



**Embassy of the United States of America
Information Resource Center (IRC)**

Tel: (66-2) 205-4192, 205-4174 Fax: (66-2) 650-8918

GPF Wittayu Tower A, 9th Floor

93/1 Wireless Road, Bangkok 10330 Thailand

E-mail: irc@state.gov

<http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/services/irc/alert/alert.html>

ARTICLE ALERT: MAY 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: EDUCATION IN DIGITAL AGE

1. "Children, Teens, and Entertainment Media"

[Common Sense Media](#). *Education Digest*, April 2013, 10 pages.

This survey explores the impact of entertainment mass media and computers on students' academic achievement and social development through the views and experiences of classroom teachers.

2. "Teaching 'by Hand' in a Digital Age"

[Joseph Harris](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 29, 2013 Chronicle Review, 2 pages.

The author, a teacher on digital writing and creative nonfiction, Duke University, discusses digital versus face-to-face learning, focusing on the important of a college professor's personal attention which cannot be duplicated in an online course environment.

3. "Practicality in Virtuality: Finding Student Meaning in Video Game Education"

[Timothy Barko](#) and [Troy Sadler](#). *Journal of Science Education & Technology*, April 2013, 9 pages.

The authors examine the conceptual differences between video game learning and traditional classroom and laboratory learning. They explore the notion of virtual experience by comparing a commonly-used high school laboratory protocol on DNA extraction with a similar experience provided by a biotechnology-themed video game.

Note: Full texts of documents are available free of charge in print format for subscribers only.

To subscribe: <http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/serviceform.html>

THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

4. “The Rise of Big Data”

[Kenneth Cukier](#) and [Viktor Mayer-Schoenberger](#). *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2013, 14 pages.

The authors discuss how the increasing quantities of digital information, so-called big data, might change the way humans interact, communicate, and learn. They also examine how it marks a transformation in how society processes information.

5. “Embracing the Archives”

[Lauren Sin](#) and Katie Daugert. *Computers in Libraries*, March 2013, 6 pages.

The authors explore how National Public Radio (NPR) librarians converted their collection into a new content management system (CMS) called Artemis, and the challenges of promoting the system to NPR journalists, editors and producers as an effective workflow tool that can help them search, review, download, and then mix in sound bites to create a sound-rich and diverse finished product, all without leaving their desks.

6. “Designing Social Media Strategies for Effective Citizen Engagement: A Case Example and Model”

[Thomas A. Bryer](#). *National Civic Review*, Spring 2013, 8 pages.

How can cities best use social media and networking tools to engage citizens in the process of urban land use and infrastructure planning? The author, an assistant professor and director of the Center for Public and Nonprofit Management in the School of Public Administration at the University of Central Florida, discusses the strategies of using social media to encourage citizens' civic engagement in social, economic and political issues regarding their community.

DEMOCRACY AND POLITICS

7. “Southeast Asia: Sources of Regime Support”

[Alex Chang](#), et al. *Journal of Democracy*, April 2013, 15 pages.

The authors examine levels of regime support and the underlying factors that explain regime legitimacy in seven Southeast Asian countries, using the latest wave of the Asian Barometer Survey to identify the sources of regime support in the region within a comprehensive framework that takes into account ongoing theoretical debates as well as the regional context.

8. “One Step Forward, Two Steps Back”

[Joshua Kurlantzick](#). *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2013, 3 pages.

The author, a fellow for Southeast Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations, discusses the situation of democratic systems and the effect of popular movements on authoritarian rule, particularly the role of middle class societies in the breakdown of democratic cultural norms.

9. “Do Party Systems Matter?”

[Kenneth Janda](#). *Harvard International Review*, Spring 2013, 5 pages.

Do party systems matter? When the World Values Survey asked people in 55 countries "how much confidence" they had in their political parties, averagely almost 75 percent said either "not much" or "very little." Does the quality of the party system affect the quality of governance? The author, Payson S. Wild Professor Emeritus at Northwestern University's Political Science Department, discusses the different perspectives about political party systems.

HUMAN RIGHTS

10. “Breakthroughs in the Balance”

[Arch Puddington](#). *Journal of Democracy*, April 2013, 16 pages.

The author, vice president for research at Freedom House, examines the freedom of the press and expression in the world during the past year, and analyzes the findings of Freedom in the World 2013, the latest edition of Freedom House’s annual report on political rights and civil liberties, that show more countries registered declines than exhibited gains during the year 2012.

11. “On Contested Concepts: Humanitarianism, Human Rights, and the Notion of Neutrality”

[David P. Forsythe](#). *Journal of Human Rights*, January-March 2013, 10 pages.

The author, Emeritus University Professor and Charles J. Mach Distinguished Professor in Political Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, examines the international law of humanitarianism and human rights, and what they indicate about trends in world affairs.

ASIA

12. “Thailand in 2012: Reconciling a New Normal”

[James Ockey](#). *Asian Survey*, January/February 2013, 8 pages.

The author, an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy and Political Science at Canterbury University, analyzes Thai politics in 2012, and its progress in the creation of a new normal marked by reconciliations between Red and Yellow adherents, the government and the military, the government and the courts, and the government and Southern insurgents.

