



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

ARTICLE ALERT - AUGUST 2012

SPOTLIGHT: U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2012

1. "Accomplished and Embattled: Understanding Obama's Presidency"

[Theda Skocpol](#) and [Lawrence R. Jacobs](#). *Political Science Quarterly*, Spring 2012, 24 pages.

The authors assess policy accomplishments and shortfalls of President Barack Obama since 2009, highlighting the obstacles with which Obama and his political allies have had to contend, and challenge commentators who claim that Obama has accomplished little.

2. "The Second Term"

[Ryan Lizza](#). *The New Yorker*, June 18, 2012, 12 pages.

The author, *The New Yorker's* Washington correspondent, discusses the prospects of U.S. President Barack Obama's reelection in 2012 and the possible goals of his administration, focusing on issues of importance for Obama during a second term as well as the difficulties and successes in the second terms of his predecessors, including Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and George W. Bush.

3. "Gosh, Golly, Gee"

[John McWhorter](#). *The New Republic*, June 28, 2012, 2 pages.

The author, an American linguist and political commentator, explores the language habits of the presumptive 2012 Republican U.S. presidential nominee, Mitt Romney, and the long trend toward more casual and personal styles of language in the United States as well as U.S. President Barack Obama's linguistic habits.

4. "The Campaign Triumphant."

[Gil Troy](#). *The Wilson Quarterly*, Summer 2012, 8 pages.

Does America's presidential campaign process work? Do the most qualified candidates win campaigns? Do voters choose the leader of the world's superpower after more careful deliberation? The author, Professor of history at McGill University, examines the evolution of U.S. presidential campaigns in four phases: republican, democratic, populist, and electronic.

DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

5. "Party Systems, Critical Junctures, and Cleavages in Southeast Asia"

[Andreas Ufen](#). *Asian Survey*, May/June 2012, 24 pages.

What kind of parties and party systems exist in Southeast Asia? What are the major differences between them, and how can we theoretically conceptualize these types. The author differentiates between clientelist (Thailand and the Philippines) and cleavage-based parties and party systems (Malaysia and Indonesia) with reference to insights of historical institutionalism.

Note: Full texts of documents are available free of charge in print format for subscribers only.
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6. “Minding the Gap Between Democracy and Governance”

[Donald K. Emmerson](#). *Journal of Democracy*, April 2012, 13 pages.

Do democracy and good governance necessarily go hand-in-hand? How should we understand good governance in an authoritarian context? And what does poor governance mean for the legitimacy of democracy? The author, director of the Southeast Asia Forum at Stanford University's Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, argues that the gap between democracy and governance in the region exists and discusses why it should be minded.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS**7. “The U.S. Army in a Time of Transition”**

[Raymond T. Odierno](#). *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2012, 5 pages.

Due to austerity measures and declining budgets in the United States, the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army examines the U.S. Army's need to adjust military policy from counterterrorism and counterinsurgency to effectively conduct a wider range of potential missions and a shift in emphasis to the Asia-Pacific region.

8. “Soft on “Soft Power””

[Christopher A. Ford](#). *The SAIS Review of International Affairs*, Winter-Spring 2012, 23 pages.

The author, a senior fellow at Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C., examines the conceptual and practical foundations of “soft power” and considers how large a competitive advantage it is likely to offer for advancing U.S. interests and policy objectives in international affairs.

9. “Nuclear Disarmament: Should America Lead?”

[Regina Karp](#). *Political Science Quarterly*, Spring 2012, 25 pages.

The author, an associate professor of political science at Old Dominion University, examines the relationship between nuclear disarmament and world order, focusing on the need to reassess how national security and international security governance are balanced.

10. “The Most Powerful Women You've Never Heard of”

[Uri Friedman](#), et al. *Foreign Policy*, May/June 2012, 4 pages.

The authors present an awesome list of the 25 most influential female leaders running the world including the sexiest leaders and the most interesting woman leaders to watch.

ECONOMICS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT**11. “Trading Up in Asia: Why the United States Needs the Trans-Pacific Partnership”**

[Bernard K. Gordon](#). *Foreign Affairs*. July/August 2012, 6 pages.

The author, Professor of Political Science Emeritus at the University of New Hampshire, examines negotiations underway as of 2012 toward a regional free-trade agreement among Pacific Ocean countries, called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), focusing on whether the TPP would provide significant economic benefits to the United States.

12. “Dynamics of the Current Crisis”

Howard Sherman and [Michael Meeropol](#). *Challenge*, May-June 2012, 19 pages.

The authors examine the underlying causes of the present and previous global economic crises, and how such severe recessions, including the Great Recession of 2007 to 2009, differ profoundly from most others.

13. “Tweet Me, Friend Me, Make Me Buy”

[Barbara Giamanco](#) and Kent Gregoire. *Harvard Business Review*, July/August 2012, 6 pages.

The authors discuss sales and social networking, focusing on the response rates of prospecting through social media as opposed to direct-marketing or cold calling, peer recommendations, and returns.

JOURNALISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA**14. “In the Digital Realm, New Hope for Editorial Cartoonists”**

Alexa Kravitz. *American Journalism Review*, April/May 2012, 3 pages.

