ARTICLE ALERT

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民主与全球问题 Democracy and Global Issues

1. DELEGATE CHEAT SHEET
Prevost, Alicia; Thurber, James
Politics, vol. 29, no. 3, March 2008, pp. 38-41

The authors, both with the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University, offer a primer on the role and selection of delegates in the presidential primaries. The Democratic and Republican parties determine the number of delegates based on a given state's population and its past support for the party's presidential nominee. So-called "pledged" delegates are those who have indicated their support for a particular presidential candidate. Generally, delegates are awarded proportionately, based on statewide election results, but are "winner-take-all", in the case of some Republican statewide contests. The so-called "superdelegates" are more accurately called unpledged delegates, as they are not required to pledge support to a candidate until their vote at the party convention; almost all unpledged delegates are picked by virtue of an elected office they already hold.

2. ARGENTINA'S TROUBLED TRANSITION
Schamis, Hector E.
Current History, vol. 107, no. 706, February 2008, pp. 71-77

The author, professor at the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC, writes that the transition in 2007 from one elected president to another is a sign that Argentina has largely recovered from the economic and political crises of 2001-2002. However, many of the problems of democratic governance in Argentina still persist, as the country has a "deeply rooted tendency to concentrate inordinate power in the executive branch," a legacy of the administration of Carlos Menem in the 1990s. The stability of Argentina's democratic system is largely dependent on the health of the economy. Schamis believes that the primary challenge for Argentina is to make their political parties and legislature independent of presidential power, so that the country's political system is not at the mercy of the economic cycle.

3. BIG FOOT
Specter, Michael
New Yorker, February 25, 2008, pp. 44-53

The chief executive of the U.K.-based Tesco supermarket company made a speech last year in which he acknowledged the need to drastically reduce carbon-dioxide emissions, and said that his company would assign a "carbon footprint" label to all their products. The author notes that "possessing an excessive carbon footprint is rapidly becoming the modern equivalent of wearing a scarlet letter," with companies and individuals alike throughout the industrialized world jumping on the "green" bandwagon. The carbon cost of most products is not reflected in their prices, so supporters of market-based approaches say that carbon needs to be priced high enough to discourage consumption. However, the author notes, personal choices and habits are not enough, and climate change cannot be addressed solely through creating a

market -– it will take laws, money, many simultaneous approaches, and more -– to reduce humanity's carbon emissions by sixty percent by the middle of the century.

4. COUNTRY STUDIES: INTERNET AND DATABASE RESOURCES
Geck, Caroline
Choice, vol. 45, no. 8, April 2008, pp. 1275-1284,1286-1291

Country studies are an important part of many library collections, as interest in foreign countries continues to grow. Such studies address diverse information needs and originate from sources ranging from government agencies to think tanks to the commercial sector. Many English-speaking countries besides the U.S. furnish country information, and their web sites offer U.S. citizens different country perspectives. One of the leaders continues to be the Library of Congress, with its digitalized collections and Web resource directories. Another is the U.S. Department of State, with its Background Notes and other publications directed at potential visitors to foreign countries and to diplomats taking up residence. Many international organizations have collaborated in compiling statistics, while other good resources are offered by think tank, policy institutes, and academic and commercial organizations. Educational institutions have developed Internet portals to socioeconomic and development data sets, along with tools for comparison. Finally, there are Web 2.0 resources, with video-sharing resources (e.g. YouTube) and wikis like Executive Planet.com.

5. DOMESTIC POLITICS
Munro, Neil
National Journal, vol. 40, no. 14, April 5, 2008

In 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act, which greatly changed how federal and state authorities handle domestic violence cases. Since then, lawmakers have approved more than $5.5 billion on programs for battered women's shelters, rape crisis centers, police training and domestic violence research. But now, as new controversial research indicates that as much half of domestic violence incidents involved reciprocal violence, "the question of how to respond to family violence has become controversial, as ideology and research collide." Munro looks at research that indicates that more cases of domestic violence are initiated by women, and how there is an ongoing debate in the criminal-justice system about the best way to handle these types of domestic violence cases. Munro interviews scholars and practitioners to get a more in-depth understanding of how there is no one-size-fits all way of handling domestic violence cases.

