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The Information Resource Center (IRC) is pleased to offer you Article ALERT, the monthly current awareness publication of the U.S. Embassy Bangkok's IRC. It offers abstracts of approximately 25 current articles and policy briefs from leading American journals and think tanks with an emphasis on East Asian regional affairs.

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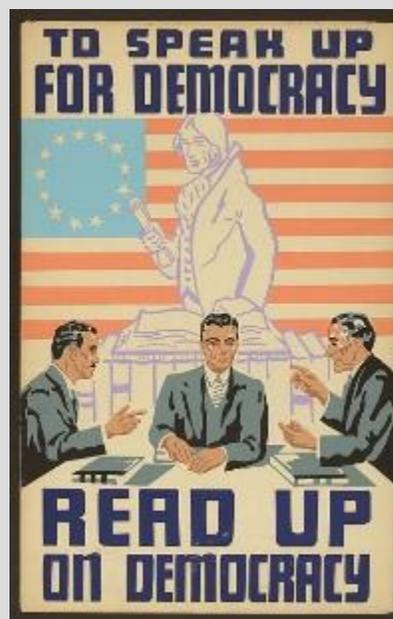
Note: The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

3. "Enter Asia: The Arctic Heats Up"

[Stephen J. Blank](#). *World Affairs*, March/April 2014, 10 pages.

The author, a senior fellow at the American Foreign



SPOTLIGHT: DEMOCRACY

1. "Ways of Constitution-Making in Southeast Asia:

Policy Council, discusses Asian countries' strategic national interests in the Arctic regions and the role that international economic relations play in the strategic importance of the Arctic region.

4. “America's Purpose and Role in a Changed World”

Carl Gershman, et al. *World Affairs*, May/June 2014, 33 pages.

The authors analyze the role and foreign policy of the United States following the administration of President George W. Bush and during the administration of President Barack Obama, focusing on the influence of Bush's Global War on Terror campaign and the Obama presidency's current policy of retrenchment.

5. “The Return of Geopolitics”

[Walter Russell Mead](#). *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2014, 11 pages.

The author, James Clarke Chace Professor of Foreign Affairs and Humanities at Bard College, examines U.S. geopolitical predicament and how the United States has ignored geopolitical issues involving territory and spheres of influence and, instead, emphasized on building the global order.

6. “The Case for American Nationalism”

[Michael Lind](#). *The National Interest*, May/June 2014, 12 pages.

The author, co-founder of the New America Foundation, discusses American nationalism and U.S. national security strategy, focusing on why the United States should shift the focus from global hegemony to a strategy of primacy.

7. “Military Leadership, Institutional Change, and Priorities in Military Spending”

[Michael E. Flynn](#). *Foreign Policy Analysis*, April 2014, 24 pages.

How does political competition among domestic actors

Actors, Interests, Dynamics”

Aurel Croissant. *Contemporary Southeast Asia: A Journal of International & Strategic Affairs*, April 2014, 28 pages.

The author analyzes eleven cases of constitution-making in eight Southeast Asian countries since 1986, and investigates design choices and actors' interests, the link between the form of the political regime and the extent to which process designs matter for the legitimacy of the constitutional orders in the region.

2. “Conditional Effect of Economic Development on Democracy – The Relevance of the State”

Min Tang and [Dwayne Woods](#). *Democratization*, April 2014, 23 pages.

The authors examine how the economic role of the state shapes the relationship between economic development and democracy, focusing on under what conditions development brings benefits or harm to the prospect of democracy.

influence foreign policy choice? The author, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Alabama, examines how partisan interests have shaped the preferences of domestic actors in democratic states and, in turn, influenced the state's actions in the international sphere.

8. "Public Diplomacy and Hard Power: The Challenges Facing NATO"

Philip Seib. *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, Winter 2014, 6 pages.

If the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) vanished tomorrow, would anyone notice? The author, Professor of Journalism and Public Diplomacy and Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California, examines the future of NATO, and traces the evolution of NATO's influence to NATO's role in the current political landscape.

ECONOMICS

9. "Show Them the Money"

Christopher Blattman and Paul Niehaus. *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2014, 10 pages.

The authors discuss international economic assistance to poor people in developing countries, arguing that direct cash payments is the most effective means of increasing economic development, not the existing programs offering them goods and services, which are inefficient means of mitigating poverty.

10. "Take This Job and Unplug It"

Clive Thomson. *Mother Jones*, May/June 2014, 3 pages.

The author discusses business communication trends, including the forecast of further increases in email and messaging in corporate culture, and the role of workplace demands on "addiction" to smartphone use and the implications of the phenomenon.

