ARTICLE ALERT May - Jun 2012

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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

[1] China's New Flexibility on Foreign Intervention
Johan Lagerkvist
YaleGlobal. May 29, 2012

Authoritarian regimes around the world took note as protests spread swiftly throughout the Middle East, spurred by deep societal anger and the internet. Global powers had to take a stance, whether to side with brutal, corrupt, even delusional dictators or with citizens demanding justice and human rights. With its investments reaching every corner of the globe, China has struggled to rationalize its long-held principle of respecting state sovereignty. Some analysts claim China is inconsistent in policies on Libya, Syria or Sudan, but the author analyzes conditions required before China considers intervention: The issue goes before the UN Security Council; regional organizations approve; military actions could put Chinese economic influence at risk; the target area offers potential of energy or other resources; and the lives of Chinese citizens are at risk. Impact on China's reputation is of less import. Lagerkvist anticipates more flexibility over time, noting, "While China still cherishes the principle of state sovereignty, Beijing has also over time become more socialized into the framework of international norms."

[2] The South China Sea: Oil, Maritime Claims, and U.S. - China Strategic Rivalry
Leszek Buszynski
The Washington Quarterly, Spring 2012, 35:2 pp. 139-156

The risk of conflict escalating from relatively minor events has increased in the South China Sea over the past two years with disputes now less open to negotiation or resolution. Had the issue remained strictly a territorial one, it could have been resolved through Chinese efforts to reach out to ASEAN and forge stronger ties with the region. Now, however, the issue has gone beyond territorial claims and access to energy resources, as the South China Sea has become a focal point for the U.S.–China rivalry in the Western Pacific. Since around 2010, the sea has started to become linked with wider strategic issues relating to China’s naval strategy and America’s forward presence in the area. This makes the dispute dangerous and a reason for concern, particularly as the United States has reaffirmed its interest in the Asia Pacific and strengthened security relations with the ASEAN claimants in the dispute.

[3] Stirring up the South China Sea
International Crisis Group, 23 Apr 2012

The conflicting mandates and lack of coordination among Chinese government agencies, many of which strive to increase their power and budget, have stoked tensions in the South China Sea. Repeated proposals to establish a more centralised mechanism have foundered while the only agency with a coordinating mandate, the foreign ministry, does not have the authority or resources to manage other actors. The Chinese navy's use of maritime tensions to justify its modernisation, and nationalist sentiment around territorial claims, further compound the problem. But more immediate conflict risks lie in the growing number of law enforcement and paramilitary vessels playing an increasing role in disputed territories without a clear legal framework. They have been involved in most of the recent incidents, including the prolonged standoff between China and the Philippines in April 2012 in Scarborough Reef. Any future solution to the South China Sea disputes will require a consistent policy from China executed uniformly throughout the different levels of government along with the authority to enforce it.

[4] China's Soft Power in the Information Age: Think Again
Shanthi Kalathil
Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, May 2011

In recent years, many have argued that China has been largely successful at using soft power to bolster its rise to great power status. This essay suggests that the Chinese government has fundamentally misread the nature of the relationship between soft power and the globally networked, information-rich environment, thus misunderstanding how soft power is accumulated. Because of this, their efforts at deploying soft power over the long term are not likely to be as effective as conventional wisdom would make them out to be.

[5] China's Post-Kim Jong Il Debate
Snyder, Scott; Byun, See-won.
CSIS Comparative Connections, May 14, 2012, 10 pages

The 20-year anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and South Korea may provide a pretext for more active diplomacy to meet a growing list of potential disputes in the relationship. Presidents Hu Jintao and Lee Myung-bak have held two summits this year and there has been increased interaction among other senior leaders as well. These exchanges have sharpened focus on the prospects for the partnership. Meanwhile, high-level contacts between China and North Korea have stalled. Beijing renewed calls for restraint following North Korea's failed launch of an "earth observation satellite" and a UNSC President's Statement strongly condemning it. This has dampened China's hopes for regional engagement.

[6] Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2011
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, U.S. Department of State

The world changed immeasurably over the course of 2011. Across the Middle East, North Africa, and far beyond, citizens stood up to demand respect for human dignity, more promising economic opportunities, greater political liberties, and a say in their own future. Often they faced

tremendous odds and endured violent responses from their governments. The resulting upheavals are still unfolding today in places like Syria, where the regime has brutalized its own people. In Burma, after years of repression, the government has taken preliminary steps to allow reforms to begin. This year's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices chronicle these dramatic changes and the stories of the people defending human rights in almost 200 countries around the world. (Cited from Secretary's Preface)

[7] Scoring Obama's Foreign Policy
Martin Indyk, Kenneth Lieberthal, and Michael O'Hanlon
Foreign Affairs, May/Jun 2012

The Obama administration's foreign policy has tried to reconcile the president's lofty vision with his innate realism and political caution. And given the domestic and global situations Obama has faced, pragmatism has dominated. Judged by the standard of protecting U.S. interests, things have worked out quite well; judged by the standard of midwiring a new global order, they remain a work in progress.

