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ARTICLE ALERT: JULY 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

1. "Welcome to the Connected Age"

[Susan Grajek](#). *Educause Review*, May/June 2013, 20 pages.

The author, EDUCAUSE Vice President for Data, Research, and Analytics, explores the top information technology issues in higher education institutions for 2013, and discusses the importance of developing a sustainable strategy for the role of online learning.

2. "Evaluating Quality in Digital Reading"

[Sean Cavanagh](#). *Education Week*, May 22, 2013, 3 pages.

The author, an assistant editor for *Education Week*, discusses how educators must determine the educational value of resources such as digital games and application software (apps) that are marketed as tools for improving early literacy skills. Several apps, games, and technology platforms marketed as educational resources, with evaluations provided by the website Common Sense Media, are discussed.

3. "Diverse Students Go Digital"

[Shawn Francis Peters](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 14, 2013, 3 pages.

The author, a lecturer in the Integrated Liberal Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, discusses the use of digital technology to engage and educate students from diverse social and culture backgrounds in U.S. colleges, and explores how his use of online videos and social media has engaged his students.

4. "College Classroom Humor: Even the Pundits Can Benefit"

[Alan Seidman](#) and [Stephen C. Brown](#). *Education*, Spring 2013, 3 pages.

The authors discuss the positive impact of humor on the student learning experience, and provide techniques that all educators can use to liven up their classroom and improve their evaluations.

U.S. INTERESTS IN ASIA

5. “Rebalancing to Asia with an Insecure China”

[Ely Ratner](#). *The Washington Quarterly*, Spring 2013, 18 pages.

The author, Deputy Director of the Asia-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security, discusses the U.S. renewed commitment to Asia under President Obama’s second term and China’s heightened concerns which would affect the bilateral relationship. Policy recommendations to ensure the U.S. advance in its interests in Asia are provided.

6. “Getting Back on Track: China, the United States, and Asia-Pacific Security”

Roger Irvine. *American Foreign Policy Interests*, May-June 2013, 11 pages.

The author analyzes the prospects for managing the new era of competition, and for getting a renewed emphasis on cooperation between China and the United States back on track.

WORLD AFFAIRS

7. “Policy Perspectives on National Security and Foreign Policy Decision Making”

[Steven B. Redd](#) and [Alex Mintz](#). *Policy Studies Journal*, April 2013 Supplement, 26 pages.

How do leaders actually make foreign policy and national security decisions? Which decision rules do they utilize in making decisions? The authors examine major decision-making models with an emphasis on basic theoretical perspectives as well as on how these models explain foreign policy decision making and national and international security decisions.

8. “Armies and Revolutions”

[Zoltan Barany](#). *Journal of Democracy*, April 2013, 15 pages.

What are the keys to making accurate predictions about what the soldiers will do when the fate of a regime hangs in the balance? What determines whether they support the old regime, back the rebels, split their support between the two, or try to stay on the sidelines? The author, Frank C. Erwin, Jr. Centennial Professor of Government at the University of Texas, analyzes the factors that shape militaries' responses to revolutions.

9. “The Enduring Power of Isolationism: An Historical Perspective”

[Christopher McKnight Nichols](#). *Orbis*, June 2013, 18 pages.

Are Americans becoming more “isolationist”? The author, an assistant professor of History at Oregon State University, discusses isolationism and internationalism over the past 130 years, focusing on the long historical context of the recent events to argue for the enduring power and significance of isolationist thought.

ASIAN ECONOMY

10. “Asia’s Story of Growing Economic Freedom”

[Razeen Sally](#). *Policy Analysis No. 725*, June 5, 2013, 12 pages.

The global financial crisis reinforced a sense that the world is “shifting East”— to Asia. Economic freedom, however, remains substantially repressed across the region. The author, an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, discusses three key policy challenges to expand economic freedom in Asia today, and offers multiple solutions.

11. “Different In Asia? Developmental States, Trade, and International Conflict Onset and Escalation”

[Benjamin E. Goldsmith](#). *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, May 2013, 31 pages.

The author discusses the relationship between international trade and interstate conflict onset and escalation that incorporates distinct roles for trade volume and trade interdependence, focusing on the implications of such an approach for understanding trade-conflict dynamics in the broad Asia and Pacific region.

12. “Rising Powers and Global Governance: Negotiating Change in a Resilient Status Quo”

[Miles Kahler](#). *International Affairs*, May 2013, 19 pages.

