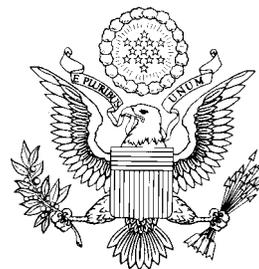


ARTICLE ALERT

Sep 2008



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民主与全球问题 Democracy and Global Issues

1. From Selection to Election? Experiments in the Recruitment of Chinese Political Elites

China Leadership Monitor

Li Cheng

It is extremely unusual in China for candidates who are vying for elected posts to openly engage in campaigning, lobbying, public debates, personal attacks, and vote buying. However, that is exactly what happened recently—not among political elites in Beijing but in a documentary film covering the election of student leaders at a primary school in Wuhan.

2. True or False: China is Fit to Play Host

New York Times Magazine, August 3, 2008, pp. 17-21

Scocca, Tom

Perhaps the most watched, and controversial, event of 2008 is the Olympic Games in Beijing. Along with thousands of athletes, proponents of very different causes will also be competing for the world's attention, among them advocates for human rights, open media, and environmental quality in China. The author cites the many critics of China's environmental and human-rights record, who believe that China should never have been allowed to host the Olympics; but he notes that some previous Olympic host countries have perpetrated similar abuses. In addressing the charge that China will abandon its efforts to keep the air clean in Beijing after the Games are over, Scocca writes that preparations for the Olympics "are like tidying your house in a hurry before company comes over -- this is not the way you live every day" -- but it could be "you are showing them how you would live, if things were different."

3. How China Censors its Burgeoning Media

Michigan Quarterly Review, vol. 47, no. 2, Spring 2008, pp. 271-282

Ortolani, Alex

From a handful of state-run media outlets in the 1970s, the Chinese press has grown into many thousands of news sources including newspapers, magazines, TV and radio channels. Somehow, the government manages to watch and censor them all through intimidation, bribery, information control and close coordination with editorial boards. In a rapidly changing China, many wonder how long it will be until a truly free press develops; one observer, however, says censorship continues to be stronger than those who push against it.

4. The Changing Newsroom

Journalism.org, July 21, 2008

In all aspects, ranging from staffing to content, American newspapers are changing at a dizzying rate. In a survey of more than 250 local and national papers, the Project for Excellence in Journalism details developments such as the decline of independent foreign and national news coverage and the rise of mobile journalists deployed to send in video footage

for the paper's Web site. The analysis of its survey results gives a comprehensive look at the state of U.S. newspapers today and a glimpse into their uncertain future.

5. Net Gains

Government Technology, vol. 21, no. 8, August 2008, pp. 16-20, 22

Vander Veen, Chad

According to the author, the World Wide Web is often dubbed "this generation's wild, Wild West," a raucous, freewheeling digital expanse; like the frontier, the Web is a showcase for an emerging society with its own ideas, goals and morals. In the virtual world of the 21st century, the web has emerged as a "pivotal theater" in which candidates for office must battle -- it has blossomed from a campaign novelty to an essential tool to reach voters. The difference during the 2008 election cycle for president is the advent of Web 2.0 applications; chief among these new applications are social networking sites, such as MySpace, Facebook and Flickr. Barack Obama's website, for example, features various links to social networking sites; some of them are broadly known, such as Digg and LinkedIn. Others target specific demographics, such as FaithBase, BlackPlanet and AsianAve; Obama uses each of these sites to deliver a message tailored to a niche audience. John McCain's site, meanwhile, makes heavy use of blogs and video. Both candidates' web site contain a feature that enables online donations, an innovation started by Howard Dean in his unsuccessful 2004 presidential race.

6. Facing the Freshwater Crisis

Scientific American, August 2008

Rogers, Peter

Global freshwater resources are threatened by rising demands from many quarters. Growing populations need ever more water for drinking, hygiene, sanitation, food production and industry. Climate change, meanwhile, is expected to contribute to droughts. Policymakers need to figure out how to supply water without degrading the natural ecosystems that provide it. Existing low-tech approaches can help prevent scarcity, as can ways to boost supplies, such as improved methods to desalinate water. But governments at all levels need to start setting policies and making investments in infrastructure for water conservation now.

