ARTICLE ALERT

March 2010

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SPOTLIGHTS: DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AND RULE OF LAW

1. “Transitions to the Rule of Law”
The author, International Political Economy Professor at the John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, discusses the global history of the rule of law in the context of democratization efforts. He compares the development of legal traditions in various cultures and examines the ways in which such traditions helped to counteract authoritarian trends.

The authors discuss the importance of a level playfield for political competition and global efforts at democratization, focusing on the ways in which multiparty elections can be unfairly manipulated by ruling parties wishing to maintain their power by unscrupulous means.

HUMAN RIGHTS

3. "Are There Universal Collective Rights?"
The author examines the current debate over the universality of human rights and collective rights, looking at the problems inherent in both concepts. A differentiation between the three main collective entities in international law — peoples, minorities, and indigenous peoples — is presented and the question as to if certain rights vested in these collectives might acquire the status of the universal ones is examined.
U.S. POLITICS

4. "The Way of the Whigs?"
   What would happen in the next presidential election if the American public were dissatisfied with both the Democratic and the Republican political parties in the United States? The author, Vice President of the American Enterprise Institute, discusses this trend and the prospect of a populist third-party candidate being elected to the presidency in 2012.

5. “The Role Of The Military In Presidential Politics”
   The authors, both retired military officers, are concerned by the public endorsement of presidential candidates by retired general officers. They worry that it reflects “a disturbing trend toward the politicization of the American military” as well as a move away from the traditional nonpartisan professional military ethic. They believe that this practice should be discouraged because of its potential damage to the U.S. armed forces, noting that “political neutrality is essential to the military’s ability to survive in its present form.”

THE UNITED STATES AND ASIA

   Why did the United States pursue a network of bilateral alliances in East Asia following the end of World War II rather than the multilateral security alliances it preferred in Europe, Southeast Asia, and the South Pacific? Using the “powerplay” theory, the author examines U.S. strategy in Asia at the end of World War II.

7. "The New Schizophrenia: Asia between Integration and Isolation"
   The author, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, discusses trends towards cultural, economic and political cooperation among Asian nations, as well as looks at the rising nationalist sentiment in the region.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

8. "Obama’s Next Three Years"
   Where is Barack Obama’s foreign policy headed? The author, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, discusses the face of U.S. President Barack Obama’s foreign policy over the next three years. The three policy areas that will allow Obama to showcase core characteristics of his worldview are analyzed.
9. "Foreign Policy in an Age of Austerity"
What effect would three or four years of flat or declining budgets across the board have on the conduct of U.S. foreign policy? How might austerity affect U.S. internal debates over policy decisions? The author, a retired Air Force general and two-time National Security Advisor, discusses the impact of tighter budgets on the conduct of U.S. foreign policy and, in turn, the perceptions of the U.S. overseas.

**INTERNATIONAL PEACE**

10. “Peace in the Twenty-First Century?”
Since the end of World War II, we have seen a downward trend in deaths in international conflicts. What are the key factors that contribute to peace? The author, a professor of International Relations at Yale University, discusses trends in global security at the beginning of 2010.

**GLOBALIZATION AND ECONOMIC CRISIS**

11. “Globalization: Curse or Cure?”
How will competition for resources, employment, and growth shape economic policies among developed nations as they attempt to balance productivity growth, social protections, and extensive political and cultural freedoms? The author, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute, examines the impact of economic globalization and offers policy recommendations for developed nations to reduce globalization's negative effects.

The author, a professor of economics at Skidmore College, examines the role of the U.S. dollar as the international currency of choice and looks at the part it played as a key contributing factor to critical global developments that led to the economic crisis of 2007–2009. The future role of the U.S. dollar is also discussed.

13. "How a New Jobless Era Will Transform America"
The Great Recession may be over, but this era of high joblessness is probably just beginning, opines the author, a deputy managing editor of *The Atlantic*. The long-term effects of the 2008-2009 U.S. economic recession on the U.S. social structures, including youth culture and psychology, family structures, and gender roles, is also presented.
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

14. “Climate Shocks and Exports”
Analyzing international trade data, the authors examine the effects of climate change on economic activity worldwide, focusing on exports. Panel models relating the annual growth rate of a country’s exports in a particular product category to the country’s weather in that year are also discussed.

15. “The Transformation of World Trade”
The authors looks at how the rising economic weight of developing countries will transform world trade, and examine how the transformation of world trade over the next 40 years will present new challenges and opportunities for countries at every level of development.

CLEAN ENERGY ISSUES

16. “Clean Energy Markets: Jobs and Opportunities”
Pew Center on Global Climate Change. February 2010, 18 pages.
The paper discusses how investment in clean energy technologies will generate economic growth and create new jobs in the United States and around the globe. The state of the emerging clean energy technology market and how other countries are taking action are also discussed.

The authors examine the big shifts in the world energy system as growing demand for energy in developing countries and calls for greener energy worldwide are putting unprecedented pressure on the global energy system. The need for a new mechanism and how to best manage a more secure energy system are discussed.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE CRISIS

18. “Greenwashing Hydropower”
Aviva Imhof and Guy Lanza. World Watch, January/February 2010, 7 pages.
The authors discuss the impacts of big-dam construction on the environmental resources. Solutions that offer increased efficiency, new energy sources, low impact, non-dam hydropower, and other less destructive solutions to electrification needs are also presented.
19. “Facing Extinction: 9 Steps to Save Biodiversity”
Four distinguished scholars and experts discuss the responsibility of conservationists to defend and restore ecosystems in a world where biodiversity is increasingly compromised by climate change and human activity. Nine ways to reduce biodiversity loss are offered.

JOURNALISM AND NEW MEDIA

The author, an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Arkansas, discusses how news organizations are intensifying their use of social networking tools, like Twitter and Facebook, to circulate their stories and connect with communities.

21. “Politicians Get Their Clicks”
The author, Director of Hansard Society's Digital Democracy Programme, examines the use of the Internet in political campaigning. Political blogging and political journalism are also discussed.

INTERNET AND WEB 2.0

22. “The Future of the Internet”
This survey examines the future of the Internet-connected world over the next 10 years and the likely innovation that will occur, focusing on eliciting observations on the likely impact and influence of the Internet.

LIBRARY TRENDS

23. "The Day Search Stood Still"
The author, an applications analyst at Duke University Libraries, discusses what would happen to a library in the age of the Google Book Search Settlement Agreement and Web 2.0.

24. “In Front of (e)Readers”
The author, Library Journal's associate editor on technology, explores some new electronic gadgets that could prove useful to libraries, including ebook readers, such as Copia and Blio, which feature more content than print books.
25. "It’s The Content, Stupid"
The authors, both associated with Texas A&M University Libraries, believe that libraries and librarians have an important stake in the development of online scholarship. Many benefits will come from the growth of digital monographs and journals as well as the development of scholarly websites, online archives, blogs, wikis, and other outlets for research even farther afield from the traditional models.

**EDUCATION**

26. "Literary Learning in the Hyperdigital Age"
Will the modern era of learning change the way of teaching? Will papers, pens or pencils be replaced with learning interfaces and other gadgets? The author, Professor of English at Emory University, looks at the educational forecast regarding literary learning in this hyper-digital age in the United States.

27. “Higher Education Migrates to YouTube and Social Networks”
The author, a teacher at Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey, discusses how the creation of YouTubeEDU, an education section on the video sharing website YouTube, is changing higher education in the United States.

The authors discuss reading comprehension and the future of the field, focusing on ways to build a comprehensive curriculum and instructional techniques for helping students acquire productive comprehension skills and strategies.