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1. BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP IN BILL SPONSORSHIP
Legislative Studies Quarterly
Barnello, Michelle A. And Bratton, Kathleen A.

The authors explore how gender, race, education, age and other factors influence sponsorship of legislation on women’s issues in the U.S. Congress. Traditional women’s issues include pay equity, domestic violence, child care, and health issues that concern women and children. Personal characteristics have a marked influence on bill sponsorship. Younger, well-educated, and married men with children sponsor more measures focusing on children’s policy than do others. The authors found that African-American men were more likely than other men to align themselves with women in support of women’s issues. Service on committees concerned with health, education and welfare influenced men to lend greater support to women’s interests as did legislative position. Democratic men were more likely to sponsor such legislation than Republican, and partisan differences on such issues had become more polarized. The authors note a trend towards men in general supporting traditional women’s issues as a result of societal changes, but women still take the lead on issues that specifically concern them.

2. JUDGING THE 2008 HEALTH PLANS
National Journal  vol. 39, no. 43, October 27, 2007, pp. 20-23
Serafini, Marilyn Werber; Barnes, James

In this article examining the top presidential candidates’ plans for reforming the American health care system, the authors interview ten non-partisan health care specialists to assess the candidates’ proposals. The experts assess each plan’s potential impact on the uninsured, the economy, the quality of health care, the cost to consumers and the cost to employers. They also rank the feasibility of each candidate’s plan. Overall, the experts found that the Clinton and Edwards plans were closest to achieving universal health coverage, while the Republicans’ plans were more likely to curb federal spending on health care.

3. BIG MELT MEETS BIG EMPTY: RETHINKING THE IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND PEAK OIL
MuseLetter, No. 187, November 2007
Heinberg, Richard

The author, a prominent educator and author on ecological issues, writes that environmental advocates are focusing on climate change to the exclusion of almost any other issue. The unprecedented melting of the summer ice pack in the Arctic during the summer of 2007 underscored this urgency. Heinberg notes that there are ambitious hopes to enact an equitable program of carbon emissions caps and trading rights. He writes that the developing world, led by China, now has a bargaining chip that in effect amounts to a “global suicide pact” — they will not reduce their emissions until the West agrees to reduce theirs proportionately to the developing world’s increased emissions. However,
Heinberg notes that carbon-trading fails to take into account the fact that global oil production is peaking and may soon decline, followed by natural gas and coal in the not-too-distant future; if fuel is in scarce supply, no one will be interested in carbon-trading caps. What he believes is essential is for the industrialized West to set an example and acknowledge the necessity to make fundamental changes in its energy, transportation and agricultural systems. He writes that “ultimately, power holders must be convinced that such policies, if obnoxious to them now, will be far less destructive to their interests than a complete breakdown of society and biosphere -- which is the very real alternative. For a historic example of a similar conversion of elites think of the 1930s New Deal: then the titans of industry had to sacrifice some of their financial power in order to keep from losing it all.”

4. THE OTHER, OTHER WHITE MEAT  
Wired, vol. 15, no. 11, November 2007, pp. 235-241  
Paynter, Ben

The National Academy of Science conducted a study in 2002 finding that meat from cloned animals is safe to eat. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration came to the same finding in 2006, but has not issued affirmation that these products can enter the commercial food supply chain. In the meantime, the agency has also received almost 150,000 comments from the public opposing the sale of cloned meat and milk. Some American livestock producers invested heavily in clones of prize livestock early in the decade, anticipating commercialization of the products. Paynter profiles a few such producers who now face serious losses because the supermarkets are not open to their products. Paynter also describes his own taste test of cloned meat and milk products. While agriculture groups are still hoping for approval of the products by 2008, Paynter writes that public squeamishness about consuming cloned foods remains an obstacle.

5. THE SCIENCE OF DOING GOOD  
Fink, Sheri

The author, a medical doctor who has worked on humanitarian aid missions in several countries, explores the application of new technologies to such missions. She examines using computer databases, global satellite mapping, DNA-analysis, wireless communication and other techniques to better define the scope of disasters and organize relief efforts. Systematic survey methods document more fully refugee and civilian casualties of violent conflicts, while epidemiological surveys led to the practice of vaccinating children in refugee camps against measles, because the disease spreads rapidly and is often fatal among displaced people. Fast-evolving refugee crises challenge the effective use of these tools, while relief organizations continue to develop ways to assess the performance of their programs. The author notes that scientific tools and information from them will continue to improve aid missions, although addressing the needs of vulnerable populations before disasters strike should be the most important objective.
6. THE FOUR MODELS OF CORPORATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
MIT Sloan Management Review, vol. 49, no. 1, Fall 2007, pp. 75-82
Wolcott, Robert C.; Lippitz, Michael J.

