ARTICLE ALERT - JANUARY 2013

SPOTLIGHT: DEMOCRACY

1. “Why Did Thailand's Middle Class Turn against a Democratically Elected Government? The Information-Gap Hypothesis”
   Why might the urban bourgeoisie in a developing country turn against majority rule, even though social scientists have argued that this class is the precursor of democracy? The author analyzes the case of the middle class protest in Thailand and discusses how economic development affected democratization.

2. “Leaking Superpower: Wikileaks and the Contradictions of Democracy”
   The author, a professor at the Department of Global Studies, University of California, discusses the impact of hyper-connectivity on transparency and democracy, focusing on WikiLeaks, the problems of transparency and hegemony, and frictions between democracy and democratization.

U.S. POLITICS

3. “Tracking Congress 2.0.”
   The author explores useful web sites for tracking U.S. congressional activities and following federal legislators and legislation, including the public legislative information service maintained for Congress by the Library of Congress, OpenCongress, and Sunlight Foundation's Scout project.

HUMAN RIGHTS

4. “Institutionalizing Human Rights in Southeast Asia”
   With the creation of two new human right bodies by ASEAN: an inter-governmental human rights commission and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the author, an assistant professor of Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University

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of Michigan, examines why the commissions were created, why they have such limited initial capacity, and some ways they could evolve.

The author examines a widely accepted method of human rights justification and questions whether it generates reliable beliefs about human rights. She argues that the evidence of plural foundations of human rights fails to increase confidence in the universality of human rights.

ECONOMICS AND TRADE

6. “Broken BRICS: Why the Rest Stopped Rising”
The author, head of Emerging Markets and Global Macro at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, examines global economic relations and the large emerging-market economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, commonly referred to as the BRICs, with a focus on convergence between the BRICs and the United States and other developed countries.

7. “Overlooked Opportunity: Tradable Business Services, Developing Asia, and Growth”
Is developing Asia overlooking an opportunity for increased growth and development through trade in business services? The author, a professor of economics and international business at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, analyzes how the region would benefit from liberalizing services trade as it has benefited from liberalizing goods trade.

8. "The Dollar and US Power"
If there is no plausible competitor to the dollar among national currencies, what about the international level? Is there any prospect of an international currency becoming a threat to U.S. dominance? The author, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, examines the future of U.S. dollar, its role, and the U.S. power in the world economy.

9. “Uncertainty and the Economy”
Which aspects of policy are the most important sources of U.S. economic policy uncertainty? The authors analyze the connection between economic uncertainty and U.S. policy in the last four years and investigate whether economic policy uncertainty causes the decline in employment and investment.

ASIA

10. "ASEAN's Future and Asian Integration"
The author, CFR Fellow for Southeast Asia, analyzes the major obstacles facing ASEAN today and offers

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recommendations for both the United States and ASEAN that will enable ASEAN to firmly establish itself as the essential regional organization in Asia.

11. “The Problem with the Pivot”
The author, Professor of Political Science at Boston College, analyzes the policy of U.S. President Barack Obama on a “pivot” toward Asia, a shift in strategy aimed at bolstering the United States' defense ties with countries throughout the region and expanding the U.S. naval presence there, and its effectiveness in protecting U.S. interests in the region.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

Shapiro, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political–Military Affairs, examines U.S. security cooperation as a means of building alliances through security assistance, noting that underestimating its strategic importance could limit the United States and risk global stability in the years ahead.

13. “America on Defense”
Victor Davis Hanson, Commentary, October 2012, 6 pages.
The author, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, examines U.S. defense policy and how reducing the defense budget impacts the country's ability to maintain an orderly international system and provide support in areas of political interest.

14. “Reducing the Global Nuclear Risk”
The authors discuss global nuclear enterprises, focusing on the danger to human life posed by nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants; and provide suggestions for nuclear risk management and nuclear threat reduction.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL POPULATION

15. "Diversity, Discovery, and a Ticking Clock"
The author explores biodiversity crisis and how the human impact on wildlife habitats could result in the extinction of various animal and plant species before they are discovered by taxonomists. Tools for discovering and classifying species in the digital era are also discussed.

16. “Ecosystems on the Brink”
Carl Zimmer, Scientific America, October 2012, 6 pages.
The author discusses the ecological dynamics of food webs and the use of mathematical modeling in ecological analysis, focusing on how mathematical models can reveal connections in complicated food webs and even predict food web flippings and collapses.

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17. “Surge of the Cities”.
The author looks at the boons and banes of the population shift in impoverished regions from rural areas to cities, which has been going on unabated for decades and has great impacts on everything from economy to environment to healthcare.

18. “Woe is Twee.”
The author, a staff writer at *The New Republic*, examines the relationship between the millennial generation and the baby boomer generation, focusing on popular culture related to millennials and the poverty and unemployment that many twentysomethings, including young families, are now facing.

Do different regime types show different degrees of disposition to reduce carbon emissions? The author compares the performance between democracies and autocracies in the context of climate change, focusing on the implications of climate change for actors on the national level and for democracy promoters on the international level.

JOURNALISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The author, Vice President for Research and Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy, explores the historical relationship between media and democracy, and discusses how emergence of digital media is transforming the ways in which public opinion in democratic states is formed and is facilitating the creation of fragmented media environment that may pose a threat to the shared civic arena essential to democracy.

21. “Prisoners of Cable”
*Derek Thompson, The Atlantic*, November 2012, 3 pages.
The author, a senior editor at *The Atlantic*, discusses the cable television industry and cable television networks, focusing on the ways in which technology companies such as Microsoft and Google may change the cable television industry.

22. “The Video Stream Rises”
With many service delivery providers are now expanding their content and channels include YouTube, Dish Network and Comcast, the author, CPA Oppenheim Group, examines the growth of video streaming technology, the companies leading the change, and what streaming means to the industry and the consumer.

23. “Mistaken Nation”
*Paul Farhi, American Journalism Review*, Winter 2012, 6 pages.
With the relentless pressure to move quickly in the era of the Twitter-fueled 24/7 news cycle, it’s probably not surprising that there are so many high-profile journalism errors. The author discusses

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mistakes in journalism and reporting errors by journalists including misspellings, misleading or distorted quotes and omission of information.

EDUCATION

24. “New Player in the College-Rankings Game Mines Alumni Opinions”
The author, a senior writer at The Chronicle, discusses the new U.S. News & World Report periodical’s college ranking in its survey initiative called the Alumni Factor, the methodology of ranking college and universities based on alumni surveys.

25. “Literacy 2.0”
Joyce Riha Linik. Education Digest, November 2012, 5 pages.
The author discusses how literacy is changing in the digital age and the growing influence of technology and its use in teaching students, focusing on methods for teaching students’ literacy skills such as reading and writing and the integration of technology into literacy instruction.

LIBRARY TRENDS

26. “How to Ensure Our Library Systems are Horse-High, Bull-Strong, and Pig-Tight”
The author, Director Library Information Systems and Technical Services at the University of Illinois, offers tips to libraries on improving their discovery system to meet the needs of all types of users efficiently.

27. “Libraries Harness the Power of Streaming Media”
James Careless. Searcher, November 2012, 5 pages.
The author explores streaming media as a means of transmitting audio and video to viewers across the Internet and its benefits to libraries, and discusses strategies for libraries in doing streaming content.