13. “The United States and Asia in 2012: Domestic Politics Takes Charge”

[Douglas Paal](#). *Asian Survey*, January/February 2013, 10 pages.

The author, vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, explores domestic politics in key Asian-Pacific countries in 2012, and U.S. position in the region during the past year.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

14. “Delusions of Indispensability”

[Ted Galen Carpenter](#). *National Interest*, March/April 2013, 9 pages.

The author, a senior fellow for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, discusses the dispensable thesis and the concepts of U.S. leadership in world affairs, hegemony, and multilateralism.

15. “Birth of a Pacific World Order”

[Patrick Mendis](#). *Harvard International Review*, Spring 2013, 6 pages.

The author, a distinguished senior fellow and affiliate professor of public and international affairs at George Mason University’s School of Public Policy, examines the fate of the Pacific order with the current Chinese President Xi Jinping and America’s first Pacific President Barack Obama.

16. “The Clinton Legacy”

[Michael Hirsh](#). *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2013, 10 pages.

The author, chief correspondent for *National Journal*, discusses the political legacy of former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, particularly her efforts to repair the global image of the U.S. through

Note: Full texts of documents are available free of charge in print format for subscribers only.

To subscribe: <http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/serviceform.html>

soft diplomacy following the unilateral policies of the former president George W. Bush, and her emphasis on assisting the economic development of foreign countries with the aim of creating social stability.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE

17. “A Tale of Two Trade Deals”

[Clyde Prestowitz](#). *Washington Monthly*, March/April 2013, 5 pages.

The author, founder and President of the Economic Strategy Institute, discusses the economical and geopolitical implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA), for the United States; and how the two trade deals would fit into the U.S. grand strategy.

18. “The Elephant Hiding in the Room: Currency Intervention and Trade Imbalances”

[Joseph E. Gagnon](#). *Peterson Institute for International Economics Working Paper 13-2*, March 2013, 36 pages.

The author, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, analyzes the problem and the implications of global current trade imbalances and the efficiency of international financial markets.

19. “Three Ways to Bring Manufacturing Back to America”

[Anne Kim](#). *Washington Monthly*, March/April 2013, 6 pages.

Can ‘insourcing’ save America’s economy? The author, a senior fellow at the Progressive Policy Institute, discusses several ways to bring manufacturing back to the United States, focusing on how to take advantage of the ‘insourcing’ trend.

20. “The Austerity Delusion”

[Mark Blyth](#). *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2013, 16 pages.

The author, Professor of International Political Economy at Brown University, discusses the ineffectiveness of austerity, or reduction of public spending, as a method of encouraging economic growth and recovery, with a focus on the U.S. sequestration in 2013.

21. “Terminated”

[Kevin Drum](#). *Mother Jones*, May/June 2013, 7 pages.

What do we do over the next few decades as robots become steadily more capable and steadily begin taking away all our jobs? The author, a political blogger and columnist, examines how the onset of artificial intelligence in the twenty-first century will affect the global economy and impact employment.

GLOBAL ISSUES AND ENVIRONMENT

22. “How INNOVATION Could Save the PLANET”

[Ramez Naam](#). *The Futurist*, March/April 2013, 8 pages.

The author, a fellow of the Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies, discusses social and environmental problems such as population, peak oil, and climate change that could be prevented through the promotion of innovation.

23. “The Origins of Creativity”

[Heather Pringle](#). *Scientific American*, March 2013, 8 pages.

When did the human mind begin churning with new ideas for technology and art? The author, a science writer, discusses research in human evolution, focusing on archaeological discoveries that highlight the social and biological factors contributing to the human capacity for innovation and creativity.

24. “Own the Goals”

[John W. McArthur](#). *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2013, 11 pages.

The author, a senior fellow at the UN Foundation, examines the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, a United Nations program created by global leaders to expand efforts to aid the world's poor people and impoverished areas, and discusses a new framework of the goals that will expire on December 31, 2015.

25. “The Year of Recurring Disasters: A Review of Natural Disasters in 2012”

[Elizabeth Ferris](#), et al. The Brookings Institution – London School of Economics Project on Internal Displacement, March 2013, 119 pages.

The authors examine the impact of natural disasters in 2012, particularly recurring ones,, then discuss the role of regional organizations and women in disaster risk management.

GLOBAL POPULATION AND HEALTH**26. “Why Do Grandmothers Exist?”**

[Judith Shulevitz](#). *The New Republic*, February 11, 2013, 4 pages.

The proportion of U.S. population over age 65 is markedly increased in recent years. The author, a chief science writer of *The New Republic*, examines the evolutionary and biological utility of post-menopausal women, and how society can benefit from the education and experience of retirees.

27. “The New Age of Medical Monitoring”

[Maryn Mckenna](#). *Scientific American*, March 2013, 2 pages.

The author, a journalist and blogger, explores the use of mobile technologies in data-monitoring and analyzing health trends, particularly the remote monitoring of patients and the collection of surveillance data from untraditional sources.