not only for the U.S. dollar but also for all national currencies. Since then all currencies have become fiat money, with no intrinsic value. Most people in most countries seek to get rid of their own national currencies because they fear default by their own governments. Instead they hold U.S. dollars or euros, in which they maintain faith. Countries such as Ecuador that have abandoned their national currencies entirely and adopted the U.S. dollar instead have seen

lower interest rates and thus stable economic expansion and low inflation. Countries such as Argentina that try to maintain a fixed dollar exchange rate without the dollars to do so have seen continued economic crisis and stagnation. Daily capital flows between two of the 12 largest economies in the world, California and New York State, take place with negligible cost, practically without thought, in a single currency. The developing economies of the world should take the lesson by abandoning their costly national currencies and instead adopting the U.S. dollar, the Euro, or some Pan-Asian currency.

### **15. HAS GLOBALIZATION PASSED ITS PEAK?**

Abdelal, Rawi; Segal, Adam

Foreign Affairs, vol. 86, no. 1, January/February 2007, pp. 103-114

Not long ago, most governments embraced the benefits of the global free flow of capital, goods and labor. Recently, however, barriers to free trade have begun to rise and institutional foundations of globalization to weaken, argue Abdelal, of Harvard University, and Segal, of the Council on Foreign Relations. Public skepticism about globalization is evident everywhere, but it is most striking in the two countries that seem to have benefited most from free trade and cross-border investment: the United States and China. The reasons are many, from the financial crises of the 1990s to current account imbalances, to tensions over free movement of labor, worries about energy markets, and dissatisfaction with the uneven distribution of globalization benefits. All of them can be overcome through deft, internationally coordinated policies, say the authors. But globalization is likely to slow down considerably and require more effort on the part of the United States and other major free-trade stakeholders.

### **Global Issues / Environment**

### **16. WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE FUTURE?**

Barrett, Randy

National Journal, vol. 39, no. 20, May 19, 2007, pp. 36-39

A 1981 U.S. government report, Global 2000, predicted that environmental, resource and population stresses could begin to seriously degrade the quality of life on the planet. The report sold 1.5 million copies, marking both the zenith and the demise of the futures movement. The Reagan administration scuttled the report and adopted budget policies which cut off funding for planning and projection within government agencies. Futurists - - represented by the World Future Society -- have been banished from government ever since, largely by a political process that looks no further than the next election. Problems such as global warming may create a public mood for a return of “futuring” in government, advocates say. Aging Baby Boomers may contribute to a swing toward policies with greater vision of generations to come, experts say, because “They want to make a difference before they die.”

### **17. LOSING THE PROPAGANDA WARS**

Kaylan, Melik

World Policy Journal, vol. 23, no. 4, Winter 2006/2007, pp. 19-26

The author, a Wall Street Journal commentator, writes that from the beginning of the Iraq venture, the Bush administration has not devoted much effort to winning over Iraqi public opinion, or in the greater Islamic world. Kaylan contrasts our tragic missteps in Iraq with the success in winning the Cold War; he believes that our descent “from zenith to nadir of preparedness ... is in considerable part a bureaucratic story”. The U.S. government’s public-diplomacy apparatus was largely dismantled and defunded by the Clinton administration after the Cold War, and suffered from a lack of direction during the 1990s; Kaylan fears that it will take years to rebuild. The present-day focus on the military rather than diplomacy has dismayed many longtime public-diplomacy professionals, who lament the “coarseness and inchoateness” of the current message. Kaylan notes that, to the Muslim world, the U.S. appears to “be trying too hard, and badly” -- the U.S. needs to show the Islamic world that we know them better, and to provide an outlet for the democratic tradition of Islamic thought, that has been in retreat in the face of fundamentalist threats. The author notes that many high-profile reports have called for an overhaul of our public-diplomacy efforts, including the 2003 Djerejian report, and assessments by the Council on Foreign Relations, the General Accounting Office, and the Heritage Foundation. They all agree that more funding is needed, that there is a severe dearth of Arab speakers in the U.S. diplomatic corps, and that public diplomacy be represented by a Cabinet-level position with direct access to the President.

