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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.*

#### **SPOTLIGHT: ASIA**

**1. "Power and Order in Asia"**  
[Michael J. Green](#) and [Nicholas Szechenyi](#). A Report of the CSIS Program, June 2014, 35 pages. Asia stands out as the world's most vibrant region, where rivalries and confrontation coincide with increased economic cooperation and community building. How should we interpret these two dynamics, and what are the implications for U.S. policy? The authors explore issues related to power and order in Asia through a survey of strategic elites in 11 Asia Pacific economies.

## THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

### 3. “The Allure of Normalcy”

Robert Kagan. *The New Republic*, June 9, 2014, 18 pages.

The author, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, discusses the direction of U.S. foreign policy and the implications of a potential shift towards a greater emphasis on domestic affairs and less concern with the needs of other countries through analysis of U.S. historical policy.

### 4. “A Strategy of Discriminate Power: A Global Posture for Sustained Leadership”

Michael J. Mazarr. *The Washington Quarterly*, Spring 2014, 14 pages.

How can the United States exercise persistent global leadership under the shadow of intensifying constraints? The author, professor and associate dean at the U.S. National War College, discusses a concept of “discriminate power” which offers five major principles to guide the changing execution of U.S. grand strategy.

### 5. “The State of the State”

John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge. *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2014, 15 pages.

Who will shape the fourth revolution between the ascendant tradition of Western liberal democracy and newer forms of authoritarian rule that have emerged in recent decades? The authors discuss political states and a global contest for the future of government.

### 2. “The Pivot in Perspective: American Naval Power, Then and Now”

Carl Cavanagh Hodge. *Orbis*, June 2014, 21 pages.

The author examines U.S. naval strategy and the reorientation of the defense policy of the United States, initiated during the Bush and Obama Administrations, toward giving increased priority to the Asia Pacific region.

## DEMOCRACY

### 6. “Thailand in Crisis: Scenarios and Policy Responses”

[Gregory B. Poling](#), et al. A Report of the CSIS Sumitro Chair for Southeast Asia Studies, July 2014, 18 pages. The authors identify the likely scenarios that will face Thailand when its decades-long cycle of political unrest hits its most critical moment, focusing on U.S. policy options for each of the three scenarios identified.

### 7. “The Rule of Law in Post-Conflict Settings: The Empirical Record”

Stephan Haggard and Lydia Tiede. *International Studies Quarterly*, June 2014, 13 pages. Drawing on an original data set of 47 cases that includes a wide array of rule-of-law measures in which conflict ended between 1970 and 1999, the authors analyze whether and to what extent countries reconstitute the rule of law following civil conflict.

## ECONOMICS

### 8. “Financial Crises, Asian Stock Indices, and Current Accounts: An Asian-U.S. Comparative Study”

David Y. Chena and Tongzhe Li. *Journal of Asian Economics*, October 2014, 13 pages. The authors examine the effects of financial crises-based exchange rate, real interest rate, and personal consumption expenditure on stock market indices and balances of current account in four Asian countries – Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Hong Kong -- and the United States from 1997 to 2010.

### 9. “New World Order”

Erik Brynjolfsson, et al. *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2014, 10 pages.

The authors discuss the impacts of technological advances on a unified global marketplace for labor and capital, focusing on the concept of a power law economy, market capitalization, and a new world order, along with an assessment of the relationship between technology and globalization.

### 10. “Corporate Influence and Political Corruption”

Jeffrey Milyo. *The Independent Review*, Summer 2014, 18 pages.

The author, a professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Missouri, examines how financial markets respond to political events that aim to understand the extent and nature of corporate influence in the American politics, focusing on corruption and corporate political activity and political events studies in financial markets.

### 11. “Work Based Learning to Expand Opportunities for Youth”

Harry J. Holzer and Robert I. Lerman. *Challenge*, July/August 2014, 14 pages.

The authors discuss work-based learning or “earning while learning” models which can contribute to full employment directly by stimulating the growth of jobs for youth, the demographic group with the highest unemployment rates.

## JOURNALISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA

### 12. “Are We Journalists First?”

Alexis Sobel Fitts and Nicola Pring. *Columbia Journalism Review*, July/August 2014, 4 pages.

Can journalists intervene in a story? Should journalists remain detached from their subjects? Should they involve themselves when a subject is facing immediate threat? In the age of inequality, the authors discuss journalists' role in the stories they cover and their ethical terrain.

**13. "Global Efforts to Redefine Privacy in the Age of Big Data"**

Nancy K. Herther. *Information Today*, July/August 2014, 4 pages.