7. Containing Climate Change: An Opportunity for U.S. Leadership

Foreign Affairs, vol. 87, no. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 78-90

Bales, Carter F.; Duke, Richard D.

Both presidential candidates have expressed willingness to limit carbon emissions. Bales, an energy consultant, and Duke, the Director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Center for Market Innovation, have devised a four-part system for decreasing carbon pollution. The "cap-and-invest" strategy would need to be enacted by Congress and would result in increased funding for newer environmental technologies and a system of carbon-trading. A recent study by McKinsey & Company suggests that the cost of reducing US emissions by 2030 will be close to zero with the proposed plan. The authors go on to discuss a larger plan to involve the rest of the world in a system for reducing carbon emissions that requires polluting nations to buy allowances from less-developed nations, injecting cash into the economies of developing

countries. The U.S. is the world's leading innovator in environmental technology and the authors contend that it would serve the nation's economic interests to promote innovation and open up new markets to U.S. technology services.

8. Think Again: The Geneva Conventions
Law Quadrangle Notes, vol. 50, no. 2, Summer 2008, 95-97
Ratner, Steven

The author, professor at the University of Michigan Law School, expands on points he made in an article in the March/April issue of Foreign Policy magazine. In a discussion of common myths on the subject, Ratner believes that the modern Geneva Conventions were created producing a kind of international "bill of rights" that governs the handling of casualties, prisoners of war, and civilians in war zones. The conventions won't prevent wars, but they are supposed to protect innocent bystanders, shield soldiers from unnecessary harm, limit the physical damage caused by war, and even enhance the chances for cease-fires and peace. The conventions contain one section (Article 3) that protects all persons regardless of their status - - whether spy, mercenary, or terrorist, and regardless of the type of war in which they are fighting. Article 3 also prohibits torture, cruel treatment, and murder of all detainees; requires medical care for the wounded; and obligates trials conducted by regular courts that respect due process. In a landmark 2006 opinion, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that, at a minimum, Article 3 applies to detained al-Qaeda suspects even if al-Qaeda ignores them, and it may be that even tougher rules must then be used in such a fight.

经济贸易 Economics and Trade

9. Housing and Financial Crisis
Brookings Papers on Economic Activity

The September conference of the Brookings Papers on Economic Activity focuses on the current housing and credit crisis and on international finance and development. New research findings by leading academic, business, and government economists include:

Making Sense of the Subprime Crisis: (Kristopher Gerardi, Andreas Lehnert, Shane Sherlund, and Paul Willen) Financial-market analysts understood that a fall in house prices would have disastrous consequences for foreclosures, but they assigned a low probability to such a fall.

Financial Regulation in a System Context: (Stephen Morris and Hyun Song Shin) Basel-style capital rules fail to distinguish between the inherent risk of an asset and its systemic importance. Liquidity requirements may be a necessary complement.

How Will the Housing Market Clear?: (Karl Case) The typical downward "stickiness" of home prices does not arise when banks sell foreclosed properties—suggesting a steeper drop in prices during this cycle.

Bank Capital Losses and Future Lending: (Jan Hatzius) Losses on mortgage assets have crimped financial institutions' balance sheets. Resulting cuts in their lending is likely to depress GDP growth significantly this year and next.

Financial Whac-a-Mole: (Ricardo Caballero, Emmanuel Farhi, and Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas) The subprime crisis, volatile oil prices, and persistent imbalances in international capital flows all stem from a global scarcity of sound and liquid financial assets.

The Unofficial Economy and Economic Development: (Rafael La Porta and Andrei Shleifer) Firms that do not pay taxes represent a third or more of economic activity in many developing countries, but evidence suggests that their productivity is low.

Real Exchange Rate and Economic Growth: (Dani Rodrik) International evidence shows that undervaluing a nation's currency stimulates its economic growth, especially for developing countries.