[8] The U.S. Army in a Time of Transition: Building a Flexible Force
Odierno, Raymond T.
Foreign Affairs, May/Jun2012, Vol. 91, Issue 3

With the Iraq war over and U.S. troops returning from Afghanistan, the U.S. Army faces a decade of change, writes its chief of staff. It will need to adjust to smaller budgets, focus more on Asia, and embrace a fuller range of potential missions.

ENVIROMENT AND ENERGY

[9]Tracking Clean Energy Progress
International Energy Agency. April 25, 2012.

This is an early except of the forthcoming Energy Technology Perspectives 2012. The report tracks progress in the development and deployment of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies in the power generation, industry, buildings, and transport sectors. Progress is assessed against rates required to achieve a 2oC limit in global temperature rise, referred to as the "2 degree scenario" or "2DS." The report finds that while some progress has been made, most clean energy technologies are not on track to make their required contribution to reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions and thereby provide a more secure energy system. It also highlights that getting back on track is possible, if timely and significant policy action is taken.

[10] Federal Agency Actions Following the Supreme Court's Climate Change Decision in Massachusetts v. EPA: A Chronology
Robert Meltz
Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. May 1, 2012.

On April 2, 2007, the Supreme Court rendered one of its most important environmental decisions. In Massachusetts v. EPA, the Court held 5-4 that greenhouse gases (GHGs), widely viewed as

contributing to climate change, constitute "air pollutants" as that phrase is used in the Clean Air Act (CAA). As a result, said the Court, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had improperly denied a petition seeking CAA regulation of GHG emissions from new motor vehicles by saying the agency lacked authority over such emissions. This report offers a chronology of major federal agency actions, mainly by EPA, that involve GHGs or climate change and that occurred in the wake of Massachusetts v. EPA. Most of the listed actions trace directly or indirectly back to the decision.

[11] What Are the Major Sources And Users of Energy In The United States?
U.S. Energy Information Administration
Energy in Brief

The major energy sources in the United States are petroleum (oil), natural gas, coal, nuclear, and renewable energy. The major users are residential and commercial buildings, industry, transportation, and electric power generators. The pattern of fuel use varies widely by sector. For example, oil provides 93% of the energy used for transportation, but only about 1% of the energy used to generate electric power. Understanding the relationships between the different energy sources and their uses provides insights into many important energy issues.

[12] The Little Green Data Book
World Development Indicators, The World Bank. May 17, 2012.

For many low-income countries, natural capital is a critical asset, making up nearly 36 percent of their total wealth. The poorest communities depend on oceans, forests, and soil productivity for their daily existence, and as they grow, the pressure on land and water is increasing, threatening ecosystems and livelihoods in countries with few resources to cope with the loss. Protecting these vital resources requires reliable data and measurement systems that can ensure they are taken into consideration during development decision making. The report provides part of that equation with comprehensive data on more than 200 countries' natural capital, including agricultural land, forests, protected areas, and water resources, information that can help policymakers, communities and other stakeholders weigh the value of natural resources and their role in development.

ECONOMICS AND TRADE ISSUES

[13] Shattering the Myths about U.S. Trade Policy
Lawrence, Robert Z.; Edwards, Lawrence.
Harvard Business Review, March 2012, 5 pages

Is economic growth in developing countries hurting the United States? Does rising trade with developing countries reduce the real wages of most U.S. workers and increase income inequality? The authors analyze the impact of U.S. trade with developing countries and the myths causing America's economic problems.

[14] The U.S. Export Control System and the President's Reform Initiative
Ian F. Fergusson and Paul K. Kerr

Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. May 18, 2012.

The 112th Congress may consider reforms of the U.S. export control system. The balance between national security and export competitiveness has made the subject of export controls controversial for decades. Through the Export Administration Act (EAA), the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), and other authorities, the U.S. restricts the export of defense items or munitions; so-called "dual-use" goods and technology--items with both civilian and military applications; certain nuclear materials and technology; and items that would assist in the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons or the missile technology used to deliver them. U.S. export controls are also used to restrict exports to certain countries on which the U.S. imposes economic sanctions. At present, the EAA has expired and dual-use controls are maintained under IEEPA authorities.

[15] A Very Uneven Road: US Labor Markets in the Past 30 Years
Harry Holzer and Marek Hlavac
Urban Institute. Web posted April 30, 2012.

