



Embassy of the United States of America  
Information Resource Center (IRC)  
Tel: (66-2) 205-4192, 205-4640 Fax: (66-2) 650-8918  
GPF Wittayu Tower A, 9th Floor  
93/1 Wireless Road, Bangkok 10330 Thailand  
E-mail: [irc@state.gov](mailto:irc@state.gov)  
<http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/services/irc/alert/alert.html>

## ARTICLE ALERT MAY 2012

### SPOTLIGHT: DEMOCRACY PROMOTION

#### 1. "Competing Ideologies of Political Representation in Southeast Asia"

[Garry Rodan](#). *Third World Quarterly*, March 2012, 22 pages.

What sort of political regimes emerged after Southeast Asia's protest movements and why didn't comparable movements surface elsewhere in the region? The author analyzes why People Power movements do not always lead to democratic reforms, focusing on ideologies of political representation in Southeast Asia.

#### 2. "Democracy Assistance: What Recipients Think"

[Joel D. Barkan](#). *Journal of Democracy*, January 2012, 9 pages.

How and why has democracy assistance helped recipients and the organizations that they lead in their efforts to advance democratization in their respective countries? What has been the overall impact of democracy assistance, both for the individual recipient organizations and at the societal level? The author, a professor emeritus of political science at the University of Iowa, discusses survey on democracy assistance and what the recipients think about this form of foreign aid.

### JOURNALISM AND NEW MEDIA

#### 3. "M-Campaigning: Mobile Technology and Public Outreach"

[Darrell M. West](#). *Issues in Technology Innovation No. 15*, February 2012, 10 pages.

The author, vice president at the Brookings Institution, review innovative examples of campaign outreach made possible through mobile technology. How smart phones expand the opportunities for mobilization and ways in which certain policy steps would expand citizen participation are examined.

#### 4. "Political Journalism: Picking the Winner While the Game's Still Going on"

[Rem Rieder](#). *American Journalism Review*, February/March 2012, 3 pages.

The author, an editor and senior vice president of *American Journalism Review*, discusses the impact of media coverage on cable TV and the tendency among political journalists to emphasize the story of the frontrunner but change directions as soon as something unexpected happens.

### 5. "Information's Social Highways"

Mike Orcutt. *Technology Review*, January/February 2012, 2 pages.

The author explores the process through which a "tweet" or a post on the social networking site Twitter goes viral, and emphasizes the importance of knowing when, how and what to tweet about in order to best disseminate a message widely.

### 6. "What's Black and White and Re-Tweeted All Over?"

[Renée Loth](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 10, 2012, 5 pages.

The author, a columnist for *The Boston Globe*, examines news literacy and ways in which social networking websites such as Twitter and Facebook influence the spread of news among youth.

## U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2012

### 7. "Obama, Explained"

[James Fallows](#). *The Atlantic*, March 2012, 15 pages.

The author, a national correspondent at *The Atlantic*, discusses U.S. President Barack Obama's presidency since the 2008 presidential campaign, examining his stance with Republican members of congress, as well as desirable qualities in presidents including empathy and analytical ability.

### 8. "The "More Enemies, Fewer Friends" Doctrine"

[James Traub](#). *Washington Monthly*, January/February 2012, 4 pages.

The author, a journalist specializing in foreign affairs, analyzes the foreign policy of U.S. President Barack Obama and how it would change if a Republican candidate wins in the November 2012 presidential election.

### 9. "Navigating a New Era in Campaign Finance"

[Marc Elias](#), et al. *Campaigns & Elections*, March/April 2012, 5 pages.

In the *Citizens United v. U.S. Federal Election Commission* case, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 to enable corporations and unions to intervene directly in the election process in a way corporations had been unable to do since 1907, and unions since 1947. Five of the U.S. top campaign finance lawyers reflect on what has resulted in the wake of the case and its impact on campaign finance.

## JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### 10. "Political Justice?"

Brandon L. Bartels and Christopher D. Johnston. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, January 2012, 12 pages.

To what extent should Supreme Court justices be appointed on the basis of ideology and politics as opposed to qualifications and experience only? The authors examine how Americans' preferences regarding this question are influenced by their perceptions and expectations of the Court as a "political" institution.

**11. "Human Security: Undermining Human Rights?"**

[Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann](#). *Human Rights Quarterly*, February 2012, 25 pages.

The author argues that human security discourse and agenda has the capacity to inadvertently undermine the international human rights regime, explaining that while a narrow view of human security is a valuable addition to the international normative regime requiring state and international action against severe threats to human beings, an overly broad view of human security can undermine the primacy of civil and political rights as a strategic tool for citizens to fight for their rights against their own states.

**THE UNITED STATES AND ASIA****12. "The United States and Asia in 2011: Obama Determined to Bring America 'Back' to Asia"**

[Douglas Paal](#). *Asian Survey*, February 2012, 9 pages.

The author, vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, examines the U.S. diplomatic and security rebalancing in Asia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**13. "A Pivotal Moment for US Foreign Policy?"**

[Ralph A. Cossa](#) and [Brad Glosserman](#). *Comparative Connections*, January 2012, 16 pages.

