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ARTICLE ALERT: APRIL 2013

Article ALERT is a monthly synopsis of current analytical articles from major American academic journals compiled in six thematic areas: International Relations, Economics & Trade, Democracy and Human Rights, Global Issues and Environment, Media and Information Technology, and Education and Culture. Full texts of the articles in print are available upon request to IRC subscribers in Thailand only at irc@state.gov.

SPOTLIGHT: THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

1. “A Dangerous Synergy: Energy Securitization, Great Power Rivalry and Strategic Stability in the Asian Century”

[Andrew Phillips](#). *The Pacific Review*, March 2013, 22 pages.

The author analyzes the current and prospective implications of Asia's energy consumption revolution for regional stability, particularly the ways in which the ongoing revolution in Asian energy consumption has interacted with shifting patterns of diplomatic alignment and a more fluid regional military balance to increase the risk of strategic competition between the region's established Great Powers and emerging ones.

2. “Full Green Ahead”

[Julia Whitty](#). *Mother Jones*, March/April 2013, 11 pages.

The author examines the U.S. Navy's efforts to reduce its fuel consumption by using biofuel made from algae plus waste cooking oil, decreasing its reliance on foreign oil, and researching alternative energy sources.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

3. “The Lower Mekong Initiative & U.S. Foreign Policy in Southeast Asia: Energy, Environment & Power”

[Felix K. Chang](#). *Orbis*, March 2013, 18 pages.

The author, a senior fellow of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, examines the implications of U.S. engagement on the Indochina peninsula of Southeast Asia through the Lower Mekong Initiative.

Note: Full texts of documents are available free of charge in print format for subscribers only.
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4. “A Trillion Tons”

[Hal Harvey](#), et al. *Daedalus*, Winter 2013, 18 pages.

If one trillion tons is humanity’s carbon budget, how much have we used so far? How fast will we emit the remainder under current trends? With the rise of global temperature, the authors examine strategies to curb human carbon emissions “budget” and assess the impact of improvements in energy efficiency, aggressive deployment of renewable, and energy technology innovation.

5. “Climate Disruption and Plankton Destruction”

[Rick Docksai](#). *The Futurist*, March/April 2013, 2 pages.

The author discusses the environmental effects of climate change on phytoplankton growth, focusing on the ocean plant's consumption of carbon dioxide through photosynthesis and its role in the ocean food chain.

6. “Evolution Full Tilt”

Steven Kotler. *Discover*, March 2013, 5 pages.

How much change does it take to create a whole new species? The author discusses how technological advances are affecting the biological evolution of humans, how environmental factors affect genetics, and innovation in food production, public health, and sanitation.

7. “The End of Orange Juice”

[Anna Kuchment](#). *Scientific American*, March 2013, 9 pages.

The authors discuss the Asian citrus psyllid, a pest that acts as a carrier or vector spreading "huanglongbing" (HLB), a devastating disease of citrus trees, focusing on how the bacteria carried by the insect disrupt plant circulatory systems, and how scientists have imported Asian wasps to control the psyllids instead of using pesticide.

GLOBAL HEALTH

8. “The Robot will See You Now”

[Jonathan Cohn](#). *The Atlantic*, March 2013, 9 pages.

After winning Jeopardy, a popular US quiz show, in 2011, Watson, an IBM computer designed to understand the complexity of human language and answer difficult questions, has been further developed to make a healthcare revolution: diagnosing illnesses and recommending treatments. Would computers and robots replace physicians in the near future? The author discusses how technology innovation is transforming health-care system.

9. “The End of HIV?”

[Maria Smith](#). *Harvard International Review*, Spring 2013, 2 pages.

The author discusses the prospect of an AIDS-free generation and a fundamental role of gender equality and empowerment in the effort to end AIDS.

DEMOCRACY

10. “Revisiting Second Image Reversed: Lessons from Turkey and Thailand”

[Ayşe Zarakol](#). *International Studies Quarterly*, March 2013, 13 pages.

The author compares similarities between the recent political trajectories of Turkey and Thailand, particularly how international norms strongly affects not only the political and economic development of particular countries, but also how various social groups understand their own identity and characterize their opposition. Instead of a clash between traditional status groups and the market generated social forces seen in other countries, the social middle class in these two countries seems to justify their skepticism of democratization on the basis of norms upheld by the international society itself.

11. “The Democracy Tradition in US Foreign Policy and the Obama Presidency”

[Nicolas Bouchet](#). *International Affairs*, January 2013, 21 pages.

The author, a doctoral researcher in U.S. democracy promotion at the Institute for the Study of the Americas, proposes a three-level analysis of the democracy tradition in American foreign policy that identifies its ideational, strategic and policy dimensions. He also reviews -- at each level -- the main elements of President Obama’s democracy promotion during his first term to see how well they fit in.

