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INFO-ALERT brings to your attention a selection of abstracts of current articles and new materials from American publications on current political, economic, social issues and trends in the United States. These materials are available upon request from the Information Resource Center.

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POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. DEMOCRACY AND THE QUALITY OF THE STATE

Francis Fukuyama

Journal of Democracy, October 2013, 12 pages

Why is it that some countries have been able to develop high-quality state administrations that deliver services to their populations with relative efficiency, while others are plagued by corruption, bloated or red-tape-ridden bureaucracies, and incompetence? Francis Fukuyama, a senior fellow at Stanford's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, discusses the relationship between the effectiveness of a state and democracy.

2. TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY STATECRAFT IN ACTION

Michael A. Hammer

The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs, Winter 2013, 8 pages

Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, Michael A. Hammer, discusses the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Public Affairs practice of what Secretary Clinton has termed "Twenty-First Century Statecraft," seeking to further U.S. foreign policy and national security interests, as well as telling America's compelling story to the world through the newest platforms that provide the greatest reach.

3. **IS OBAMA LIKE IKE?**

Michael Doran

Commentary, October 2013, 5 pages

Michael Doran, a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, examines the similarities between the foreign policies of former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower and current President Barack Obama, particularly regarding military interventions.

4. **GAME CHANGER**

Linda Marsa

Discover, October 2013, 4 pages

Linda Marsa, a contributing editor for *Discover*, presents an interview with Harper Reed, the hipster mastermind behind high-tech data-mining that helped win a second term for President Obama, and how it may have forever changed how U.S. elections are run.

5. **THE POP PRESIDENCY OF BARACK OBAMA**

Tevi Troy

Commentary, October 2013, 6 pages

Tevi Troy, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, examines the influence of popular culture on U.S. President Barack Obama, from his childhood to his political career, and how he used it in his campaigns to ultimately land him in the White House twice.

6. **CONSERVATIVE INTERNATIONALISM**

Henry R. Nau

National Review, September 30, 2013, 4 pages

Henry Nau, a professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University, explores different approaches to U.S. engagement in world affairs. He also makes a case for an alternative strategy that is mainly internationalist, but conservative, and combines, rather than rejects, the insights of the other approaches.

7. **FROM ENMITY TO AMITY: TRUST'S PART IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY**

Charles A. Kupchan

Global Asia, Fall 2013, 6 pages

Charles Kupchan, a professor of international affairs at Georgetown University, analyzes the U.S. trust-based brand of international politics and the place of trust in U.S. strategy toward Northeast Asia.

8. **CHANGE MANAGEMENT**

Condoleezza Rice

Harvard International Review, Fall 2013, 2 pages

Condoleezza Rice, Professor of Political Science at Stanford University and former U.S. Secretary of State, reflects on the role of U.S. Secretary of State and U.S. foreign policy, particularly its role within the international balance of power.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

9. **COPING WITH RISING INEQUALITY IN ASIA: HOW EFFECTIVE ARE FISCAL POLICIES?**

Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, et al.

Asian Economic Papers, Fall 2013, 33 pages

The authors discuss the impact of redistributive fiscal policies in Asia, and then compare that impact to what is observed in a broad set of other countries outside the continent. They also analyze the effectiveness of taxation and selected government expenditure in reducing income inequality in Asia and in the rest of the world.

10. **MONETARY POLICY DURING THE PAST 30 YEARS WITH LESSONS FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS**

John B. Taylor

CATO Journal, Fall 2013, 13 pages

John Taylor, the George P. Shultz senior fellow in Economics at the Hoover Institution, examines the U.S. monetary policy between 1982 and 2012, pointing out the differences between the 1980s, the 1990s, and the early 21st century; then discusses the implications for U.S. monetary policy for the future.

11. **WHAT NOW FOR MONETARY POLICY?**

John H. Makin

American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, September/October 2013, 7 pages

What should the Federal Reserve's goals be? John Makin, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, examines the role of Federal Reserve, which has evolved from its original task of providing liquidity in times of financial crisis to include ensuring a low and stable rate of inflation, and now targeting lower unemployment and higher growth.

12. **AVOIDING THE SPOTLIGHT: HUMAN RIGHTS SHAMING AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT**

Colin M. Barry, et al.

International Studies Quarterly, September 2013, 13 pages

Non-state actors, such as international non-governmental organizations and multinational corporations, have attained an increasingly prominent role in modern world affairs. The authors examine the extent to which the decisions of private actors seeking to invest abroad are affected by the reputational costs of doing business in countries.

SOCIAL ISSUES AND VALUES, EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

13. **WHAT'S TRENDING IN EBOOKS**

Barbara Brynko

Information Today, October 2013, 3 pages

With the wealth of tools, platforms, and services being added to the ebook arena today, publishers have even more ways to monetize the “p” to “e” transition. The author explores the future of ebooks and the shift in consumer and patron demand.