11. "Inventing Tomorrow's Jobs"

Thomas Frey. *The Futurist*, July/August 2014, 3 pages.

Will productivity-enhancing technologies eliminate jobs? Will we run out of work for the world? The author, executive director of the Da Vinci Institute, predicts future job-inventing industries that could emerge from innovation in technologies and industries.

U.S. POLITICS

12. "The Science of Democratic Survival"

Sasha Issenberg. *The New Republic*, May 12, 2014, 12 pages.

The author examines U.S. electoral politics, focusing on the prospects of the Democratic Party in the context of demographic and factors that give the Democrats a better chance of winning the presidency in a national election than of doing well in midterm elections for members of the U.S. Congress.

GLOBAL HEALTH

13. "Are Antibiotics Making Us Fat?"

Kiera Butler. *Mother Jones*, March /April 2014, 2 pages.

Why are the states with higher rates of antibiotic use likely to have significantly more obese people? Do mothers who used antibiotics during pregnancy more likely to have babies with low birth weights? The author discusses the connection between antibiotics and obesity, focusing on how antibiotics affect gut bacteria and microbial communities.

14. "Cancer's Off Switch"

Jedd D. Wolchok. *Scientific American*, May 2014, 6 pages.

The author, Chief of the Melanoma and Immunotherapeutics Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, examines a new generation of more powerful cancer treatments

against malignancy and the combined immunotherapy for treating cancers.

GLOBAL ISSUES, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

15. “Welcome to the Revolution”

Edward L. Morse. *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2014, 5 pages.

The author, Global Head of Commodities Research at Citi, discusses energy production in the United States and the rest of the world, focusing on the rapid increase in shale oil and gas production and potential geopolitical consequences of rising U.S. petroleum production, including power reduction of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

16. “More Populous Future Due to Surprises”

USA Today Magazine, April 2014, 2 pages.

The author explores new global population projection issued by the United Nations Population Division, focusing on fertility trends in developing countries and increases in life expectancy.

17. “The Great Coral Grief”

Iain McCalman. *Scientific American*, May 2014, 4 pages.

The author discusses how climate change is affecting coral reefs, and why the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia as well as all the earth's reefs are facing a likely mass extinction within the 21st century.

SOCIAL MEDIA

18. “Twitter: A Content Analysis of Personal Information”

Lee Humphreys, et al. *Information, Communication & Society*, Volume 17, Issue 7, 2014, 30 pages.

The authors examine the amount and kinds of personally identifiable information of public Twitter messages, and analyze the content of a representative

sample of public tweets to assess the potential implications of sharing certain kinds of personal information in a public network like Twitter.

19. “Big Tech’s War on the Meaning of Life”

[Evgeny Morozov](#). *The New Republic*, May 26, 2014, 3 pages.

The author, a senior editor at *The New Republic*, discusses how our personal data is becoming a new “asset class” and how Internet advertisements tailored to people based on their browsing habits can shape behavior while leaving people with the impression that their choices are autonomous.

EDUCATION

20. “A Curriculum for the Selfie Generation”

[Dan Berrett](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 6, 2014, 5 pages.

The author examines student motivation, teaching methods, and the concept of self, focusing on the student-centric approach to curriculum development many American universities and colleges are using to increase student interest in general-education or required courses.

21. “Listening to Students: Make Learning Spaces Your Own”

Tim Shouder, et al. *Change*, January/February 2014, 2 pages.

A group of graduate architecture students at the University of Cincinnati’s College of Design, Art, Architecture, and Planning explore personalized learning spaces that promote collaborative learning and group work, and discuss the incorporation of digital technology and establishing individual workspaces.

22. “Strengthening Engagement with Virtual Visitors”

[Marshall Breeding](#). *Computers in Libraries*, May 2014, 3 pages.

The author, the founder of Library Technology Guides, discusses virtual presence of libraries on the web and how to foster engagement with patrons, focusing on strategies to engage a library’s community of users on the web.

23. “Practical Technology. [citation needed]”

[Jessamyn West](#). *Computers in Libraries*, May 2014, 2 pages.

The author, director of operations at MetaFilter.com , explores the technological tools that can be used by librarians to verify digital content as well as the internal mechanism of Wikipedia for fact-checking, the use of Twitter accounts to provide citations and the challenge posed by single-image posts and rapid Tumblr-style reblogging in differentiating correct interpretations of images.

DISCOVER AMERICA

24. “AMERICA’S BEST small towns”

[Susan Spano](#). *Smithsonian*, April 2014, 14 pages.

The author explores small U.S. towns which provide exceptional offerings in history, music, visual arts, learning, food, theater, and science.

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