12. “Is Online Participation Distinct from Offline Participation? A Latent Class Analysis of Participation Types and Their Stratification”

[Jennifer Oser](#), et al. *Political Research Quarterly*, March 2013, 11 pages.

The authors examine whether online political participation is adopted in distinctive ways in individual-level participation repertoires, and analyze the sociodemographic characteristics of the identified participation types to ascertain whether stratification patterns apply.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

13. “Lean Forward: In Defense of American Engagement”

[Stephen G. Brooks](#), et al. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2013, 13 pages.

The authors examine the U.S. grand strategy – deep engagement – and its benefits, and discuss the relationship between U.S. military and economic power and how U.S. military strength helps maintain world peace.

14. “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.

15. “The Economization of Security: A Challenge to Transatlantic Cohesion”

[Michael Rühle](#). *American Foreign Policy Interests*, January/February 2013, 13 pages.

The author, Head of NATO’s Policy Planning and Speech Writing Section, discusses the relationship between security and economics and its challenges to the cohesion of traditional military alliances,

focusing on how the displacement of traditional military security policy by the primacy of economic interests—the economization of security—constitutes a paradigm shift that is about to change international security policies.

16. “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? The author, 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.

ECONOMICS

17. “Capitalism and Inequality”

[Jerry Z. Muller](#). *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2013, 21 pages.

The author, 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.

18. “The Anti-Economist: A Bit of Good News”

[Jeff Madrick](#). *Harper’s Magazine*, April 2013, 3 pages.

The author, 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.

19. “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? The author, head of the marketing unit at Harvard Business School, discusses the best way for marketers to communicate through mobile and why apps are better than ads on mobile.

JOURNALISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA

20. “Broken English”

[Thomas Frank](#). *Harper’s Magazine*, April 2013, 3 pages.

The author discusses the language used by news commentators as well as political pundits, which, although often grammatically incorrect and sometimes sounded meaningless, usually conveys the intended underlying messages and delivers desired effects, be it from streetwise toughness to objectivity and journalistic distance from the subject.

21. “The Incredible Shrinking Ad”

[Derek Thompson](#). *The Atlantic*, March 2013, 3 pages.

How do advertisers build a thriving business selling ads on a mobile phone -- and what happens if you

can't? The author discusses mobile-ad revolution and the challenges of advertising on a four-inch screen.

22. “Advertising Analytics 2.0”

[Wes Nichols](#). *Harvard Business Review*, March 2013, 9 pages.

The author, co-founder and CEO of MarketShare, explores advertising analytics 2.0 which quantify cross-media and cross-channel effects of marketing, as well as direct and indirect effects of all business drivers.

EDUCATION

23. “Limelight on Mobile Learning”

[Agnes Kukulska-Hulme](#). *Harvard International Review*, Spring 2013, 5 pages.

The author discusses the impacts of mobile learning expansion on traditional models of teaching, focusing on how mobile devices provide an essential alternative means of sustaining education and soon-to-be capable of supporting learners intelligently across study locations and contexts of use, breaking down barriers between formal and informal learning.

24. “In the Digital Era, Our Dictionaries Read Us”

[Jennifer Howard](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 15, 2013 Chronicle Review, 7 pages.

The author discusses the impact of digital technologies on the relation between dictionaries and society, the use of audio in online dictionaries, the use of crowdsourcing as a technique in lexicography, and cultural aspects of the transition from print to digital dictionaries.

25. “The Touch-Screen Generation”

[Hanna Rosin](#). *The Atlantic*, April 2013, 8 pages.

Young children—even toddlers—are spending more and more time with digital technology. Thousands of apps appealing to kids just out of diapers are now released every year. Should parents recoil or rejoice? The author examines what tablets and smartphones are doing to young children's brains.

LIBRARY TRENDS

26. “The Why's and How's of Integrating Downloadable Academic Ebooks”

[Matthew J. Buckley](#) and [Melissa Maria Johnson](#). *Computers in Libraries*, January/February 2013, 4 pages.

Does it make sense to offer full, downloadable academic ebooks for students who may only need to view a chapter or two? Will the downloadable ebooks get much use by academic patrons? How do we handle the various digital rights management issues? The authors discuss advantages of promotion of downloadable academic ebooks in academic libraries.

27. “Using Apps to Extend the Library's Brand”

[Terence K. Huwe](#). *Computers in Libraries*, March 2013, 3 pages.

The author discusses how applications give libraries an opportunity to brand their services, citing several applications that pertain to reading, borrowing and searching for books.