6. TRIALS OF A PRIMATOLOGIST
Hammer, Joshua
Smithsonian, vol. 38, no. 11, February 2008, pp. 82-95

Primatologist Marc Van Roosmalen has been a pioneer in understanding the delicate ecology of the Amazon rainforest. In 2000, Time magazine designated him a "hero of the planet." A Dutch native, and a naturalized Brazilian citizen, Van Roosmalen had a long history of cooperative working relationships with Brazil's environmental agencies. Hammer's article describes how this relationship fractured as the Brazilian government is now attempting to

prosecute Van Roosmalen for illegal trafficking in rare animals and the theft of government property. The son of the 60-year-old Van Roosmalen finds all sides at fault in the dispute: "We're talking hubris on his side. He really thinks that he's some kind of savior. And on the other side, he's being made out to be an enormous villain. And both versions are exaggerated." Whatever the truth, the case is worrisome for the international community of scientists who work in many countries. The New York Times quoted a scientist emerging from a recent meeting, "If they can get him on trumped-up charges, they can get any of us."

经济贸易 Economics and Trade

7. FORUM: CHARTING THE FUTURE OF FOOD
Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, vol. 9, no. 1, Winter/Spring 2008, pp. 3-6

New technologies are forcing rapid globalization of markets, and the agriculture industry has no choice but to adapt. There is, however, a stark disparity between developed and developing nations; a biotech and GMO revolution is occurring in developed nations, while developing nations are struggling to overcome unfavorable intellectual property laws and trade barriers. Biofuel production is consuming more agricultural resources, raising food prices and reducing exports. Though policy experts participating in the current round of trade negotiations in Doha are attempting to address the challenges facing farmers, the outcome is unclear. This forum explores the fate of farming in the 21st century. The four articles in the forum include: "The Softest Subsidy" (Kym Anderson and Ernesto Valenzuela) on agricultural subsidy cuts; "Food, Feed, or Fuel?" (Siwa Msangi and Mandy Ewing) which explores the linkages between biofuels and agricultural market economies; "Agricultural Trade and Climate Change" (Lee Ann Jackson) which asks if the WTO can promote resilience in the face of uncertainty; and "The Local Organic Food Paradigm" (Alex A. Avery and Dennis T. Avery) which debates the merits of local vs. global food systems.

8. ENERGY RESOURCES AND OUR FUTURE
Energy Bulletin, December 2, 2006

On May 14, 1957, Navy Rear Admiral Hyman Rickover, considered the Father of the Nuclear Submarine, gave a speech to the Minnesota State Medical Association which he acknowledged "had no medical connotations" -– the rapidly growing consumption of fossil fuels in modern society. He noted that our technological base depends on enormous amounts of energy: "What assurance do we then have that our energy needs will continue to be supplied by fossil fuels? The answer is - in the long run – none ... Fossil fuels are not renewable. In this respect our energy base differs from that of all earlier civilizations. They could have maintained their energy supply by careful cultivation. We cannot." Rickover warned that fossil fuel reserves would start to shrink in the early twenty-first century, and biofuels would not be the answer, as land would be needed to grow food rather than fuel. He urged his audience to "think soberly about our responsibilities to our descendents -- those who will ring out the Fossil Fuel Age." While dated in a few minor respects, Rickover's speech, given at the beginning of America's modern consumption boom, is eerily prescient of our current energy predicament, and sheds important light on a debate that is only just starting to take place in the U.S. today.

9. WHAT WENT WRONG
Economist, vol. 386, no. 8572, March 22, 2008, pp. 79-88

In this special report, the Economist examines how close Wall Street came to a systemic collapse, and how the financial system will change as a result. They note that the origins of this crisis are in the 1980s, when the financial services industry began a pattern of growth that may only now have come to an end. Financial services' share of total corporate profits grew from ten percent in the early 1980s to forty percent last year -– but account for only fifteen percent of corporate America's gross value and only five percent of private-sector jobs. After the "dotcom" crash in 2001, America's GDP growth has been the lowest in half a century; yet, even as the ground beneath it fell away, the financial services industry has "defied gravity" by using debt, securitization and proprietary trading to boost fees and profits, made possible by cheap money and low consumer-price inflation.

10. A GLOBALISM FOR OUR TIME
Mills, Nicolaus
American Prospect, vol. 18, no. 7, July/August 2007, pp. 35-37

The 1947 Harvard commencement address of U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall introduced the world to the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan is still praised today for the role it played in helping Europe recover from World War II and the call it made for both greater U.S. involvement in international affairs as well as recognition of the limits of American power. Marshall linked national security to humanitarian aid and economic redevelopment, with America acting in concert with the European nations seeking help. There are lessons from the Marshall Plan that are relevant to our American policies today.

国际安全 International Security

11. AFTER IRAQ: FUTURE U.S. MILITARY POSTURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Bowman, Bradley L.
Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 2, Spring 2008, pp. 77-91

The author, a former Council on Foreign Relations fellow and former professor at the U.S. Military Academy, believes that as forces are withdrawn from Iraq, the U.S. should resist the temptation to increase or redeploy troops to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. The U.S. can deter Iran and reassure its GCC allies by other means without expanding military bases. A large U.S. regional military presence is unnecessary and often counterproductive as the American experience during the Cold War proved, when the presence of U.S. troops in the region was limited and infrequent. Today, the U.S. needs only a minimal military in the Middle East to counter threats to its three key interests: to guarantee a reliable flow of oil from the Persian Gulf region; to ensure that regional states and non-state actors do not obtain weapons of mass destruction; and to prevent the region from becoming a haven for extremism.

12. THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN INTELLIGENCE: INTERIM REPORT
Tucker, Nancy B.
Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 2, Spring 2008, pp. 47-61

The author, a recent intelligence official with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and now a professor at Georgetown University, believes that the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on Iran reflects initial intelligence reform, but warns that a fundamental and thorough transformation of the intelligence community culture, with seven steps to achieve it, is urgently needed. For example, the relationship between intelligence agencies and Congress needs to be rectified, since ODNI would not exist with Congressional actions to meet popular demands for radical repair of the community. Another step requires an evidence-based approach for productive research and frequent scientific testing of intelligence community practices. Declassification of records needs to be a priority to facilitate access to both historical and current information. This is the time for transformation of the intelligence community, to replace a "need-to-know" culture with the "responsibility to provide." Carrying out a cultural revolution requires big changes that will not come quickly.

13. LOST OVER IRAN
(DDD) Umansky, Eric
Columbia Journalism Review, March/April 2008, pp. 26-30

The author, contributing editor to CJR, writes that the National Intelligence Estimate of December 2007 that concluded that Iran had frozen its nuclear weaponization program back in 2003 came as a shock to the U.S. media, which had asked few questions about administration claims that Iran was not far away from building nuclear weapons. The U.S. received more help from the Iranians than anyone else in its campaign to root out al-Qaeda from Afghanistan. Soon after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Iran made an offer that "put nearly everything on the table", writes the author, from support for Hezbollah to the nuclear-energy program. The overtures received very little publicity, as Iranian officials did not want to be seen publicly making peace offerings to Washington. Umansky believes that "there does appear to have been an opportunity for equilibrium that, with little notice in the media, was passed up not by Iran but by the Bush administration."

14. CONNECTING TERRORIST NETWORKS
Magouirk, Justin; Atran, Scott; Sageman, Marc
Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, vol. 31, no. 1, 2008, pp. 1-16

Terrorism, a defining phenomenon of the current times, is a varied class of political violence that can be characterized with multiple ideological motivations, varied tactics, and varying levels of lethality, according to the authors. They have recently completed research from the Global Transnational Terrorism Project, but plan an additional study later in 2008. Clearly in their research, they have revealed that terrorism is not monolithic as is often characterized by the news media and policymakers. The research also demonstrates two important components to terrorism -– the groups are global and they target the "far enemy" not of local origin. These characteristics are important for policymakers, who are confronted with a challenge often poorly understood. The research also indicates that madrassahs, or religious schools, have little to do in general with the creation of terrorists. One interesting aspect of the research is that kinship plays a vital role in binding terrorist groups that are often decentralized and that networks are increasingly family-oriented.

15. US AND THEM: THE ENDURING POWER OF ETHNIC NATIONALISM
Muller, Jerry Z.
Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 2, March-April 2008

According to Muller, professor of history at the Catholic University of America, persistent ethnic nationalism does not happen by chance; rather, it is inevitable in the continued development of nation-states. Ethnic separation into different states has economic and cultural costs, besides bloodshed that has cost million of lives since the 19th century. Yet the expanding harmony of Europe since World War II represents not failure of ethnic nationalism but its success, having removed sources of conflict both within and between countries. "The fact that ethnic and state boundaries now largely coincide has meant that there are fewer disputes over borders or expatriate communities," Muller says, "leading to the most stable territorial configuration in European history." In existing multiethnic countries where ethnic violence erupts, partition into separate nation-states may be the most humane lasting solution.

16. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Troy, Jodok
Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, vol. 9, no. 1, Winter/Spring 2008, pp. 65-73

The author, a research assistant at the University of Innsbruck, believes that the Catholic Church, as one of the oldest political actors in the international system, lends its stabilizing capabilities to become once more an "ethical reservoir" and peacemaker in an age of a declared and believed "clash of civilizations." This is partly because Catholicism itself is a more integrative and stabilizing force in international relations because it has no revolutionary tendency. During the Cold War period but especially since the Second Vatican Council, which ended in 1965, the Church has evolved from a promoter of the status quo to an active liberation force. Its position has shifted from a de facto alliance with the West to a position of non-alignment that it continues to maintain today. The current pope, Benedict XVI, focuses his policies on social and ethical issues that reflect the more complex world that exists today.