10. Trade, Protectionism, and the U.S. Economy: Examining the Evidence
CATO Institute's Center for Trade Policy Studies
Robert Krol

This study surveys the economic research on the causes of expanded international trade, the benefits of trade, the impact of trade on employment and wages, and the cost of international trade restrictions.

11. Overtime
Boston College Magazine, vol. 68, no. 3, Summer 2008, pp. 40-46, 48
Sass, Steven

The author, associate director for research at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, writes that job holders in the soon-to-retire Baby Boom generation, those born between 1946 and 1962, will have to work longer than their parents did. In the 1960s and 1970s, the creation of Medicare and the expansion of Social Security and employer-defined pension plans created the Golden Age of retirement. These programs let the World War II generation exit the labor force at a historically young age with enough income to maintain its standard of living. With cutbacks in Social Security and the general disappearance of traditional pensions, that option is gone. To enjoy a reasonably comfortable old age, the Baby Boom generation has little choice but to stay in the labor force longer. The picture is further complicated by a new instability in employment for older workers, and much more frequent job changes. The entry of China, India and the former Soviet Union into the world economic system has doubled the size of the labor force potentially available to U.S. employers over the last 10 to 15 years.

12. High Corporate Taxes Undermine U.S. Global Competitiveness
The Heritage Foundation
Ambassador Terry Miller, Anthony Kim

The global economy demands that companies be flexible and swift in order to remain competitive. High tax rates deprive companies of both the means and the incentive to take advantage of new market opportunities or technological changes that can improve productivity.

13. Strengthening the Ability of Public Transportation to Reduce Our Dependence on Foreign Oil

Robert Puentes

The purpose of Mr.Puentes's testimony before Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs is to discuss some of the broad trends in how Americans travel and the changes brought on by the high costs of energy. In so doing, He also shares some thoughts on how federal policy can use public transportation to reduce total energy consumption, while strengthening economic growth.

14. Biofuels, Neither Saviour Nor Scam: The Case for a Selective Strategy **World Policy Journal, vol. 25, no. 1, Spring 2008, pp. 9-17**

Hunt, Suzanne

Hunt, an independent consultant to the U.S. Energy Department, weighs carefully the advantages and disadvantages of biofuels, both oversimplified in a debate about their potential role in addressing energy needs and climate change. She tends to agree with the view that biofuels produced from food crops have little influence on grain prices. She treads more carefully on the issue of net energy benefits. According to several studies, the production and use of virtually all biofuels produced today will lead to a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Hunt cautions, however, that such assessments are very complex. The production and use of biofuels is associated with trade-offs and risks but also with opportunities. Dealing rationally with this energy source requires developing effective safeguards against the risks and capitalizing on the opportunities, she says. For example, she views international cooperation and international biofuel standards as very important. The primary concern is that, without them "a biofuels free-for-all could develop that would pay little regard to sustainability and environmental concerns," she says. Also, it is important to consider biofuels in a broader context of agriculture-related climate-change mitigation efforts. She concludes that more sustainable farm practices can help ensure that both future biofuels and agriculture meet sustainability targets.

国际安全 International Security

15. One Policy for China: Avoiding Conflict with the Mainland **Harvard International Review, vol. 29, no. 4, Winter 2008, pp. 20-23** **Harley, Jeffrey**

Harley, visiting fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations, discusses the position of the U.S. on the one-China principle. America has effectively deterred conflict between China and Taiwan by accepting this principle. The U.S. has been opposing Taiwanese independence and

dissuading Taiwan from making unilateral declarations, while also deterring China from the use of force against Taiwan. Conflict between the U.S. and China over Taiwan is unlikely because of the high volume of trade between the two nations, growing trade relations between China and Taiwan, as well as a mutual understanding of the danger of military conflict between two nuclear powers. The U.S. must continue to maintain peace along the Taiwan Strait and provide stability in the region.

16. Georgia's Lessons for Taiwan
Far Eastern Economic Review
Jeffrey A. Bader, Douglas Paal

The Russian attack on Georgia sent ripples of alarm through Europe and the United States... In Asia—particularly Taiwan—people are wondering what events in the Caucasus may portend about their own security.

