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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 & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. **THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S 2011 FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES**

Mike Hammer, National Security Council Spokesman
U.S. Department of State, January 27, 2011, 9 pages
<http://fpc.state.gov/155514.htm>

National Security Council Spokesman, Mike Hammer, provides a briefing on the Obama Administration's foreign policy priorities for 2011, at the Foreign Press Center, U.S. Department of State.

2. **THE ASIAN CENTURY? NOT QUITE YET**

Joshua Kurlantzick
Current History, January 2011, 6 pages

Given the turbulence that may lie ahead for China and the real advantages that America retains, proclamations of the one's dominance and the other's decline appear premature, says Joshua Kurlantzick, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and a contributing editor to *Current History*.

3. **TAKING SOFT POWER SERIOUSLY**

Matthew Kroenig, et al.
Comparative Strategy, November 2010, 19 pages

The authors develop a theory about the conditions under which states will best be able to apply soft power to achieve specific foreign policy objectives, and the implications for international relations theory and U.S. foreign policy.

4. **IS ASIA'S RISE INEVITABLE?**

Lord Malloch-Brown
Asian Affairs, November 2010, 12 pages

Lord Malloch-Brown, a former Deputy Secretary-General and Chief of Staff of the United Nations, analyzes the rise of Asia and the challenges it faces.

5. **INTENSIVE CARE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS**

Thomas Weiss
Current History, November 2010, 7 pages

Thomas Weiss, a professor of political science and director of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the City University of New York, examines the prospects of the United Nations and the U.S. engagement under the Obama administration.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

6. **LIFTOFF OR COLD SHOWER? THE ECONOMY IN 2011**

John H. Makin
AEI Economic Outlook, January 2011, 4 pages

John H. Makin, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, examines the U.S. economic growth in 2011 focusing on the risks that threaten global economic recovery.

7. **COMING: THE BIGGEST BOOM EVER!**

McKinley Conway
The Futurist, May/June 2010, 5 pages

The economic recession has prompted many to duck and cover, and many economists are making very pessimistic short-term and long-term forecasts. However, scrutiny of the factors at play reveals that the coming decade will bring a great deal of opportunity. The author predicts a period of unprecedented global development that will provide new opportunities around the world in emerging industries ranging from nanotechnology to solar and wind power.

8. **CREATING SHARED VALUE**

Michael E. Porter and Mark R. Kramer
Harvard Business Review, January/February 2011, 16 pages

The concept of shared value focuses on the connections between societal and economic progress. The authors explain how it could reshape capitalism and be the force behind the next global wave of innovation and productivity growth.

9. **THE COPYRIGHT DILEMMA: COPYRIGHT SYSTEMS, INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Walter G. Park
Journal of International Affairs, Fall/Winter 2010, 16 pages

Walter G. Park, an associate professor of economics at American University, discusses the potential role of copyright laws in technological and economic development, and how copyright regimes affect education and scientific research through their impacts on the diffusion of knowledge embodied in copyrighted media.

SOCIAL ISSUES & VALUES, EDUCATION & THE ARTS

10. **BEYOND GRAFFITI**

Carolina A. Miranda
ARTnews, January 2011, 4 pages

Freelance writer Carolina Miranda explores how a new generation is making street art that is conceptual, abstract, and even three-dimensional. Interestingly, the esthetic theories behind some of this art seem almost conventionally academic. What sets this movement apart is that much of it is inspired by or has evolved out of a graffiti tradition. Regardless of municipal vandalism codes, this new school of street art has attracted the attention of curators at an international level.

11. **THE GREENING DIPLOMACY INITIATIVE: LEADING BY EXAMPLE**

U.S. Dept of State, February 4, 2011, 1 page
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/plrmo/156053.html>

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton launched the Greening Diplomacy Initiative (GDI) in April 2009 to improve the environmental sustainability of the State Department's global operations. Advanced by the Department's Greening Council, the GDI challenges the Department to develop and implement policies and actions that lessen its overall environmental footprint, reduce costs, and ensure sustainability remains at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy.

12. **ONLINE EDUCATION VS. TRADITIONAL LEARNING: TIME TO END THE FAMILY FEUD**

Mark David Milliron
The Chronicle of Higher Education, November 5, 2010, 4 pages

The author discusses how college teachers can use teaching methods from traditional and online learning to ensure that students will succeed academically.

13. **SHOW TIME AT THE APOLLO**

Lucinda Moore
Smithsonian, vol. 41, no. 7, November 2010, 2 pages

A stellar roster of African-American singers, dancers and comedians got their start at the landmark Harlem Theater, the Apollo, which over the decades transformed popular entertainment. Notables included Billie Holiday, James Brown, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Diana Ross, Nat "King" Cole, the Four Tops, Tina Turner, and Michael Jackson. As part of its 75th anniversary celebrations, a new exhibition of photographs, recordings, film footage and other memorabilia, entitled "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing," was organized by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and the Apollo Theater Foundation.

14. **GLOBALISATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN ASIA: THE URBAN HEALTH IMPACT**

Barry Munslow and Tim O'Dempsey
Third World Quarterly, December 2010, 18 pages

The authors examine the impact of globalization and climate change across Asia, and explore the most pressing challenges that Asians face.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

15. **ACCIDENTAL ACTIVISTS: USING FACEBOOK TO DRIVE CHANGE**

Randi Zuckerberg

Journal of International Affairs, Fall/Winter 2010, 4 pages

In this exclusive interview, Zuckerberg, head of marketing, politics, current events and nonprofits for Facebook Inc., discusses the use of online social media for fundraising, and explains how Facebook can promote democratization.

16. **THE POLITICAL POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

Clay Shirky

Foreign Affairs, January/February 2011, 14 pages

Clay Shirky, a professor of New Media at New York University, examines the ubiquity of social media as a political force and the impact of the rise of the Internet on political freedom and civil society worldwide.

17. **R U TWEETING 2 MUCH?**

Andrew Ferguson

Commentary, January 2011, 2 pages

Andrew Ferguson, a senior editor of *The Weekly Standard* and a columnist for Bloomberg News, discusses the role the micro-blogging website Twitter plays in the world of journalism and whether the information provided on Twitter benefits or harms the journalism industry.

18. **INFORMATION OVERLOAD, THEN AND NOW**

Ann Blair

The Chronicle of Higher Education, December 3, 2010, 4 pages

Ann Blair, a professor of history at Harvard University, discusses information overload through an exploration of the vast amounts of information that exist in regards to texts and digital data.

19. **RETREATING FROM THE WORLD**

Jodi Enda

American Journalism Review, Winter 2010, 14 pages

Jodi Enda, a Washington-based journalist, discusses the rise of startup news organizations dedicated to covering foreign news in the wake of decreased foreign coverage from traditional U.S. news agencies.