The paper uses data from the Current Population Survey to summarize labor market trends in the U.S. over the past 30 years. First it focuses on secular trends over the four years (and three cycles) that constitute labor market peaks during this period: 1979, 1989, 2000, and 2007. Then it considers peak-to-trough changes in employment outcomes for each of the four recessions that have occurred in this period, including the Great Recession. Overall, the report finds great unevenness in labor market performance across cycles and across demographic groups. Inequality has widened dramatically and important structural changes have occurred.

[16] The Future of Manufacturing
World Economic Forum. April 24, 2012

Talent, the ability to innovate and the strategic use of public policy will play a significant role in defining manufacturing sector competitiveness in developed and emerging economies going forward, finds the report. It finds that the global manufacturing ecosystem is undergoing a dramatic transformation, with many emerging economies developing significant manufacturing and innovation capabilities, enabling them to produce increasingly complex products, leading to the globalization of manufacturing supply chains. Fading labor rate arbitrage, exposure to currency volatility, sovereign debt pressures and emerging protectionist policies will be countervailing forces to further globalization of manufacturing value chains.

[17] A Global Economy in Danger
Manu Bhaskaran
YaleGlobal. May 21, 2012.

The week's global consultations are in order, a G20 Labor and Employment Ministerial Meeting convened in Mexico on employment policies; the G8 reached consensus on eurozone reforms at Camp David; NATO meets in Chicago to prepare for withdrawal from Afghanistan. The globe's major economies are interconnected in so many ways, and the separate set of difficulties of each threatens ability to contribute rescuing a faltering global economy: Europe must manage the

massive debt and unemployment of Greece, Spain and other members; China anxiously monitors slowed growth amid inflation and worrisome bubbles; Japan struggles to recover from the tsunami and nuclear disaster; the U.S. economy strives to gain momentum after investing in two long wars that contributed little to stabilizing the Middle East or Central Asia. Specifically, economist Manu Bhaskaran urges the G20 to act on increasing oil production, fiscal stimulus and new defenses against fiscal panics. Bold, coordinated global response is essential if the world is to emerge from the crisis.

[18] Will the World Trade Organization Enjoy a Bright Future?
Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Jeffrey J. Schott
Peterson Institute for International Economics. May 2012.

Hufbauer and Schott propose a "grand bargain" that couples a significant harvest from the Doha agenda with the future negotiation of plurilateral agreements among WTO members willing to take rewarding, yet challenging, steps forward. The harvest should start--but not stop--with agreements that create minimal commercial pain for any member but deliver widespread gains: trade facilitation, duty-free, quota-free treatment of imports from least developed countries, phaseout of agricultural export subsidies, discipline of farm export controls, and reforms to dispute settlement. The harvest should then move to harder parts of the Doha Round--agreements that deliver significant benefits to some members but cause noticeable pain in others.

U.S. POLITICS & SOCIAL PROCESSES

[19] How FDA Approves Drugs and Regulates Their Safety and Effectiveness
Susan Thaul
Congressional Research Service Report for Congress May 18, 2012

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is a regulatory agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. A key responsibility is to regulate the safety and effectiveness of drugs sold in the United States. FDA divides that responsibility into two phases: preapproval (premarket) and postapproval (postmarket). FDA reviews manufacturers' applications to market drugs in the United States; a drug may not be sold unless it has FDA approval. The agency continues its oversight of drug safety and effectiveness as long as the drug is on the market. Beginning with the Food and Drugs Act of 1906, Congress has incrementally refined and expanded FDA's responsibilities regarding drug approval and regulation.

[20] The 21st Century Force Multiplier: Public–Private Collaboration
James Stavridis and Evelyn N. Farkas
The Washington Quarterly 35:2 pp. 7-20

For about the last decade, the U.S. government has been recruiting private business and non-profit collaborators to volunteer expertise, exchange information, and even operate together to enhance national security, provide humanitarian assistance, or promote economic development around the world. The main objective of such collaboration is to improve effectiveness. The federal government has worked to harness expertise it doesn't have—in the cyber arena, for example, by

working with industry experts to help the U.S. government, its NATO allies, and the business community itself improve their cyber defenses. In the development field, Uncle Sam tapped into the operational experience of multinational businesses to bring clean water to poor communities in developing countries. With the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) leading the way, the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and State, among others, have been steadily increasing collaboration with private entities. Indeed, the most recent National Security Strategy calls on the executive branch to work with the private sector, repeatedly referring to public–private partnerships.

[21] The Presidential Nominating Process and the National Party Conventions, 2012: Frequently Asked Questions
Kevin J. Coleman
Congressional Research Service Report for Congress May 14, 2012

This report provides answers to frequently asked questions about the presidential nominating process, including how the delegates to the national conventions are chosen, the differences between a caucus and a primary, national party rules changes for 2012, and the national conventions themselves. It is not a comprehensive report on all aspects of the presidential nominating process.

