The American Center Ho Chi Minh City is pleased to offer you Article Round Up, a monthly current events 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

JUNE 2013

SPOTLIGHT: GLOBAL ECONOMY

1. “Currency Wars, the Economy of the United States, and Reform of the International Monetary System”
   Virtually every major country is seeking depreciation or non-appreciation of its currency to strengthen its economy and create jobs, resulting in dangerous currency wars. The practice, argues the author, Founding Director of Peterson Institute for International Economics, damages world economy and needs to be stopped. He examines the impacts of currency manipulation on the United States, the current global economic order, and offers a few policy recommendations.

   The author examines the impact of the current ‘global relations of debt’ on U.S. hegemony and the way in which debt affects current great power politics and the position of rising powers within it, focusing on whether the current global relations of debt have transformed the way in which great power politics materialize in the global political economy.

ASIA

   The author, the Rohr Professor of Pacific International Relations at the University of California, examines the rapid economic rise of China, India, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the implications for regional peace and global security, focusing on three features of the international environment—democratization, economic interdependence, and international institutions.
4. “Asia in 2012: The Best of a Bad Year?”
The author, Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, discusses politics, government, economic development and policies in Asia in 2012, including the declines in gross domestic product and demand deflation, multilateral free trade agreements, and presidential elections in Northeast Asia.

5. “The 2012 United States Election and the Implications for East Asia”
How will the electoral results shape American policy toward East Asia? The author, Jack M. Forcey Professor of Political Science in U.C. Berkeley's Department of Political Science, analyzes the major results of last year's U.S. election that are likely to structure U.S. policy toward East Asia over the next several years.

6. “Structures, Shocks and Norm Change: Explaining the Late Rise of Asia’s Defence Diplomacy”
The author examines Asia’s defense and military diplomacy and why it has been a relative laggard when compared to other forms of institutionalized security dialogue. The future prospects and influence of regional multilateral defense diplomacy is also discussed.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

What will the United States do to preserve its influence in international politics? Is it likely to accept a diminished role for itself in order to preserve global order? The author examines the impacts of the rising powers on the U.S. leadership role and how the United States is attempting to manage the challenge to its position of primacy in the global order.

8. “Revisiting the Link”
Are religious cleavages more prone to violent conflict than other cleavages? What is the relationship between religion and political violence? The author, an assistant professor of Political Science & International Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, examines the relationship between religion and political violence, and its implications on foreign policy.

9. “War and Presidential Greatness”
What makes U.S. presidents great? How do historians rank presidents? The authors examine the relationship between historians' rankings of U.S. presidents and the proportion of Americans killed in wars in which the U.S. government engaged during the various presidents' tenure in office.

10. “A Democratic Age?”
Has Obama turned an entire generation of voters into lifelong Democrats? The author discusses youth voting behavior during the 2012 U.S. presidential election, focusing on its implications for Republican and Democratic popular support and the sustained strength of the Democratic Party's youth vote.
GLOBAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

11. “ON BEYOND 100”
How much of longevity is determined by genetics? What are the factors of longevity or aging process? Is restricted diet connected to long life? The author profiles several centenarians and explores human genes, gene mutations, and their potential impact on the longevity of a person's life.

12. “Let the Fish Breathe”
Brendan Borrell. Scientific American, April 2013, 6 pages.
The author discusses the establishment of marine protected areas and its impact to human communities around them, particularly how the areas influence the local people's health, economic well-being, education and cultural preservation.

13. “Insect Insight”
Some insects can lead to technological innovations, posits the author, and small insect-like robots can perform difficult and dangerous jobs for humans, such as searching operations using a group of small robots based on swarm intelligence, flying robots based on bee wings, and builder robots based on termites.

JOURNALISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The author, Austin bureau chief for Texas Watchdog, discusses e-mail interviewing by journalism professionals in the United States, debating the pros and cons of using e-mail to conduct interviews.

15. “Streams of Consciousness”
The author discusses the evolving patterns of news consumption of the millennial generation, including participation and content sharing over social media, and personalization of news streams through technology. The implications of these practices and the need to adapt journalism to incorporate preferences of millennials to ensure readership are examined.

16. “Temporary Social Media”
What if people could make their social media posts vanish automatically -- making social media more of an analogue to everyday conversations that aren't recorded for posterity? The authors explore privacy in Internet communications and the development of temporary social media communications which self-destruct and vanish after being read.

The authors address the characteristics of continuing deadly attacks on journalist, citing impunity as the major cause. They then examine how the applicable legal and policy frameworks can be used better or improved to provide a higher level of protection.
## INNOVATIONS

18. “Robots at Work: Toward a Smarter Factory”  
The author examines the economic aspects of industrial robots and the use of robots in the workplace, particularly human-robot interaction and technology innovation in automation. The effects of robots on employment and the prices of commercial products are discussed.

19. “Robots Aren't the Problem: It's Us”  
The author, Global Research Professor at New York University, discusses the use of robots as laborers to replace humans and the effects of automation on high-skill knowledge work.

## EDUCATION

*Jeff Allred. American Literary History, Volume 25, Number 2, Summer 2013, 15 pages.*  
The most salient characteristic of American studies over the past 30 years has been its centripetal movement away from its origins in notions of an exceptional national character and toward marginalized groups, artifacts, traditions, spaces, and practices. In what one might call the bagelization of the discipline, nearly all of the action has occurred at the perimeter for such a long time that we now have a difficult time even conceiving its center, so much so that the very term American studies has become something of an embarrassment, giving way to modifiers like “postnational” or “transnational,” or bolder remappings along the lines of “borderlands studies” or “Americas studies,” formulations that explicitly reflect the figure of a centerless field in which all the intellectual chewing goes on at the edges.

21. “Video Transforms Teaching Tactics”  
*Ian Quillen. Education Week, May 22, 2013, 2 pages.*  
The author examines the impacts of digital videos on teaching methods and discusses how initiatives to increase the availability of Internet bandwidth at U.S. schools will increase the role of educational videos and lead to more flipped classroom models.

22. “Teaching Students the Skills to Be Savvy Researchers”  
*Leslie Harris O’Hanlon. Education Week, May 22, 2013, 3 pages.*  
The author discusses the important of digital-literacy skills and the need to prioritize Internet research skills in the digital world full of misinformation, particularly how to evaluate a website's credibility, how to use precise keywords, and how to better mine search engines and databases.

23. “Digital Learning for All, Now”  
*Jonathan P. Costa Sr. Education Digest, April 2013, 6 pages.*  
The author, director of school and program services for Education Connection, discusses how to increase digital learning in schools with the bring-your-own-device policy, focusing on its challenges and how to overcome the financial and technical barriers.

## TRAVEL AND TOURISM

24. “The World, the Text, and the Americanist”
Edwards, Brian T. *American Literary History*, Vol. 25(1), Spring 2013, 16 pages
We have entered a period of time when the meanings attached to the US in the world have shifted decisively. In the Middle East and North Africa, there is widespread distrust of American imperial intentions. As the global economic crisis persists, the US economy has entered what some prominent economists have called its “autumn,” a putative decline from its apex during the twentieth century.

25. “Birthplace of the American Vacation”
Tony Perrottet. *Smithsonian*, April 2013, 8 pages.
The author explores the Adirondack Mountains of New York State, and how public interest in outdoor adventure in this area was first sparked. He also offers tourism and travel advices.