



ARTICLE ROUND UP



The American Center Ho Chi Minh City is pleased to offer you **Article Round Up**, a monthly current awareness publication of the American Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It offers abstracts of approximately 25 current articles and policy briefs from leading American journals. The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.

Full Text Availability: Hyperlinks to full texts are provided for U.S. government documents. Full hard copy texts of non-U.S. government documents are available upon request to AC service subscribers only. To request full texts, please contact us at ACHCMC@STATE.GOV or Tel: 84-8-3520-4627; citing the article number(s). Current and back issues of **Article Round Up** are also available on our website at http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov/round_up.html

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, A professor of history at McGill University, examines the evolution of U.S. presidential campaigns in four phases: republican, democratic, populist, and electronic.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

5. "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.

6. "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.

7. "Obama's New Global Posture: The Logic Of U.S. Foreign Deployments"

[Janine Davidson](#) and [Michele Flournoy](#). *Foreign Affairs*, July-August 2012, 8 pages.

Tough economic times have often been met in the United States by calls for a more modest foreign policy. But despite the global economic downturn, in today's interdependent world, retrenchment would be misguided. The United States' ability to lead the international community is still invaluable and unmatched. Its economy is still by far the largest, most developed, and most dynamic in the world.

8. "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

9. "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, a 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.

10. "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.

11. "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.

GLOBAL POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

12. "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.

13. "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.

14. "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.

JOURNALISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA

15. "Social networks, privacy, and freedom of association: data protection vs. data empowerment"

Peter Swire. *North Carolina Law Review*, June 2012, 30 pages.

This Article examines the tension between social networks as enablers of political mobilization (sharing information is good) and as threats to privacy (sharing information is bad). A central theme is that social networks are platforms to create associations. Linguistically, "networks" and "associations" are close synonyms; they both depend on "links" and "relationships." This Article introduces the idea that limits on such networks can deeply implicate the freedom of association.

16. "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.

17. "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.

CLIMATE CHANGE

18. "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.

19. "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

20. "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.

21. "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.

22. "Implementing Writing Support Circles With Adult Learners In A Nonformal Education Setting: Priority, Practice, And Process"

[Maria S. Plakhotnik](#) and [Tonette S. Rocco](#). *Adult Learning*, May 2012, 9 pages.

Most students come to their graduate programs with academic writing skills insufficient to excel in their studies. A lack of academic writing skills among graduate students has been a problem in a college of education at a large southeastern public research university where the project described in this article was implemented. To address this lack of academic writing skills, a new service, Writing Support Circles (WSCs), was designed and implemented for a small group of Latina students supported by a grant as a pilot program. WSCs are a series of workshops intended to create a community of learners who work together on improving their academic writing with guidance of a facilitator. The purpose of this article is to share the author's experiences with designing and implementing WSCs with adult learners in an informal education setting at a university.

LIBRARY TRENDS

23. "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.

24. "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

25. "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.

26. "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.