14. PICKING THE RIGHT DEVICE FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT

Benjamin Herold

Education Week, October 2, 2013 Supplement, 3 pages

Benjamin Herold discusses the use of one-to-one and one-to-many (1:X) initiatives in U.S. education, which seek to equip students with in-class technological devices, most typically tablet computers. The author examines the benefits of using a gradual approach to teacher development in introducing educational technology.

15. LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY: THE NEXT GENERATION

Marshall Breeding

Computers in Libraries, October 2013, 3 pages

Marshall Breeding, founder of Library Technology Guides, examines the evolution of library automation products and services and discusses the impact of research and development on the efficiency of technology products.

16. SHIFTING PATTERNS OF INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION: EBB AND FLOW OR SEA CHANGE?

Robin Middlehurst

Change, September/October 2013, 8 pages

What has prompted the United States to launch a new international strategy, and how does it compare with developments in other countries? The author examines U.S. strategies on international higher education and international benchmarking, trans-national education (TNE), and international student mobility.

17. DIVERSITY EXPERIENCES AND ATTITUDES TOWARD LITERACY: IS THERE A LINK?

Chad N. Loes, et al.

The Journal of Higher Education, November/December 2013, 32 pages

Do diversity experiences influence students' attitudes toward literary activities in college? The authors explore whether different types of diversity experiences -- which involve racial or ethnic differences -- influence students' intellectual engagement.

18. IS THAT ALL THERE IS? TAKING EDUCATION TO NEW LEVELS IN THE SOCIAL-MEDIA ERA

Munir Mandviwalla, et al.

Change, September/October 2013, 8 pages

The authors examine how social media-enabled platforms can lead to transformation in educational experiences and outcomes including teaching, learning, and students' professional development and placement. Its impact on higher education in the United States is also discussed.

19. YELLOW SKIN, WHITE MASKS

Mina Yang

Daedalus, Fall 2013, 14 pages

Mina Yang, an assistant professor of Musicology at the University of Southern California, explores how emerging Asian American hip-hop dancers and musicians negotiate their self-representation in different contexts. The author also examines what their strategies reveal about the postmillennial Asian youth's relationship to American and transpacific culture and the outer limits of American music.

20. BORN TO TAKE THE HIGHWAY: WOMEN, THE AUTOMOBILE, AND ROCK 'N' ROLL

Chris Lezotte

Journal of American Culture, September 2013, 16 pages

Chris Lezotte, a Ph.D. candidate in American Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University, explores the cultural history of the interrelated concepts of automobiles, rock and roll, and women in the 20th-century United States. The article focuses on the associations between automobile driving and personal independence, and connections between driving and female empowerment.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

21. HAND OVER THAT SMARTPHONE

Shirley Duglin Kennedy

Information Today, September 2013, 2 pages

Shirley Kennedy, the web content strategist for the Center for Deployment Psychology, examines Internet addiction and the legal, social, and psychological problems associated with it.

22. THE DATA-DRIVEN SOCIETY

Alex "Sandy" Pentland

Scientific American, October 2013, 6 pages

Sandy Pentland, director of MIT Media Lab Entrepreneurship Program, discusses the world's data-driven societies and the role of big data and its ability to trace, predict, and even control the behavior of individuals and groups of people.

23. SMARTER SOFTWARE'S IMPACTS ON HUMAN PRIVACY

Keturah Hetrick

The Futurist, November/December 2013, 3 pages

The author discusses research on computer comprehension of human speech and language, including the definitions of words, logic, and syntax used in telephone conversations or e-mail, and the implications a semantic search program could have on personal privacy.

24. HOW SHOULD WE THINK ABOUT PRIVACY?

Jaron Lanier

Scientific American, November 2013, 8 pages

Is privacy dead? Will the Internet and the many new devices communicating through it make personal privacy obsolete? Jaron Lanier, a computer scientist at Microsoft Research, discusses the role of privacy in the networked era and the problem with privacy regulations.

25. OVERSHARED

Monika Bauerlein and Clara Jeffery

Mother Jones, November/December 2013, 3 pages

Think you're friends with Facebook? Think again. The authors discuss personal data privacy, with a focus on the social networking website Facebook's collaboration with the U.S. National Security Agency's PRISM electronic data mining surveillance program.

26. THE REAL PRIVACY PROBLEM

Evgeny Morozov

Technology Review, November/December 2013, 12 pages

How can too much privacy endanger democracy? The author discusses the privacy problem and the need to adjust the balance between privacy and transparency in times of rapid technological change.

27. THE POTENTIAL FOR ONLINE LEARNING: PROMISES & PITFALLS

William G. Bowen

Educause Review, September/October 2013, 9 pages

William Bowen, President Emeritus of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, analyzes the advantages and disadvantages of online learning in higher education, and offers eight propositions when searching for methods to harness information technology through online learning.