ARTICLE ALERT

April 2012

The American Center’s Baldwin Library is pleased to offer you ARTICLE ALERT, a monthly current affairs publication. It is designed to keep library users abreast of issues and concerns in the United States.

Full texts of all listed articles are available upon request at The American Center’s Baldwin Library. Please contact us at Tel. 95-1-223106 or 95-1-223140; or email rangoonirc@state.gov

Library provides two articles free of charge.

SPOTLIGHT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

   The author, Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, discusses the importance of outer space exploration for the United States in light of China's efforts to develop new exploration programs, with emphasis given to a manned mission to Mars.

2. “Gravity of the Grid”
   The author, a freelance writer, discusses the research of physicist Julian Barbour on the innermost workings of the universe which defies the work of physicist Albert Einstein, particularly Einstein's model of space, time, and gravity, as well as Austrian physicist and philosopher Ernst Mach's ideas on general relativity.

GLOBAL POPULATION

3. “Who Will Feed the Extra 2 Billion?”
   With the increasing population concentrated in the poorest and most food insecure countries, the author, a senior research fellow on Energy, Environment and Development Programme at Chatham House, discusses the global food security and the challenges faced by the global food system, focusing on the current investment that surges into developing country agriculture.
JOURNALISM AND DIGITAL MEDIA

4. “On Facebook and Freedom”
The author, a managing editor for the Columbia Journalism Review, discusses the phenomena of online news being dispersed through a limited number of large technology and online social network companies such as Google, Twitter, and Facebook, focusing on the latter's control of information dissemination.

5. “Language Translation in the Internet Age”
Nancy K. Herther. Searcher, January/February 2012, 9 pages.
The author, a sociology/anthropology librarian at the University of Minnesota Libraries, discusses how the internet is engulfing all areas of communications, and language translation in particular. The possibility of real-time speech-to-speech translation is pondered as she examines some of today’s current crop of translation software,

THE PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY

The author, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, examines the prospects for democracy expansion in East Asia in the next two decades, focusing why the region is better positioned to increase the number of liberal and sustainable democracies.

Francis Fukuyama. Foreign Affairs, January/February 2012, 9 pages.
The author, a senior fellow at Stanford University, discusses the future of democracy and a correlation among economic growth, social change, and the hegemony of liberal democratic ideology, focusing on the challenges to the stability of contemporary liberal democracy.

U.S. ELECTIONS AND POLITICS

The author, a staff writer for the Weekly Standard, discusses the 2012 U.S. presidential election between incumbent U.S. President Barack Obama and his challengers, focusing on its ideological nature.
9. “Vice Squad”
The author, a writer for *The New Republic*, discusses potential Republican vice presidential candidates for the U.S. 2012 presidential election, and discusses the benefits of experience, ability to gather the Latino vote, and conservative ideologies of Republican politicians.

10. “The Youth Candidate”
The author, President and CEO of FreedomWorks, explores U.S. Representative Ron Paul's 2012 presidential candidacy and what the Republican Party can do to retain Generation Y voters who are rooting for him.

The author, an associate professor of political science at Duke University, explores the role of polling in elections and outlines the evolution of polling as used for three different functions in U.S. presidential elections: forecasting election outcomes, understanding voter behavior, and planning campaign strategy.

**THE UNITED STATES AND ASIA**

12. “The Emerging Strategic Dynamic in Southeast Asia”
The author, an adjunct professor and visiting research scholar at Johns Hopkins University, discusses why Southeast Asia has become the arena where Chinese power and ambition confront an established U.S. military presence reinvigorated by renewed American attention to the region.

13. “US Turns Its Gaze to the Pacific”
The author, an associate professor of international relations at Georgetown University, analyzes the Obama’s Asia pivot and how the United States should resource its increasing engagement of the region.

The author, an associate professor at the University of Delaware’s Department of Political Science and International Relations, examines the complexity of the South China Sea dispute that is no longer just about territory but also about broader maritime rights, an evolving maritime regime, resources, and increasingly, the role of China as a rising power in East Asia vis-à-vis the United States as the status quo power.
THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

Robert D. Kaplan.  The Atlantic, January/February 2012, 9 pages.
The author, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, discusses political scientist John J. Mearsheimer's views on political realism and his doctrine of “offensive realism,” which can enable the United States to avert decline and prepare for the unprecedented challenge posed by a rising China.

The author, Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University, discusses the tectonic shifts in international affairs and in political and economic conditions within the United States and offers a progressive grand strategy for safeguarding the nation’s interests with four first principles.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

17. “Revisiting the Great Depression”
Today, as we grapple with a years-long global economic downturn whose ultimate contours remain unknown, the Great Depression is increasingly relevant to the present. So, could we suffer another Depression? Are there parallels between then and now? The author, a writer for The Washington Post, discusses the questions.

18. "Can We Build Tomorrow's Breakthroughs?"
David Rotman. Technology Review, January/February 2012, 10 pages.
The author, a Technology Review editor, discusses the negative implications of problems in the U.S. manufacturing sector for the country’s economy and for the outlook on innovation. Evidence on how the diminished manufacturing capabilities of the United States could adversely affect global innovation is discussed.

The authors examine U.S. competitiveness and its economic fundamental challenge: a series of underlying structural changes that could permanently impair America's ability to maintain the living standards of its citizens.

20. “Why We Still Need the World Bank: Looking Beyond Aid”
President of the World Bank Group discusses the challenges and the importance of the World Bank in constructing a just international economic order and promotes
economic development and multilateralism in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

In what sense are human rights *rights* if they are subject to derogation during emergencies? The authors analyze the fiduciary theory of human rights and illuminate the normative basis for international law's regulation of public emergencies.

How does the globalization of law, the emergence of multiple and shifting venues of legal accountability, enhance or evade the fulfillment of international human rights? The authors examine the utility of law for the fulfillment of human rights and the intersection between the globalization of law and the globalization of rights.

EDUCATION

23. “Bucking Cultural Norms, Asia Tries Liberal Arts”
The author, a Chronicle senior reporter, explores educational reforms in Asian universities which emphasize liberal arts education, focusing on ways in which secondary schools and colleges are adapting their curriculum in an effort to improve their critical thinking and teamwork skills to prepare them for future employment.

The authors explore blogging as an innovation in academic communication and collaboration with potential for overcoming the traditional limitations; and discuss the significance of blogging to the higher education research community.
LIBRARY TRENDS

The author, Director of Digital Strategy for the Columbus Metropolitan Library in Ohio, explores how to create a digital strategy framework for libraries from what she has learned from Steve Jobs.

The author, Director of Library and Information Resources at the Institute for Research on Labor & Employment at the University of California, examines how unique collections can migrate to mobile devices and how adding such services can change workflows and even how organizations operate.