The authors analyze America's "pivot" toward Asia and the prospects of Asian transition with elections or leadership changes in the region.

**14. "'Linsanity,' Social Media and US-Asia Relations"**

[Elina Noor](#). *Asia Pacific Bulletin*, no. 154, March 13, 2012. 2 pages.

With the phenomenon of Jeremy "Linsanity" Lin, the New York Knicks' former benchwarmer and now worldwide basketball sensation, the author, an assistant director of Foreign Policy and Security Studies at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia, discusses how the microcosms of Asia and America are increasingly being interwoven through the interactions of sports, culture, language, and music.

**THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS****15. "Global Governance and Megadiplomacy"**

[Parag Khanna](#). *The Brown Journal of World Affairs*, Fall/Winter 2011, 10 pages.

The author, a senior research at the New American Foundation, discusses the similarity of twenty-first century diplomacy and the Middle Ages', examining the concept of "Megadiplomacy" and how it improves the abilities of relevant actors to solve global problems and how it will work in countries that have experienced political problems.

**16. "Unrest Assured: Why Unipolarity Is Not Peaceful"**

[Nuno P. Monteiro](#). *International Security*, Winter 2011/2012, 32 pages.

The author, an assistant professor of Political Science at Yale University, discusses a theory of unipolarity

and the peacefulness of unipolar systems, focusing on how they provide incentives for two other types of war: those pitting the sole great power against another state and those involving exclusively other states.

### 17. “Pipeline to the Beltway?”

Paul C. Avey, et al. *Foreign Policy*, January/February 2012, 15 pages.

The authors provide a list of U.S. universities and colleges that practitioners of international relations deemed the best at training graduates for jobs with the U.S. government, including Harvard University, Georgetown University, and Johns Hopkins University.

## ECONOMICS AND TRADE POLICY

### 18. “Shattering the Myths about U.S. Trade Policy”

[Robert Z. Lawrence](#) and [Lawrence Edwards](#). *Harvard Business Review*, March 2012, 5 pages.

Is economic growth in developing countries hurting the United States? Does rising trade with developing countries reduce the real wages of most U.S. workers and increase income inequality? The authors analyze the impact of U.S. trade with developing countries and the myths causing America's economic problems.

### 19. “The Mobility Myth”

[Timothy Noah](#). *The New Republic*, March 1, 2012, 4 pages.

The author, a senior editor at *The New Republic*, discusses economic opportunities in the United States as compared to other countries and regions, focusing on why the United States is not as mobile as it once was in terms of income.

## GLOBAL ENERGY

### 20. “Prospects for Nuclear Power”

[Lucas W. Davis](#). *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Winter 2012, 18 pages.

The author, an assistant professor of Economic Analysis and Policy at the University of California's Haas School of Business, discusses the prospects of nuclear power and its key challenge by focusing on the high cost of construction for nuclear plants.

### 21. “A Farewell to Fossil Fuels”

[Amory B. Lovins](#). *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2012, 13 pages.

The author, Chair and Chief Scientist of Rocky Mountain Institute, discusses the new energy future and the end of the coal and oil era as renewable energy sources gain popularity and traditional fuel supplies dwindle, focusing on energy use in transportation, buildings, industry, and electricity.

## GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

### 22. “The Globalization of Animal Welfare: More Food Does Not Require More Suffering”

[Miyun Park](#) and [Peter Singer](#). *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2012, 12 pages.

With the increased demand for animal products due to increased global economic development, the authors discuss the need for international cooperation in the area of animal welfare, focusing on the protection rights of farm animals and cruelty within the poultry industry and pork industries.

### 23. “Lone Sharks”

Ted Williams. *Audubon*, March/April 2012, 6 pages.

According to the best data, fins from 26 million to 73 million sharks are annually traded on the global market. With true sharks harder to come by, rays and sawfishes are also being depleted for shark-fin soup. The author discusses the high risk for sharks of being endangered and the efforts to protect them.

## EDUCATION

### 24. “How 'Flipping' the Classroom Can Improve the Traditional Lecture”

[Dan Berrett](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 24, 2012, 3 pages.

The author, a *Chronicle* staff writer, discusses ‘flipping’ teaching method that takes many forms including interactive engagement and, just-in-time teaching in which students respond to Web-based questions before class, examining whether the method makes the traditional lecture model more productive.

## LIBRARY TRENDS

### 25. “Fire in the Library”

Matt Schwartz and Eva Talmadge. *Technology Review*, January/February 2012, 6 pages.

The authors discuss the goal of the organization called the Archive Team to save the content of web sites that are about to be closed. Ways in which the Archive Team extracts data from failing web sites are examined.

## ARTS AND CULTURE

### 26. “America's Rock Band”

[James Parker](#). *The Atlantic*, January/February 2012, 2 pages.

The author, a contributing editor for *The Atlantic*, profiles the rock band R.E.M. and discusses the ways in which their music attempted to open up paths for audience interpretation.