## **18. HERE COME THE CLEANER, GREENER CARS**

Motavalli, Jim

E: The Environmental Magazine, Volume 18, No. 2, March/April 2007, pp. 26-33

Motavalli reports on the growing interest in cleaner and more fuel-efficient vehicles. The review covers gas-electric hybrids; plug-in hybrid and biodiesel conversion kits; Partial Zero Emission (PZEV) vehicles, which are available in states which use California emissions standards and use sophisticated computer controls and complex catalytic converters to reduce emissions; fuel-cell vehicles; and all-electric cars, such as the Tesla roadster. Sidebars cover the new EPA formula for calculating real fuel economy; an overview of all U.S. hybrids and their performance pros and cons; a reflection on the future of fully electric cars (sufficient driving range and battery storage capacity are major challenges); and a driver review of the advantages and disadvantages of alternative fuels.

## **19. THE HEALTH OF NATIONS**

Klein, Ezra

American Prospect, vol. 18, no. 5, May 2007, pp. 17-21

The author, a contributor with the American Prospect, notes that many countries provide better health care at lower cost than does the U.S. -- the only industrialized nation to have so many uninsured and underinsured citizens. Klein looks beyond the political and market forces that contribute to the U.S. health-care funding status quo, and examines models from other countries that the author believes provide better coverage at better economy. The author also highlights the positive record of the Veterans Health

Administration, pointing out that the VA system is separate from the military hospitals, such as Walter Reed, that have received negative publicity recently.

## **Regional Security**

### **20. ROARING MICE AND A FRIGHTENED ELEPHANT: WHY A MISSILE DEFENSE MIGHT SAVE THE UNITED STATES FROM THE EVILS OF ROGUE STATES**

Jakobsen, Jo

World Affairs, vol. 169, no. 3, Winter 2007, pp. 99-109

The author uses game theory to defend the US rationale for developing its ballistic missile defense system. Cold War-era assumptions of “extended deterrence,” based upon the credible threat of a theoretical second-stage retaliation strike once underwrote strategic relations between “elephants” in Washington and Moscow. In contrast, today’s “mice” – rogue states with limited nuclear arsenals – may consider blackmail or even the value of a single strike against the United States if it calculates that there would be at worst a limited strike, given the “nuclear taboo” which has prevailed in conflicts since the end of World War II. From this perspective, the author concludes, missile defense could arguably prevent escalation of a rogue state conflict by updating the credibility of U.S. “extended deterrence,” but remains skeptical if the world would be much safer as a result.

### **21. AL QAEDA STRIKES BACK**

Riedel, Bruce

Foreign Affairs, vol. 86, no. 3, May-June 2007, pp. 24-40

The author, a CIA veteran and now at the Brookings Institution, views U.S. intervention in Iraq as contributing to al Qaeda's expansion, enabling it to become more dangerous than ever. Al Qaeda's strategy is to draw the U.S. into demoralizing, costly wars, possibly even encouraging a U.S. invasion of Iran, thus encouraging more adherents to its terrorist goals. Al Qaeda has expanded its operations from Pakistan and Afghanistan to a base in Iraq and is moving to expand in failed and failing states in the Middle East and Africa, exploiting Sunni-Shiite divisions and hatred of the West. Its decentralized structure allows it to survive the deaths of individual leaders. Al Qaeda has new reach in Europe and is poised to threaten the United States directly again. Riedel writes that the U.S. needs a grand strategy to defeat al Qaeda, not only by targeting its leaders but also by addressing the issues that give the group a following in the Muslim world: the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Kashmir conflict, brutal governments, and poverty.

### **22. THE HATRED OF OTHERS: THE KREMLIN'S POWERFUL BUT RISKY WEAPON**

Shlapentokh, Vladimir

World Affairs, vol. 169, no. 3, Winter 2007, pp. 134-142

The author sounds the alarm about rising xenophobia and nationalist extremism in Russia, which he argues is being exploited by the Kremlin to further its domestic and foreign

policies. Domestically, skinhead violence against Jews, migrant workers from the Caucasus and Central Asia, and foreign students have been on the rise, while nationalist-themed parties and individuals affiliated with the Orthodox Church have publicly expressed support. The Kremlin-controlled media has organized regular campaigns to vilify Ukraine, Georgia, the United States and others during ongoing foreign policy disputes, and its court system routinely hands out lenient sentences against those charged with assaulting non-Russians. While Russian officials can largely control xenophobic violence, the author warns against actively working to undermine Moscow for fear that these forces could escape from Kremlin control.