The authors, with the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, studied close to 30 corporations to see how established organizations strive to create new businesses, also known as corporate entrepreneurship. The authors came up with four different models, ranging from the opportunist model, where the company has no deliberate approach but rely on grassroots efforts to the producer model, where a full service group has a mandate for corporate entrepreneurship established and supported by the company. Regardless of which model is chosen, the authors argue that corporate entrepreneurship needs to be nurtured and managed as a “strategic, deliberate act.”

7. PRIVATIZATION: A SUMMARY ASSESSMENT
SAIS Review, vol. 27, no. 2, Summer-Fall 2007, pp. 3-29
Nellis, John

The author, who has worked and written on international development issues for forty years, believes that privatization has provided substantial economic benefits to strapped governments. In the last 25 years many thousands of formerly state-owned firms have been privatized in transition economies, generating over USD 400 billion in sales proceeds, but a very large number of productive entities, including many of the larger and more valuable firms in energy, infrastructure, and finance, still remain in the hands of the state. In addition, thousands of firms have been privatized by methods in which no money was raised. A large number of studies praise privatization's positive impact at the level of the firm, as well as its positive macroeconomic and welfare contributions, but public opinion in the developing world is still unfriendly to privatization. However, in some countries that might be expected to suffer from the effects of privatization, such as in Argentina or in Mexico, the number of workers laid off was small in comparison to the entire workforce. As the percentage of respondents viewing privatization negatively rose from 55% in 2001 to 80% in 2003, it fell back to about 70% in the latest 2005 poll. When privatization goes well, it is close to invisible and taken for granted; when it goes wrong, few politicians want anything to do with it.

8. DISASTER CAPITALISM: THE NEW ECONOMY OF CATASTROPHE
Klein, Naomi

Iraq reconstruction, disaster response in post-tsunami Sri Lanka and Thailand and in post-Katrina New Orleans, and infrastructure failure such as the bridge collapse in Minneapolis are increasingly having a common theme, notes the author: governments are ceding responsibility to private interests for more and more projects that used to be in the public sphere. “It’s tempting to imagine [that each new disaster] will serve as a wake-up call,” writes Klein; however, in her view, disasters have become opportunities to engage
in radical re-engineering, creating a “ruthlessly divided world” in which relief services are made available for those who can pay, and those who cannot are left to fend for themselves. The coastal fishing villages in Sri Lanka and Thailand that were devastated by the 2004 tsunami were never rebuilt, but have been replaced by high-end tourist resorts; in New Orleans, selected schools were split off from the public school system to become private charter schools. The growing private-sector disaster-response business has become self-perpetuating, as governments lose the ability to perform core functions without the help of contractors. The huge profits being racked up by the disaster-response industry has led many people around the world to suspect that “the rich and powerful must be deliberately causing catastrophes” in order to exploit them. Klein believes that the reality is “at once less sinister and more dangerous — an economic system that requires constant growth while bucking almost all serious attempts at environmental regulation generates a steady stream of disasters all on its own, whether military, ecological or financial.”

9. DOWN ON THE FARM
Time Magazine, November 12, 2007, pp. 28-36
Grunwald, Michael

The administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt started farm aid in response to the Dust Bowl and Depression of the 1930s, but the author notes that in Washington, “the emergency has never ended” — the government gives more subsidies than ever to farmers, in the form of price supports, funding for restoration and clean-up projects, irrigation, and ethanol mandates. Grunwald notes that most of the funding goes to a small fraction of farms; while the subsidies help industrial-scale farms increase their expansion, it makes it more difficult for small-scale farmers to survive. Most of the cash goes to fund a small number of row-crop monocultures, such as corn, rice, cotton and soybeans. The continuation of the subsidies is testimony to the political clout agribusiness commands in Washington, where the latest attempts at agricultural reform were watered down.

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND INNOVATION POLICY [Executive Summary Only]
James A. Lewis

Intellectual property rights (IPR) are crucial for innovation. The extent to which countries protect IPR will determine how well they perform in the new economic environment. Nevertheless, IPR is on the defensive because it is frequently assailed for creating monopoly, expanding poverty, and slowing innovation. The problem with such criticisms is that they are wrong.

