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INFO-ALERT: OUTREACH PUBLICATION MAY / JUNE 2013

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. **SOUTHEAST ASIA: IN THE SHADOW OF CHINA**

Benjamin Reilly

Journal of Democracy, January 2013, 9 pages

With the political and economic advances transpiring in the region, Southeast Asia has been displaying a positive relationship between democracy and development. The author analyzes the prospects for democracy in Southeast Asia and the current distribution of democracy and autocracy across the region.

2. **ECONOMICS AND SECURITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

John Ravenhill

Pacific Review, March 2013, 15 pages

John Ravenhill examines the relationship between economics and security in the Asia-Pacific region and how the two can become intertwined. His focus is on the circumstances in which issues have come to be defined as components of national 'security' and how economic issues can be a significant source of both interstate and intrastate conflict.

3. **THE ART OF POWER MAINTENANCE: HOW WESTERN STATES KEEP THE LEAD IN GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Robert Wade

Challenge, January/February 2013, 35 pages

Is the United States really losing power to developing countries, even China? A winner of the Leontief Prize in Economics in 2008, Robert Wade discusses why the common narrative about China and some other developing countries rising to challenge the United States and other major Western states is overstated. He also examines five case studies at the “village level” of global politics to show how Western states have managed to retain their position of global leadership.

4. **ASIA'S NEXT TIGERS?**

Peter A. Coclanis

World Affairs, March/April 2013, 6 pages

Peter Coclanis, Director of the Global Research Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, analyzes the economic development of Burma, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines as the most likely candidates in Asia to follow Japan into sustained economic growth.

5. **CAN AMERICA “LOSE” IN THE GLOBALIZATION GAME?**

Rob Ashgar

The SAIS Review of International Affairs, Summer-Fall 2012, 14 pages

Why is the notion that the United States is in a position of relative decline widespread among scholars, journalists, and the American public? Rob Ashgar, a University Fellow at the University of Southern California’s Center on Public Diplomacy, argues that the narrative of American decline reflects an overreliance on evanescent economic trends and on a lack of appreciation for the cultural factors that nurture the processes of globalization and innovation.

6. **INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND GLOBAL SWING STATES**

Richard Fontaine and Daniel M. Kliman

The Washington Quarterly, Winter 2012/2013, 17 pages

The authors examine the rise of four powerful democracies -- Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Turkey -- as global swing states and how they will decisively influence the trajectory of today’s world, focusing on why the United States should partner with the global swing states.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

7. **CAPITALISM AND INEQUALITY**

Jerry Z. Muller

Foreign Affairs, March/April 2013, 21 pages

Jerry Muller, Professor of History at the Catholic University of America, discusses social and economic inequalities generated by capitalist economic systems, focusing on how to promote security among citizens while maintaining economic dynamism.

8. **THE ANTI-ECONOMIST: A BIT OF GOOD NEWS**

Jeff Madrick

Harper's Magazine, April 2013, 3 pages

Jeff Madrick, a senior fellow at the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis at the New School, discusses positive economic indicators in the United States and the role of public and consumer debt reduction in the rate of recovery from economic recessions caused by financial bubbles.

9. **FOR MOBILE DEVICES, THINK APPS, NOT ADS**

Sunil Gupta

Harvard Business Review, March 2013, 6 pages

How can marketers reach and engage consumers via their smartphones? Sunil Gupta, head of the marketing unit at Harvard Business School, discusses the best way for marketers to communicate through mobile devices and why apps are better than ads.

SOCIAL ISSUES & VALUES, EDUCATION & THE ARTS

10. **EFFECTIVE WAYS TO PROMOTE WORD POWER**

Harry B. Miller

Education Digest, December 2012, 4 pages

Harry Miller, Professor Emeritus of the University of Louisiana-Monroe, discusses the methodology for teaching and promoting a large vocabulary among U.S. students, particularly the benefits of word power. He also explores the teaching technique of vocabulary grouping such as synonyms, malapropisms, and etymology.

11. **HOW TEENS DO RESEARCH IN THE DIGITAL WORLD**

Kristen Purcell, et al.

Education Digest, February 2013, 7 pages

For today's students, "research" means "Googling." Do digital technologies do more to distract students than to help them academically? The authors discuss teenage students' use of internet research, focusing on how the Internet and digital search tools have an impact on students' research habits and a variety of challenges for teachers in incorporating digital tools into their classrooms.

12. **TEACHING WITH TABLETS**

Stephanie Hedge

Education Digest, February 2013, 3 pages

Why use tablets to teach? The author discusses the use of the iPad tablet computer and educational technology in the college classroom, focusing on how to maximize the benefits of tablets in classrooms and tips for using tablets as a teacher.

13. **THE WISE BOY**

Julia Ioffe

The New Republic, February 25, 2013, 6 pages

Julia Ioffe profiles Ezra Klein, a journalist and blogger for the "The Washington Post" website, and the popularity of his blog as well as his appeal among older Americans despite being twenty-eight years old. The profile focuses on Klein's intellectual interest in politics, how he differs from other political analysts in 2013, and how he strives to achieve evenhandedness when writing.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

14. **IPHONE, ANDROID, OR KINDLE**

Bob Johnson and Ted Gutmann

Computers in Libraries, January/February 2013, 5 pages

The authors discuss the development of the mobile application at the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library in New York, which allows users to scan an ISBN, place a hold on the item and auto-login to search online databases.

15. **MOBILE PHONES: UPLIFTING WEAK AND FAILED STATES**

Robert I. Rotberg and Jenny C. Aker

The Washington Quarterly, Winter 2013, 15 pages

The authors discuss the impact of mobile telephones on politics in developing countries and the relation between technology and politics in light of increased access to information. They also examine the power of mobile phones to unlock a vast human potential in weak and failed states.

16. **TWITTER: FREE SPEECH IN 140 CHARACTERS**

Greg Beato

Reason, March 2013, 7 pages

The author examines freedom of expression and Twitter, along with its Terms of Service and Rules, focusing on the laissez-faire attitude of Twitter toward online discourse as a competitive advantage.

17. **TALES OF THE OLD WILD WEB**

Michael J. Socolow

The Chronicle of Higher Education, January 25, 2013 Chronicle Review, 3 pages

Michael Socolow, an associate professor of communication and journalism at the University of Maine, discusses a pivotal moment of the Web's evolution and a trend towards less free content and more restrictions on the Internet, focusing on differences between this trend and the freedom the Internet had enjoyed in its first decade.

18. **COPYRIGHT FOR THE INTERNET AGE**

Joe Karaganis

National Review, February 25, 2013, 3 pages

Should your Internet use be monitored in order to prevent copyright infringement? Joe Karaganis, vice president of the American Assembly, discusses infringement on the Internet and U.S. copyright law, focusing on intellectual property, innovation and privacy protections.

19. **TEACHING ETHICS IN A DARK WORLD**

Howard Good

The Chronicle of Higher Education, February 15, 2013 Chronicle Review, 3 pages

Howard Good, a professor of journalism at the State University of New York, discusses media ethics and the future of ethical journalism. He focuses on whether students should be taught to work only within the confines of strong journalistic ethics, or whether they should be prepared to work in a media culture that often does not act ethically or with journalistic responsibility.