The author, Rohr Professor of Pacific International Relations at the University of California San Diego, analyzes economic convergence of the large emerging economies (Brazil, China, and India) on the incumbent industrialized economic powers, and discusses the implications of their growing influence on the mosaic of institutions and actors that define global governance.

BUSINESS AND TRADE

13. “The Real Story Behind Executive Pay”

[Steven N. Kaplan](#). *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2013, 7 pages.

The author, Neubauer Family Distinguished Service Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, discusses economic inequality in the United States, focusing on the perceived increase of executive compensation disproportionate to salary increases of employees.

14. “Creating the Best Workplace on Earth”

[Rob Goffee](#) and [Gareth Jones](#). *Harvard Business Review*, May 2013, 9 pages.

Suppose you want to design the best company on earth to work for. What would it be like? The authors investigate this question and identify the six most essential imperatives for creating the most productive and rewarding working environment possible.

HUMAN RIGHTS

15. “ASEAN and Human Rights Norms: Constructivism, Rational Choice, and the Action-Identity Gap”

[Mathew Davies](#). *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, May 2013, 25 pages.

The author examines ASEAN's engagement with human rights and norm violations within ASEAN, and offers new approaches to conceptualizing ASEAN itself and how best to appraise the nature of those norms.

16. “Defunding Dissent: Restrictions on Aid to NGOs”

[Darin Christensen](#) and [Jeremy M. Weinstein](#). *Journal of Democracy*, April 2013, 15 pages.

A number of countries are taking aggressive steps to limit or stop foreign funds from flowing to domestic NGOs that promote human rights and democracy. What is driving this trend, how far will it go, and what can be done to counter it? The authors discuss these questions and analyze a new and comprehensive dataset of NGO laws around the world.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

17. “Signature of Ocean Warming in Global Fisheries Catch”

[William W. L. Cheung](#), et al. *Nature*, May 16, 2013, 4 pages.

The authors examine the impact of climate change on marine fisheries, focusing on the need to develop adaptation plans to minimize the effect of such warming on the economy and food security of coastal communities, particularly in tropical regions.

18. “Our Fertilized World”

[Dan Charles](#). *National Geographic*, May 2013, 18 pages.

As a hungry world looks ahead to billions more mouths in need of nitrogen-rich protein, how much clean water and air will survive the demand for fertile fields? The author, NPR's food and agriculture correspondent, discusses the nitrogen's role in agriculture and the impact of agricultural fertilizer runoff on the environment, focusing on how to grow sufficient food sources by using less chemicals.

19. “The Nitrogen Underground”

[Susan Moran](#). *Discover*, July/August 2013, 3 pages.

The author, a Colorado-based journalist covering agriculture, energy and climate science, examines nitrogen in ecological systems and the problem of water pollution from nitrogen-based agricultural fertilizers, and discusses the path of nitrates from fertilizer through soil layers and relates it to the nitrogen-fixing properties of various crops.

GLOBAL HEALTH

20. “Happy Microbes, Skinny Jeans”

[Moises Velasquez-Manoff](#). *Mother Jones*, July/August 2013, 7 pages.

The trillions of bacteria inside you could be the key to everything from defeating allergies to losing weight. The author of *An Epidemic of Absence: A New Way of Understanding Allergies and Autoimmune Diseases* examines the relationship between microbes and digestion, focusing on how to prevent obesity in children.

21. “Big Data from Cheap Phones”

[David Talbot](#). *Technology Review*, May/June 2013, 5 pages.

The author, a MIT *Technology Review*'s chief correspondent, discusses the detection of the epidemiological origin of diseases using cell phone transmission, and disease control and prevention efforts based on mobility data of population movement.

U.S. POLITICS

22. “The Effects of Political Institutions on Women’s Political Representation: A Comparative Analysis of 168 Countries from 1992 to 2010”

[Jennifer Rosen](#). *Political Research Quarterly*, June 2013, 16 pages.

The author, a Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, researcher, examines cross-national variations in women's political representation, and how the causal processes of particular political institutions vary across countries depending on their level of socioeconomic development.

23. “Obama's Last Gasp at a Legacy”

[Matt Welch](#). *Reason*, July 2013, 2 pages.

The author, Editor-in-Chief of *Reason* magazine, compares Barack Obama's second-term as the president of the United States, with the circumstances of previous U.S. Presidents who have served for second terms, including Bill Clinton, Richard Nixon, and Ronald Reagan.