国际安全 International Security

11. THE DISPENSABLE NATION?
National Interest, No. 90, July/August 2007, pp. 4-6
Scowcroft, Brent
Scowcroft, former national security advisor to Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, notes that the U.S. is still the only country that can “mobilize the world community to undertake the great projects of the day ... but we are not indispensable in the sense that those of us in Washington are the only ones who know what needs to be done for the good of the entire human race.” Scowcroft believes that the U.S. must “come to terms with its own post-Cold War euphoria” -- we had the power to transform the world along liberal and democratic lines, and many U.S. policymakers were impatient with the traditional methods of forging alliances and building international organizations, believing it would take too long. Scowcroft argues that America’s recent penchant for unilateral initiatives are destined to fail in a globalized world where more nations seek a voice and non-state groups have a major impact.

12. IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES: THE EMERGING SECURITY PARADIGM IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Parameters, vol. 37, no. 2, Summer 2007, pp. 5-18
Bahgat, Gawdat

The author, political science professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, examines Iran’s rising power. This country currently has the largest army in the Middle East, greater than all other Persian Gulf countries combined. Iran’s nuclear ambition and potential conflict with Western powers are major concerns for Arab states in the Persian Gulf. Better relations between America and Iran, combined with reduced Israeli-Iranian tensions, would go a long way towards promoting greater stability in the region.

13. THE RIGHT STUFF
National Interest, no. 91, September/October 2007, pp. 53-59
Pillar, Paul R.

The author, a former National Intelligence officer, points out that there has been much publicity about the often-criticized intelligence report on Iraqi unconventional weapons, but there were two other assessments that he initiated to help policymakers understand the aftermath of a war with Iraq. These reports indicated that 1) the greatest difficulty would be “building a stable and representative political system; 2) there would most likely be sectarian violence; 3) economic reconstruction would be difficult; 4) major outside assistance would be required to meet humanitarian needs, including a refugee problem; and 5) feeling threatened could revive Iraq’s interest in WMD. The regional assessment concluded that a war would boost political Islam, including its extremist variants.” The accuracy of these reports suggests that “comprehensive analysis should be applied before any other contemplated exercise of U.S. power, regardless of how frightening or condemnable the target of that exercise may be.”

14. DEAD CENTER: THE DEMISE OF LIBERAL INTERNATIONALISM IN THE UNITED STATES
Kupchan, Charles; Trubowitz, Peter
This article discusses whether the Bush administration's unilateralist approach to foreign policy is an aberration, or a sign of things to come. The authors argue that the liberal internationalist impulse of U.S. foreign policy that began in the 1940s is on the wane; liberal internationalism resulted from the threats of Nazism, Japanese imperialism, and Soviet expansion -- threats that made it desirable for Democrats and Republicans to find common ground in foreign affairs. However, they note, the collapse of the Soviet Union deprived the United States of its most formidable challenge -- terrorism notwithstanding -- and has reduced the incentive for American elites to cooperate with one another and to seek both force projection and international coalition-building. In addition, the United States has become more politically fragmented, with a more conservative Midwest and South and more liberal coastal areas. Thus, there is a danger that in the future U.S. foreign policy will alternate between extreme hawkishness or dovishness. In search of a reasonable center, the authors argue for moderate power projection through ad-hoc coalitions designed to address specific crises.

15. AMERICA'S STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY WITH INDIA
Foreign Affairs, Vol. 86, No. 6, November-December 2007
Burns, R. Nicholas

According to Burns, U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs, the governments of the United States and India have only begun to catch up with the lead of the two countries' businesses in forming lasting alliances. Describing some diplomatic successes of the past few years, Burns lists several challenges remaining: strengthening military, intelligence, and law-enforcement cooperation to combat terrorism, drug trafficking, and nuclear proliferation; promoting India's agricultural production while narrowing differences over global trade; cooperating on innovations aimed at increasing energy efficiency and reducing harm to the environment; and promoting freedom and democracy worldwide. "The United States must adjust to a friendship with India that will feature a wider margin of disagreement than we are accustomed to -- but a friendship in which the extra effort will be made up for by rich long-term rewards," Burns said.

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16. “A PLACE PREPARED”: THE ACOMA PUEBLO
Museum News, vol. 86, no. 4, July/August 2007, pp. 48-55
Seligson, Joelle

The Acoma Pueblo, whose 2,000-year-old community is the oldest continually inhabited in North America, have opened a new state-of-the-art museum, The Sky City Cultural Center, to replace the old one that burned to the ground in 2000. The new Haak’u Museum cost $17 million and covers 40,000 square feet. It serves not only as a traditional museum but as the place the entire tribe congregates for sacred rites and as a cultural center for the Acoma’s youngsters, who come regularly to learn how to craft the moccasins, dresses, and thin-walled pottery for which the tribe is famous. The museum is located in Sky City, an hour’s drive from Albuquerque, New Mexico, in spectacular terrain of lofty mesas, piñon trees and tumbleweed. The museum is surrounded by
traditional homes -- almost the entire tribe lives within four miles of the center -- still inhabited by Acoma families, often without electricity or running water. The site with its new center became the first living Native American community to be declared a National Trust Historic Site in January 2007.