While many newspapers have eliminated the cartoonist position, the author, a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, discusses why and how the Internet offers a potentially brighter future.

15. “Talking Back: Attitudes Toward Social Media”

[Ronald Brownstein](#). *National Journal*, June 9, 2012, 5 pages.

Has the explosion of Internet use increased people’s influence over the public and private institutions that shape their lives? The author, *National Journal* Group's Editorial Director, examines how Americans are using online communications and social-media tools such as Facebook, Google+, Twitter, and LinkedIn to interact with businesses and government, and whether their development is changing the sources of information that people use in making consumer and political choices.

16. “What Facebook Knows”

[Tom Simonite](#). *Technology Review*, August 2012, 7 pages.

The author, *Technology Review*'s senior IT editor, examines Facebook's ability to mine its users' extensive data set on human social behavior such as private conversations, family photos, and records of road trips, and its effort to find pattern from this personal data to improve its product.

GLOBAL POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**17. “Baby Gap: How to Boost Birthrates and Avoid Demographic Decline”**

[Steven Philip Kramer](#). *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2012, 5 pages.

The author, Professor of Grand Strategy at the National Defense University's Industrial College of the Armed Forces, analyzes declining birthrates in developed countries as they are changing the world's population balance, with poorer countries dwarfing richer ones; and discusses methods the nations can use to effectively boost birthrates.

18. “International Trade Drives Biodiversity Threats in Developing Nations”

[Manfred Lenzen](#), et al. *Nature*, June 7, 2012, 4 pages.

The authors examine how a significant number of species are threatened as a result of international trade along complex routes, and particularly if consumers in developed countries cause threats to species through their demand of commodities that are ultimately produced in developing countries.

19. “The Ultimate Social Network”

[Jennifer Ackerman](#). *Scientific American*, June 2012, 8 pages.

The author, a contributing writer for *Scientific American*, discusses the role of bacteria in the human body and the specific effects of microbes in the body, focusing on how the body functions and why certain diseases, such as obesity and autoimmune disorders, are on the rise.

CLIMATE CHANGE**20. “The Climate Fixers”**

[Michael Specter](#). *The New Yorker*, May 14, 2012, 8 pages.

The author, a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, explores the possibility of a technological solution to global warming and its potential consequences, primarily through geoengineering including reflecting sunlight away from the earth using methods such as photorefective particles, oceanic bubbles, and cloud seeding.

21. “Is Shale Gas Good for Climate Change?”

[Daniel P. Schrag](#). *Daedalus*, Spring 2012, 9 pages.

Will shale gas play an important role in reducing greenhouse gas; or will methane emissions from shale gas extraction lead to higher greenhouse gas emissions overall? The author, the Sturgis Hooper Professor of Geology and Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering at Harvard University, examines Shale gas, a new energy resource that has shifted the dominant paradigm on U.S. hydrocarbon resources, and its impact on climate change.

EDUCATION**22. “In This Online University, Students Do the Teaching as Well as the Learning”**

Katherine Mangan. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 22, 2012, 7 pages.

The author, a correspondent for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, examines Peer 2 Peer University, a free, online institution aimed at using the concept of peer teaching and learning through an open courseware format, focusing on the evolving roles of peers and professors in the growing number of free online courses.

23. "Fair Use in Academic and Research Libraries"

[Patricia Aufderheide](#). *Educause Review*. March/April 2012, 2 pages.

The author, Founder-Director of the Center for Social Media in the School of Communication at American University, discusses the application of fair use to higher education, focusing on how an understanding of fair use as an affirmative, free-speech right can help those in higher education avoid fact-free risk analysis.

LIBRARY TRENDS

24. "Copyright: Regulation Out of Line with Our Digital Reality?"

Abigail J. McDermott. *Information Technology & Libraries*, March 2012, 14 pages.

The author, a graduate research associate at University of Maryland, examines the current state of copyright law in the United States and its impacts on libraries and patrons, focusing on the challenges current copyright law presents to libraries and the public in general, and the ways intellectual property law interferes with digital library services and systems.

25. "The Ebook Wars"

[Nancy K. Herther](#). *Searcher*, May 2012, 11 pages.

The author, an anthropology/sociology Librarian at the University of Minnesota Libraries, discusses the move to electronic publication of books and the problem of disintermediation, particularly the future of print versus electronic books.

AMERICAN CULTURE

26. "No Hands No Feet No Limits"

Christine Belleris. *USA Today Magazine*, July 2012, 3 pages.

The author, a freelance writer, explores the accomplishments of Tony Volpentest, a former American sprinter who was born without hands and feet and set world records the 1992 Paralympics.

27. "The 10 Best Small Towns in America"

[Susan Spano](#) and Aviva Shen. *Smithsonian*, May 2012, 10 pages.

The authors explore the ten best small towns in the United States and methods for choosing the towns, focusing on towns with populations less than 25,000 including Great Barrington, Massachusetts; Red Bank, New Jersey; Gig Harbor, Washington; Butler, Pennsylvania; and Mill Valley, California.