[22] Presidential Travel: Policy and Costs
L. Elaine Halchin
Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. May 17, 2012.

For security and other reasons, the President, Vice President, and First Lady use military aircraft when they travel. The White House generally categorizes the trips as fulfilling either official or political functions. Often, a trip involves both official and political, or unofficial, activities. When a trip is for an official function, the government pays all costs, including per diem (food and lodging), car rentals, and other incidental expenses. When a trip is for political or unofficial purposes, those involved must pay for their own food and lodging and other related expenses, and they must also reimburse the government with the equivalent of the airfare that they would have paid had they used a commercial airline. When a trip involves both official and political activities, a formula determines the amount to be reimbursed for that part of the trip involving political activities. Whether a trip is for official or political purposes, the Air Force pays all operational and other costs incurred by the use of the aircraft. While the travel policies of specific Administrations concerning the reimbursement of expenses for unofficial travel generally are not publicly available, it appears that policy guidelines developed by the Reagan White House have served as a basis for the travel policies of subsequent Administrations.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

[23] Ten Ways Social Media Can Improve Campaign Engagement and Reinvigorate American Democracy
Darrell M. West
Brookings, posted on June 28, 2011

Drawing from a recent expert panel discussion hosted by the Center for Technology Innovation, West outlines ten ways social media can improve campaign engagement and re-invigorate American democracy. Drawing from a recent expert panel discussion hosted by the Center for Technology Innovation, West outlines ten ways social media can improve campaign engagement and re-invigorate American democracy.

[24] 10 Changes to Expect from the Library of the Future
Marquis, Justin
Online Universities, April 24, 2012

Libraries have acted as community cornerstones for millennia, and every April marks School Library Month, celebrating how they promote education and awareness in an open, nurturing space. What makes them such lasting institutions, though, isn't the mere act of preserving books and promoting knowledge. Rather, it's the almost uncanny ability to consistently adapt to the changing demands of the local populace and emerging technology alike. The library system probably won't disappear anytime soon; but rather, see itself blossoming into something new and exciting in congruence with today's myriad informational demands.

[25] The Future of Apps and Web
Janna Quitney Anderson and Lee Rainie
Pew Internet & American Life Project, May 23, 2012.

The Web Is Dead? No. Experts expect apps and the Web to converge in the cloud; but many worry that simplicity for users will come at a price. Tech experts generally believe the mobile revolution, the popularity of targeted apps, the monetization of online products and services, and innovations in cloud computing will drive Web evolution. Some survey respondents say while much may be gained, perhaps even more may be lost if the "appification" of the Web comes to pass.

[26] The Future of Internet Gamification
Janna Quitney Anderson and Lee Rainie
Pew Internet & American Life Project, May 18, 2012.

The word "gamification" has emerged in recent years as a way to describe interactive online design that plays on people's competitive instincts and often incorporates the use of rewards to drive action-these include virtual rewards such as points, payments, badges, discounts, and "free" gifts; and status indicators such as friend counts, retweets, leader boards, achievement data, progress bars, and the ability to "level up." While some people dismiss gamification as a fad, neuroscientists are discovering more and more about the ways in which humans react to such interactive design elements.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

[27] Why Does America Welcome Immigrants?
Matthew Spalding, Ph.D.
The Heritage Foundation, Posted on June 30, 2011

By the very nature of the principles upon which it was founded, the United States—more than any other nation in history—beckons to its shores the downtrodden, the persecuted, and all those "yearning to breathe free." It embraces those who come to this country honestly, armed with their work ethic, in search of the promises and opportunities of the American Dream. Why does America welcome immigrants?

[28] The American South: From Civil Rights Struggle to Civil Rights Tourism
Dorit Wagner
American Studies Journal, Number 56 2012

In recent years the American South has become the platform for an authenticity seeking tourism industry. Former sites of civil rights action have been revived and transformed into tourist attractions. The following paper introduces the notion of so-called civil rights tourism and presents a critical analysis of current sites of civil rights commemoration throughout the American South.

[29] Partisan Polarization Surges in Bush, Obama Years: Trends in American Values: 1987-2012
Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. June 4, 2012.

As Americans head to the polls this November, their values and basic beliefs are more polarized along partisan lines than at any point in the past 25 years. Unlike in 1987, when this series of surveys began, the values gap between Republicans and Democrats is now greater than gender, age, race or class divides. Overall, there has been much more stability than change across the 48 political values measures that the Pew Research Center has tracked since 1987. But the average partisan gap has nearly doubled over this 25-year period -- from 10% in 1987 to 18% in the new study.