### **23. HOW TO DEAL WITH SOUTH KOREA**

Kim, Sunhyuk; Lim, Wonhyuk

Washington Quarterly, Vol. 30, No. 2, Spring 2007, pp. 71-82

Kim, associate professor at Korea University, and Wonhyuk Lim, a fellow at the Korea Development Institute and a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution, note that the U.S. “has been coping with a new phenomenon since 2002: a South Korea that can say ‘no’ to America.” Acknowledging the important U.S. contributions to both the economic and political development of South Korea, they also describe the perception of young South Koreans of “the ambiguous U.S. role in the checkered history of South Korean democratization.” The remarkable economic development of South Korea, the rise to importance of a younger generation unfamiliar with the extreme poverty of the 1950s, inter-Korean rapprochement, the “China factor,” and the increasing independence of Seoul are cited as influencing the bilateral relationship. The authors argue that “rather than being bewildered by a ‘rebellious’ South Korea, viewing its newfound strength as a puzzle and a threat, Washington should feel proud of the contributions it made to South Korea’s economic and political development and respect South Korea as a grown-up ally to consult while evaluating its policies toward North Korea, Northeast Asia, and beyond.”

### **24. RUSSIA AND THE WEST: TAKING THE LONGER VIEW**

Mankoff, Jeffrey

Washington Quarterly, Vol. 30, No. 2, Spring 2007, pp. 123-135

The author, with the Olin Institute for Strategic Studies at Harvard University, notes that recent events, from the Kremlin’s support for separatist rebels in Georgia to the suspicious death of Aleksandr Litvinenko, have reinforced the idea the Vladimir Putin’s Russia is abandoning the West and “setting itself up as a serious rival to the agenda of spreading freedom and democracy around the globe.” Mankoff argues that recent Russian behavior “has been quite consistent with the strategy pursued by the Kremlin for the past decade, whose fundamental component is not challenging Western influence but proving that Moscow still matters internationally.” Putin, whom Mankoff describes as “about as pro-Western a leader as Russia can be expected to have,” is promoting Russia’s role as a great power rather than being anti-Western or anti-U.S. “A Russia that is sure of itself and of its standing in the world is likely to make a more stable, predictable partner for the West, even if it will not always agree with decisions made in Washington or Brussels.”

## **25. UNDERSTANDING THE TALIBAN AND INSURGENCY IN AFGHANISTAN**

Johnson, Thomas; Mason, M. Chris  
ORBIS, vol. 51, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 71-89

The authors, a research professor from the Naval Postgraduate School and a former Foreign Service officer serving as a fellow at the Center for Advanced Defense Studies, provide insight into the complex cultural, religious, and political underpinnings of the resurgent Taliban and urge policymakers to stop furthering the Taliban's "game plan" by continuing Vietnam-style "kill/capture" counterinsurgency in Afghanistan. The Taliban are dominated by Pashtuns from the southeastern Ghilzai region, who have a longstanding rivalry encouraged by neighboring Pakistan with their Durrani neighbors, long seen as the country's "ruling class." Their traditionally orthodox Deobandi brand of Islam has been reinforced by the influence of Wahhabism imported from Saudi Arabia since the 1980s and channeled through the region's longstanding tradition of charismatic religious leaders, such as Mullah Omar. U.S. ignorance of local language and customs, combined with the importation of Iraq-style insurgent tactics, such as suicide bombing, threaten to worsen an already fragile situation, unless the U.S. and its allies redouble efforts to improve their forces' cultural awareness, increase local security to allow development projects to operate, and force Pakistan to shut down militants operating along the Afghan-Pakistan border.

### **U.S. Society and Values**

## **26. IS AMERICA READY FOR A BLACK PRESIDENT?**

Sharpton, Al; Swain, Carol  
Ebony, vol. 62, no. 3, January 2007, pp. 140-141

Two prominent individuals present differing, but not opposing, opinions on whether American voters would elect a black person to be president. The Rev. Al Sharpton, a long-time activist and a 2004 presidential candidate, says the same grass-roots energy that drove the civil rights struggle will be needed to elect the first black president. "It won't happen from the top party structure downward," he writes. Americans' comfort with the dominant black television presence — evident in the success of Bill Cosby and Oprah Winfrey — and with blacks in politics and business, signals that the time is nigh for a black president. Swain, a professor of political science and law at Vanderbilt University, also says America could elect a black president, but argues it won't be an activist from the civil rights movement, but rather a person like Barack Obama or Gen. Colin Powell, both of whom embody the hope of immigrants for the American Dream. Swain believes America will elect a black male president long before it elects a woman. "At play are our Judeo-Christian and now Muslim traditions that have limited the roles of women," she writes.

