



November/December 2011

**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 INEVITABLE SUPERPOWER**

Arvind Subramanian

**Foreign Affairs**, September/October 2011, 13 pages

Is China poised to take over from the United States as the world's leading economy? Arvind Subramanian, a Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, discusses the challenges from China's economic dominance and forecasts the world economy to 2030, predicting the United States' and China's positions.

### **2. WOMAN OF THE WORLD**

Jonathan Alter

**Vanity Fair**, June 2011, 9 pages

Jonathan Alter, a Bloomberg columnist, profiles U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in her ninth year as the Gallup poll's America's most admired woman. He discusses her role as the Secretary of State who is dealing with radical change across the globe, as well as trying to transform U.S. diplomacy on the nuts-and-bolts level.

3. **THE NEW DEMOCRATIC ORDER: COMPLEX SOCIETAL-SYSTEMS AND THE INVISIBLE HAND**

Monty G. Marshall

*Harvard International Review*, Spring 2011, 12 pages

Monty G. Marshall, a researcher and political consultant specializing in complex societal-systems analysis, explores the emergence of a new democratic order in world politics in the 21st century, and examines global systemic trends in conflict, governance, and development.

4. **UNITED STATES OF GOOGLE**

Reihan Salam

*National Review*, August 15, 2011, 2 pages

Reihan Salam of *National Review Online's The Agenda*, examines online social networking websites such as Google+ and Facebook from a political perspective, and discusses the idea that social media's virtual communities are similar to the virtual community of a nation-state.

5. **THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IS THE FUTURE OF CONFLICT**

Robert D. Kaplan

*Foreign Policy*, September/October 2011, 9 pages

Robert D. Kaplan, a Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security, discusses the potential dominance of Chinese naval forces and conflicts in the South China Sea, and the U.S. role in balancing rising Chinese power.

**ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE**

6. **THE FUTURE OF FREE TRADE IN ASIA**

Philip Levy, et al.

*The Center for National Policy*, May 5, 2011, 9 pages

Economics and trade experts discuss trade liberalization in emerging and developing countries and the future of free-trade in Asia, focusing on the implication for the U.S. trade policy in Asia.

7. **THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT**

Michael A. Spence

*Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2011, 14 pages

As developing countries become more competitive, growth and employment in the United States are starting to diverge, increasing income inequality and reducing jobs for less-educated workers. Michael Spence, a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, discusses the impact of globalization on the distribution of jobs and wealth and the challenge for the U.S. economy.

## SOCIAL ISSUES & VALUES, EDUCATION & THE ARTS

### 8. **6 BUILDING BLOCKS OF SUCCESS**

Stephen J. Laster

*Educause Review*, May/June 2011, 7 pages

Stephen Laster, a Chief Information Officer of Harvard Business School, discusses the six building blocks of success in higher education, information technology (IT) leadership, and the challenges for IT leaders in higher education.

### 9. **HOW TO CRAFT SOCIAL MEDIA FOR GRADUATE STUDY**

Terence K. Huwe

*Computers in Libraries*, June 2011, 3 pages

Terence K. Huwe, Director of Library and Information Resources at the University of California–Berkeley, offers guidelines on how to make social media more attractive to senior faculty and their graduate students.

### 10. **IDEAS IN THE ASCENDANT**

John Swallow

*The Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 1, 2011, 4 pages

John Swallow, Acting Associate Provost for Planning and Administration at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, discusses the need for information evaluation in the Internet age, and how to develop competent argumentative and judgment skills, focusing on the validity of information posted to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia and how thoughts are shaped through daily constructions of ideas.

### 11. **EBOOKS EVERYWHERE**

Nancy K. Herther

*Searcher*, July/August 2011, 8 pages

Nancy K. Herther, a sociology/anthropology librarian at the University of Minnesota Libraries, examines the impact of the growing ebook trend on the entire ecosystem of books and reading in the United States and abroad.

### 12. **THE 'DRAMATIC PICTURE' OF RICHARD FEYNMAN**

Freeman Dyson

*New York Review of Books*, July 14, 2011, 9 pages

In the course of reviewing two books about Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman, the author observes that the charismatic scientist may have achieved the rank of superstar, given that one of the biographies, "Feynman," by Jim Ottovani and Leland Myrick, is an engaging comic book. The other, "Quantum Man," explains the essence of Feynman's thinking and view of nature in "a new kind of scientific history." Dyson pays tribute to a colleague whose contribution was the creation of a new way of thinking that led others to their own discoveries.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### 13. **TAMING AND REINING IN CYBERSPACE**

Josh Smith

***National Journal***, September 17 2011, 6 pages

From blocking online poker to tracking suspected terrorists' cyber-footprints, governments are exercising more power over — and through — the Internet than ever before. Josh Smith, a staff reporter for *National Journal*, discusses the growing threat of Internet censorship and the power of governments to control the Internet.

### 14. **GOING PRO**

Andrew Damstedt

***American Journalism Review***, Spring 2011, 2 pages

More newspapers are turning to student journalism because of budgetary constraints that have led to reductions in staff. Andrew Damstedt, an *American Journalism Review* editorial assistant, discusses the use of student-produced journalism by major media outlets, and new innovations in journalism.

### 15. **HACKING THE LIGHTS OUT**

David M. Nicol

***Scientific American***, July 2011, 6 pages

David Nicol, a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois, discusses cyber security and the potential for a cyber attack on the U.S. electric power grid.