17. A VAN WITH A PLAN
Grist, March 20, 2007
Roberts, David

A rising public figure on the national scene, Van Jones is an African-American civil-rights lawyer and founder and director of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in Oakland, California, an innovative non-profit group that made a name for itself in working to prevent youth violence and incarceration. Two years ago, it launched a program that puts it on the front edge of progressive activism: an initiative that would ensure that low-income and minority youth are included in the coming wave of “green-collar” jobs, such as solar-panel and wind-turbine installation, retrofitting existing houses for energy conservation, wastewater reclamation, and organic gardening. He notes that past periods of economic growth in the U.S., notably the Internet boom, did not include the poor. This time, converting America to a low-carbon economy will involve “a lot of people doing a lot of work”, which cannot be outsourced abroad, and it is imperative that youth from disadvantaged communities be put at the forefront for this effort.

18. FOOD STUDIES: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY GUIDE TO THE LITERATURE
Deutsch, Jonathan; Miller, Jeffrey

Interest in food has reached an historical high, according to the authors. A scan of bestseller lists includes cookbooks by celebrity chefs, diet books, food memoirs, food travel books, serious overviews of food, and food supply. There is even a cable television network, Food Nation, devoted to all topics of food while movies with food themes are appearing in greater numbers every year. For the food historian, archives such as those maintained by The Schlesinger Library for Women in Harvard University’s Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies have noted an increase in resources, such as its historical cookbook collection, which allows the serious researcher to study the manner in which food dictated the American way of life and the course of women’s history. In this essay, the authors discuss the important early works, subject-related journals, and the “go-to” reference works. Other sections include food history; food and the social sciences, which are considered the “bread-and-butter” of food studies; food and the humanities; and nutrition and policy.

19. ALFRED HITCHCOCK’S AMERICA
Lehman, David
British-born director Alfred Hitchcock came to Hollywood because it could accommodate his creativity more easily than England’s provincial film industry, says critic David Lehman. Hitchcock, who became an American citizen in 1955, made his greatest films here. In the America of his vision, “paranoia is sometimes a reasonable response to events in a world of menace.” Consider Shadow of a Doubt, Spellbound, Strangers on a Train, Rear Window, North by Northwest, Vertigo. “The murderous or perilous coexists with the homely and domestic” in Hitchcock’s landscape. Imagine taking a shower at the Bates Motel. But the counterweight to his dark view of humanity is “an insistence on justice, and sometimes poetic justice, and a reiteration of basic American values.” Lehman notes how often U.S. monuments turn up in Hitchcock’s films and are “invoked for the ideals they stand for.” He also cites “Hitchcock’s humor and the marvelous way it coexists with the macabre.” In a sidebar, George Perry, another British ex-patriot, tells of his friendship with Hitchcock and says the film director “clearly had a great love for his adopted country and things American, relishing the variety and vastness of the landscape, the diversity and occasional eccentricities of its people.”

20. WHEN CELEBRITIES ATTACK!
National Interest, no. 92, November/December 2007, pp. 22-28
Drezner, Daniel

The phenomenon of celebrities appearing before Congressional committees to advocate for causes such as human rights or the environment is not a new one. Drezner, an associate professor at the Fletcher School at Tufts University, notes that celebrity culture has fundamentally changed; star entertainers are now taking an active interest in world politics, and are able to raise issues to the top of the global agenda. In the current media environment, there is an almost symbiotic relationship between celebrities and their causes. Earlier celebrities, such as Shirley Temple and Jane Fonda, were political activists. Temple, became U.S. ambassador to Ghana and Czechoslovakia. The magazine Vanity Fair let U2 singer Bono guest-edit a special issue on Africa, due to his numerous visits to that continent, including a well publicized one with former Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill. Princess Diana was in the forefront of the campaign to ban the use of land mines; her death became a rallying point that led to Great Britain’s ratification of the 1997 Ottawa Convention. However, not all celebrities are successful; some are quite misguided or have been stung by criticism, as the Dixie Chicks found out when they blasted President George W. Bush on stage at a 2004 London concert.