17. Global Visions for America

The autumn 2008 issue of *The Washington Quarterly* features articles from around the world on the expectations (and hopes) of China, Europe, India, Japan, the Middle East, and Russia for the next U.S. administration. The issue also includes provocative articles by former U.S. government officials highlighting some of the key challenges for the new administration. We include one article from Prof. Wang Xinbo at Fudan University “A Forward-Looking Partner in a Changing East Asia” .

More articles can be downloaded from <http://www.twq.com/currentissue/index.cfm>

18. The Accidental Foreign Policy
The Atlantic, vol. 301, no. 5, June 2008, pp. 28-30
Yglesias, Matthew

Yglesias, Atlantic Monthly associate editor, focuses on the foreign policy views of 2008 U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama, and on American public opinion of Obama’s foreign policy views. Obama demonstrates a new approach to foreign policy by indicating a willingness to hold direct negotiations with leaders of rogue states, commit to eventual global nuclear disarmament, balance American military priorities toward Afghanistan, soften the embargo on Cuba and widen the focus of democracy promotion to include other development goals, with the objective of more effectively preventing terrorist recruitment.

19. McCain’s Choice
National Interest, no. 96, July/August 2008, pp. 68-72
Chollet, Derek; Goldgeier, James

While the future direction of American diplomacy hangs in the balance, neoconservatives and realists are battling on the Republican foreign policy agenda. Senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Derek Chollet, and senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, James Goldgeier, offer an inside look at the struggle for the foreign policy strategy of the Republican Party. Presidential candidate John McCain describes himself as a “realistic

idealist” and would rely on U.S. leadership of a multilateral organization based on a community of values. Standing up for values should remain an important part of foreign policy, but a future McCain administration must also be willing to compromise in order to make progress in several areas around the globe.

20. The Not-So-Black Art of Public Diplomacy
World Policy Journal, vol. 24, no. 4, Winter 2007/08, pp. 51-59
Taylor, Humphrey

Chairman of the Harris Poll, Humphrey Taylor, defines public diplomacy as how leaders and countries explain themselves and their policies to the world. Most people around the world do not see themselves as others see them. Children are taught that their country is better than others and the media and politicians reinforce these beliefs. Public diplomacy should work closely with traditional diplomacy and rely upon culture and values to promote goodwill and respect between countries. The media in other nations is a potential tool of influence and America must work toward getting more positive coverage of the U.S. and its policies in the foreign media.

美国社会及价值观 U.S. Society and Values

21. Colleges Should Plan- and Teach- For An Oil- Scarce World
Chronicle of Higher Education, July 10, 2008
Carlson, Scott

The looming global energy crisis will affect all facets of modern life -- including colleges, points out the author. As with most large institutions, modern colleges are very energy-intensive, are not always closely connected with the local community in which they are located, and draw students from a wide geographic area, resulting in long commutes. Most colleges plan to be around in the next several decades, so Carlson says that they need to fundamentally rethink all aspects of their operations -- how buildings are heated and cooled, how food is delivered and prepared, what courses are offered. Coming generations may live in a world vastly different from the present day, so “colleges that offer an education that equips students to live in that world will remain relevant.”

22. Problem: Foreign Students. Solution: Corporate Partner: More Colleges Are Recruiting and Educating Overseas Applicants with the Help of Private Companies
Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 54, No. 2, September 5, 2008, pp. A41-43
Fischer, Karin

Oregon State University is the first U.S. university to strike a deal with a private company to recruit and educate foreign students in a college preparatory program, something British and Australian universities have been contracting out for years. Before September 11th, U.S. universities could sit back and wait for international students to knock on their doors, but now with increased competition and the widespread perception that the U.S. visa process is onerous, a more active approach is necessary. Private partners can do the hard work of screening and recruiting international students and even provide some additional training if,

for example, a better grounding in English is necessary for full-time enrollment. Oregon State, as part of its deal with Into University Partnerships (IUP), a UK firm, has agreed to construct a \$52 million classroom and residential facility for the students IUP will provide and hopes to make \$25 million annually after five years. While such partnerships have encountered initial criticism and opposition in Australia and the UK, faculty and staff opposition has generally diminished over time, says Fischer. Oregon State's Provost, Sabah Randhawa, saw no other way for his cash-strapped institution to get foreign enrollment numbers up, and was willing to take a chance on a partnership with a private company.