We now face a future with wearable computers monitoring our every move and heartbeat, and drones are providing information on our every action. The author, a librarian at the University of Minnesota Libraries-Twin Cities, discusses the efforts around the world to protect personal data and internet privacy.

**GLOBAL ISSUES, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**14. "How to Farm a Better Fish"**

[Joel K Bourne Jr.](#) *National Geographic*, June 2014, 20 pages.

The author, an award-winning journalist and a former senior editor for the environment for *National Geographic*, discusses fish farming and the rise of industrial-scale fish farms, the environmental and ecological impacts of the so-called blue revolution of fisheries, and the challenges of forage fisheries.

**15. "Cities Helping Cities to Build Better Futures"**

Rick Docksai. *The Futurist*, July/August 2014, 3 pages.

With more than half of the world's population now urban-based, the author explores the web site, GreaterPlaces.com, which publishes success stories in urban design, and challenges that communities are facing and the solutions.

**16. “The Water Short List: The Most Effective Actions U.S. Households Can Take to Curb Water Use”**

Benjamin D. Inskeep and Shahzeen Z.

Attari. *Environment*, July/August 2014, 13 pages.

The authors discuss the challenge of the long-term sustainability of water supply systems in the United States, and offer water conservation strategies and tips.

**GLOBAL HEALTH**

**17. “Buzzkill”**

Kiera Butler. *Mother Jones*, July/August 2014, 2 pages.

What is the best protection against mosquitoes? With insect-borne illnesses are on the rise, and some can be serious, even deadly, the author explores insect repellents and effectiveness of different products, and active ingredients such as DEET and picaridin.

**18. “Global Warning”**

Eric Bender. *Scientific American*, July 2014, 2 pages.

The author discusses the increasing rates of cancer in low- and middle-income countries, the role of viral infections in cancer mortality, and breast cancer trends, focusing on demand for oncologists and health-care resources as well as initiatives to promote cancer treatments and screening.

**19. “Three Known Unknowns”**

Katherine Bourzac. *Nature*, May 29, 2014, 3 pages.

How does cancer spread? How can drug resistance be overcome? How are healthy tissues and genes involved? The author discusses cancer research, focusing on problems pertaining to drug resistance, the role of healthy tissues and genes in permitting cancers to develop, and the spreading of cancers.

## U.S. POLITICS

### 20. "A Unified Theory of Hillary"

Peter Beinart. *National Journal*, June 21, 2014, 8 pages.

The author explores Hillary Clinton's greatest successes and worst failures to understand what kind of president she would be.

### 21. "Why A Woman (Or Many Women) Should Run Against Her"

[Rebecca Traister](#). *The New Republic*, July 14, 2014, 4 pages.

The author, a senior editor at *The New Republic*, discusses potential campaign of Hillary Clinton for the 2016 U.S. presidential election, focusing on why other women candidates should challenge Clinton for the U.S. Democratic Party nomination in order to advance the acceptance of women in politics.

### 22. "Twitter Expands Its Advertising Menu"

[Colin Delany](#). *Campaigns & Elections*, May/June 2014, 2 pages.

The author, a founder of award-winning Epolitics.com, examines the changes to the advertising menu of Twitter which can allow political candidates to geotarget by metropolitan area, target followers of particular feeds, and target user's interest or the topics they tweet about.

### 23. "Downloading the Voter's Brain"

Sean J. Miller, et al. *Campaigns & Elections*, May/June 2014, 6 pages.

How does a candidate's clothing influence a voter's decision? The authors analyze voters' behavior and the patterns of the voters' brain activity, focusing on the political psychology, neuromarketing, and the clothing of the political candidates.

## EDUCATION

### 24. “Improving Teaching and Learning: Three Models to Reshape Educational Practice”

Sam Roberson. *Education*, Spring 2014, 19 pages.

Which educational philosophy is best to provide effective teaching and learning? The author, a teacher at Plano Independent School District, Texas, discusses the current educational culture which impedes the ability to make changes in teaching and learning which could be more effective, and offers an alternative to the existing educational model.

## LIBRARY TRENDS

### 25. “Streaming Video in Public Libraries”

Brandi Scardilli. *Information Today*, July/August 2014, 3 pages.

The author, the editorial assistant at Information Today, Inc., discusses streaming video lending which is the newest service in U.S. public libraries, particular OverDrive and hoopla which are the two most popular programs.

## CULTURE

### 26. “The Way We Look Now”

Deborah Cohen. *The Atlantic*, May 2014, 9 pages.

The author, Peter B. Ritzma Professor of the Humanities and Professor of History at the Northwestern University, explores the evolution of clothing and dress in the United States between the 1930s and 2014, and how social class impacted the clothing styles of Americans and how fashion reflects politics in the United States.

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