美国社会及价值观 U.S. Society and Values

17. BORN AGAIN
Mead, Walter Russell
Atlantic Monthly, March 2008, pp. 21//24

The evangelical Christian movement in the U.S. is showing signs of maturing, notes Mead. It is gaining more social and political influence, but as it broadens, it is becoming more pluralistic and less strident, and "less likely to be held hostage by a single issue or a single party". The megachurches that are flourishing in the Midwest and Sun Belt are reaching audiences that are better educated, more urban and sophisticated than the rural Southern fundamentalists of an earlier era. Mead notes that the true story of the evangelical movement today is its "shift from insurgent to insider, with all of the moderating effects that transition implies."

18. A BETTER WAY TO TRAVEL?
Richmond, Peter
Parade, November 4, 2007, pp. 6-8

Americans spent over 3 billion hours stuck in traffic last year, notes the author, and in the first eight months of 2007, almost a quarter of all plane flights arrived late. Says Richmond, "one solution is staring us in the face" -– U.S. passenger railroads, which have been allowed to atrophy for several decades, a victim of skewed transportation priorities which favored highway construction. The author believes that one reason the U.S. railroad system has fallen so far behind other countries is the long-standing aversion for government funding of the nation's railroads, which have traditionally been private companies founded by nineteenth-century industrial barons. Although the best passenger rail service is along the Eastern seaboard, there are many regional urban areas around the country that would be well-served by a rail alternative to highway or air travel.

19. CONSULTANTS HELP MODERNIZE ARAB SCHOOLS
Zehr, Mary Ann
Education Week, Vol. 27, No. 29, March 26, 2008, pp. 1, 12-13

U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings has accepted an invitation to visit the United Arab Emirates in mid-May 2008 in order to learn more about reform efforts in which U.S. educational consultants are playing a large role. A number of Arab countries are interested in certain aspects of the American educational model including standards-based reform, child-centered teaching methods, and decentralization of top-down bureaucracies. Vincent Ferrandino, the former executive director of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, has a five-year contract to help the UAE develop school improvement plans, focusing particularly on what it takes for principals to raise the level of instruction and to identify and serve children with disabilities. Qatar, relying on advice from the Rand Corporation, is establishing a system of charter schools parallel to its traditional schools run by the Education Ministry. Hanif Hassan, the UAE's Education Minister, told author Mary Ann Zehr his country is not restricted to one model. "We're trying to take international best practices and bring them here."

20. DESERT BLOOM: START-UP UNIVERSITIES IN THE OIL-RICH PERSIAN GULF ARE LURING SCHOLARS FROM LESS-STABLE ARAB NATIONS
Krieger, Zvika
Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 54, No. 29, March 28, 2008, pp. B7-B11

The intellectual landscape of the Middle East is changing dramatically as Persian Gulf countries pour more than $20 billion annually into cultural and educational projects and more than a dozen American universities open branches and campuses there. Qatar's Education City has attracted branches of Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, Georgetown and Northwestern, while Dubai's Academic City has attracted Harvard, Boston University and Michigan State. Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaymah and Sharjah have attracted Johns Hopkins, MIT, New York University, George Mason, and American University. The Arab World's best and brightest faculty and intellectuals are moving to the Gulf in droves, according to Krieger, a former

Middle East correspondent for Newsweek, as is the Arab media and publishing world. Even before the Gulf's bid to become the region's intellectual and academic center, Arab doctors, engineers, teachers and intellectuals were fleeing the repression and/or violence in such traditional centers as Cairo, Beirut and Baghdad, most of them emigrating to Europe or the United States. A second article by Kreiger, "An Academic Building Boom Transforms the Gulf," looks at the competition between the several emirates to lure top American universities.

21. WHAT DOES INDIAN BLOOD LOOK LIKE?
Samuels, Adrienne
Ebony, April 2008, pp. 94-102

Descendants of Cherokee Freedmen -- slaves owned by Cherokees in the early 1800s and freed in 1863 -– are plaintiffs in two federal cases seeking to push the U.S. government to intervene and help determine who is part of the Cherokee tribe. Membership in the tribe can include benefits such as medical and housing assistance. In 2006 the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court ruled that the descendants of the Cherokee Freedmen are Cherokee; about 2,800 registered as members of the tribe. However, in 2007 the tribe voted to exclude the Freedmen descendents. The Congressional Black Caucus is supporting legislation that would deny the Cherokees federal funding for housing projects unless the tribe recognizes the Freedmen descendants as citizens. The tribe contends that Congress is trying to force Cherokees to give rights to non-Indians. The federal court cases and funding bills are still pending. (A number of prominent African-Americans have Cherokee ancestry, including Eartha Kitt, Jimi Hendrix, Diana Ross.)