## **27. AMERICA'S DESIGN FOR TOLERANCE**

Clausen, Christopher  
Wilson Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 1, Winter 2007, 26-32

The Founding Fathers' principles of religious tolerance and separation of church and state have been repeatedly put to the test in the two centuries since they were enunciated, notes the author. However, they have served the country well; even during periods of anti-Catholic or anti-Semitic sentiment, religious conflicts in multi-faith America have been mild compared with other parts of the world. These ideals are being tested anew today, notes Clausen, in the often-acrimonious public debate over prayer in public schools, same-sex marriages, abortion and stem-cell research. "The complicated attitudes of believing Americans toward other religions and the state ... often annoy their secular compatriots and bewilder foreigners," notes Clausen; however, "even among the most devout, few of us would wish to see a state religion." This mixture of religious piety with deference toward the opinions of others, along with the fragmented nature of religion in America, has served to moderate extremist religious elements that would be less constrained in other societies.

## **28. THE MEASURE OF LEARNING**

Kingsbury, Alex

U.S. News & World Report, March 12, 2007

The author notes that there is growing concern about the quality of education and the vagueness of stated educational goals at most U.S. universities and colleges. Kingsbury writes that the federal government is proposing to test U.S. higher educational programs, noting that Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has plans to develop one or more standardized tests that would assess the success or failure of the colleges. The article delineates the concerns expressed by colleges about any plan to try to quantify educational outcomes, goes into further detail about the reasons for the concerns on each side (colleges versus government and other critics) and how this effort relates to more federal government standards for elementary and secondary education, and discusses various existing and proposed evaluation measures.

## **29. RESPONSIVE WORKPLACES**

Levin-Epstein, Jodie

American Prospect, Vol. 18, no. 3, March 2007, pp. A16-18

The article describes leave policies and other working conditions faced by American workers, and the impact of the lack of paid leave or long work schedules that make it difficult for parents to deal with family issues. The author provides examples of companies that offer family-friendly work environments, contrasts the pattern in the United States with that of the European Union, and discusses the role local and federal government can and should take to improve the situation. Levin-Epstein notes that workplace practices that are more supportive of family needs lead to greater worker productivity, satisfaction and retention, and can have a positive impact on profitability.

## **30. HOW AMERICA DOES ART**

Dimaggio, Paul

American Prospect, Vol. 18, No. 3, March 2007, pp. 41-43

DiMaggio reviews two recent books devoted to the relationship between the arts community and government in the U.S. In VISUAL SHOCK: A HISTORY OF CONTROVERSIES IN AMERICAN CULTURE, Michael Kammen illustrates, through specific cases, the kinds of debates and tensions that have arisen over the past two centuries, including both artistic and commercial issues. In GOOD AND PLENTY: THE CREATIVE SUCCESSES OF AMERICAN ARTS FUNDING, Tyler Cowen presents a positive view of the current system which he believes “encourages artistic creativity” and “keeps politicization to a minimum.” DiMaggio provides a good overview of the different ways governments directly and indirectly support the arts (tax credits, support for education, etc.), how museums balance artistic and budgetary/attendance concerns, and the ways that public mores guide, clash with and are challenged by art.

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## Special Supplement: July 4<sup>th</sup>

*U.S. Independence Day, commonly referred to as the Fourth of July, commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence from England. These articles provide a snapshot of some of the diverse ways in which Americans have celebrated the Fourth of July, and explore some of the history surrounding the Fourth.*

### **1. Making Sense of the Fourth of July**

By Pauline Maier, 1997

Maier discusses the history of the Fourth of July, which celebrates the Declaration of Independence rather than the actual independence from Britain, and how the Declaration came to usurp a role that Americans normally delegated to bills of rights.

### **2. Constitution Is Most Important U.S. Export**

By Albert P. Blaustein, 2004

In this essay Albert Blaustein, who taught at Rutgers School of Law and authored a six-volume work on the U.S. Constitution, outlines how the document has been used as a model by other governments in crafting their own constitutions. Written to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, the article remains a classic assessment of the attraction of America's fundamental political document to nations struggling to achieve democracy from the eighteenth into the twenty-first centuries.

### **3. The Iconography of Triumph and Surrender**

By Robert A. Selig, 2000

From Trumbull and Blarenberghe to Hess and Kunstler, dozens of painters, engravers, and lithographers have tried their hands and skills at depicting the plains outside Yorktown as they thought they looked on the day American independence was all but achieved.

### **4. Midnight Riders**

By Charles J. Caes, 1997, 2004

Following a convoluted series of events, in the days leading up to April 15, 1775, Paul Revere and William Dawes were sent to alert Lexington and Concord that the British were coming. But it was a virtually forgotten third rider who would complete their mission