23. Welcome Back to Grover's Corners

American Theatre, 25, no. 5, May/June 2008, pp. 24-27, 74-75

Laster, Lori Ann

Thornton Wilder's enduring classic, 'Our Town,' continues on as more than just a tribute to small-town America but a commentary on the human condition. According to Tappan Wilder, the playwright's nephew and literary executor, it is widely believed that 'Our Town' is performed at least once each night somewhere in this country and it has become part of the curriculum in American Studies departments in foreign universities. It has been performed in several overseas productions sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, sometimes with well-known actors in the cast. At the time the play was written and first performed in Princeton, New Jersey, in January 1938, the threat of World War II was looming, while the U.S. was still recovering from the Great Depression. The play represents a return to a more tranquil time. The author notes that with global political tensions in the world today, the play continues to provide a sense of comfort and stability, and a return to small-town American values.

24. Project Urban Recreation

Parks & Recreation, Vol. 43, No. 3, March 2008, pp. 39-45

Edwards, Michael

The creation of public parks in close proximity to urban areas is a new trend in urban development. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Spokane, Washington, serve as examples of this trend, which is being spurred by increasing demand for places for outdoor exercise. Cities are opening parks that allow residents to enjoy the outdoors without leaving the city; Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Park is situated along the riverfront, with trails, bridges, green space, water landings, public art, historic artifacts, restaurants, and community events. Spokane is developing the Spokane River Gorge, which has 400 acres of river access, open space located adjacent to downtown, and a wide variety of activities to lure visitors. The author notes that parks like these benefit cities by encouraging growth of urban communities, tourism, future investment and real estate values.

25. In a Letter to His Kids, Wired's Founding Editor Recalls the Dawn of the Digital Revolution

Wired Magazine, vol. 16, no. 6, June 2008, pp. 172-175

Rossetto, Louis

Rossetto, cofounder of Wired Magazine, reflects on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of his magazine on the predictions for the Internet he made in 1993, and how things have actually turned out. Rossetto notes that he started Wired to chronicle the people, companies, and ideas driving the digital revolution — but had only the vaguest notion of where it was headed. Major misses included “the end of history”, characterized by Francis Fukuyama’s famous prediction that history ended with the demise of the Soviet Union; Wired failed to see that extremist groups would use the Internet to propagate virulent ideology. Another misstep was believing that the Internet would lead to the end of politics; Rossetto notes, instead of using the Internet to rebuild civil society, special-interest groups used it to get into the “mud” of politics, resulting in “one of the most toxic and least productive eras of public discourse in our history.” Among the trends Rossetto believes they accurately predicted were what he calls the “Long Boom,” the unprecedented increase in material well-being for much of humanity; the spread of liberal democracy, globalization, and a technological revolution; and what has been termed the “One Machine”, a new planetary consciousness developing among humans using ever-more-powerful PCs and networks.

26. End-of-Life Care: Into the Sunset **Economist, July 31, 2008**

The hospice movement is dedicated to caring for, rather than trying to cure, the terminally ill. This idea of limiting care to physical and emotional pain relief for people with identifiably fatal diseases is widely accepted. But now questions are arising about the appropriate way to deal with elderly people who will never be well, but have no idea when they will die. A common gripe about American nursing homes is that their residents are still all too likely to be rushed off to hospital as they begin to die. Some reasons for this are legal, but all too often nursing home staff do not share “the live-and-let-die convictions of the hospice movement.” What is needed, the author says, is honest, extensive discussions on palliative care for the elderly — both among health care workers as well as with the general public.