ARTICLE ALERT: OCTOBER 2013

Article ALERT is a monthly synopsis of current analytical articles from major American academic journals compiled in six thematic areas: International Relations, Economics & Trade, Democracy and Human Rights, Global Issues and Environment, Media and Information Technology, and Education and Culture. Full texts of the articles in print are available upon request to IRC subscribers in Thailand only at irc@state.gov.

SPOTLIGHT: ASIAN ECONOMY

1. “Economic Expansion Asian-Style”
   Razeeq Sally. USA Today Magazine, September 2013, 4 pages.
   The author, an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, discusses the long-term convergence between emerging markets - particularly in Asia - and the West, and examines the many challenges that need to be addressed before capitalism reigns supreme in Asian countries.

2. “The Renminbi Bloc Is Here: Asia Down, Rest of the World to Go?”
   The Chinese renminbi is the currencies of 7 out of 10 countries in East Asia region. The authors examine the prospects for the renminbi bloc to move beyond Asia, based on a comparison of the renminbi’s situation today and that of the Japanese yen in the early 1990s.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

3. “Economic Liberalism in Illiberal Regimes: Authoritarian Variation and the Political Economy of Trade”
   Do authoritarian regimes behave similarly to one another with regard to their trade policies? The authors examine the relationship between large-selectorate autocracies and free trade, and explore the effects of authoritarian variation on national trade policies.
4. "Five Years after the Crash: What Americans Think about Wall Street, Banks, Business, and Free Enterprise"
Have Americans changed how they think about the American economic system since the crisis? The authors examine public opinion about the financial crisis as well as attitudes about Wall Street and, separately, banks and business, comparing hundreds of questions asked by major pollsters.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD ASIA

5. “American Power, East Asian Regionalism and Emerging Powers: In or Against Empire?”
James Parisot. Third World Quarterly, August 2013, 16 pages.
Is world power shifting towards East Asia, pushing global capitalism closer to an age in which China ‘rules the world’? Is U.S. hegemony in ‘terminal decline’, or are we still living in an epoch of U.S. hegemony as the United States continues to function as an ‘indispensable nation’? The author discusses a new perspective on these questions.

Michael McDevitt. American Foreign Policy Interests, July/August 2013, 13 pages.
The author, a senior fellow at the Center for Naval Analyses Strategic Studies, analyses the current tension in South China Sea issues and how the United States could become involved in a crisis, focusing on whether current policies are likely to achieve the Obama administration’s objectives of a rules-based regime in the South China Sea that would eliminate tension and preserve long-term regional stability.

DEMOCRACY

The author explores party systems in East Asia and how the developmental state significantly shapes the institutionalization of political parties in the region.

The author examines the performance of democratic allies in deterring aggression against their partners and identifies the conditions under which democratic states effectively deter, or fail to deter, militarized actions against their allies.
HUMAN RIGHTS

When and why would states bind themselves in a legal process and how such processes influence state conduct? The authors examine normative indicators in measuring governments’ consent to, promotion of, and compliance with international laws prohibiting genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other norms constituting the International Criminal Court.

Carl Conradi. Third World Quarterly, August 2013, 18 pages.
The author examines the connections between human trafficking and child soldiering as the two worst forms of child labor, and provides an overview of the existing data concerning child trafficking and child soldiering and identifies the potential linkages between them.

WORLD AFFAIRS

11. “Stealth Multilateralism”
The author, a Professor of Law School at the University of California at Irvine, discusses the challenges President Obama is facing with the U.S. Senate’s constant rejection of multilateral treaties, the impact it has on global trade, and how the Senate's pattern of rejection harms the United States now more than ever.

12. “The Age of Nationalism”
The author, a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, discusses the role of nationalism as a determining factor in international relations and the global balance of power in the post-Cold War era, the Westphalian order of European states as a multipolar balance of power, and the role of nationalism in Asia, Europe, and Russia.

James A. Baker III. The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs, Winter 2013, 6 pages
Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker discusses his years of experience in government and addresses some of the key economic, diplomatic, and political challenges facing the United States as President Obama enters a second term in office.
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

The authors discuss aspects of water supply and water security, and the need for an interdisciplinary
approach to climate change, focusing on the potential roles for both the U.S. armed forces and civilian
research communities ensuring water security.

15. “A Radical Future for Nanotechnology”
The author, known as “the founding father of nanotechnology,” discusses the development of
nanotechnology and atomically-precise manufacturing and its impact on industrial production and
information technologies.

HEALTH

16. “Could Yoga Be the Answer?”
Teresa Anne Power. *USA Today Magazine*, September 2013, 3 pages.
The author discusses the increasing rates of obesity and its causes, focusing on how to combat
childhood obesity and why the practice of yoga could be the answer.

17. “The Amazing Multimillion-Year History of Processed Food”
Civilizations have been processing food every since humans learned how to cook, preserve, ferment,
freeze, dry, or extract. The author provides historical overviews of several processed foods including
bread, beer, and cheese.

18. “Long Live the Humans”
The author investigates longevity in humans and factors contributing to human life spans, and discusses
research that is yielding clues to why the life span of Homo Sapiens exceeds that of other primates.

JOURNALISM

19. “The 'Awayness' Problem”
The author discusses the philosophy of journalism, focusing on civic journalism and how it can present
immediacy to events that occur outside of daily experience and the role of journalism in American
culture and history.

Andrew Ferguson. *Commentary*, September 2013, 2 pages.
The author, a senior editor at the *Weekly Standard*, discusses the racial and gender composition of U.S.
media, citing a report from the newspaper "Washington Post" that suggested the White House press
corps lacked racial diversity.
EDUCATION

21. “Internationalization Hits Some Bumps, at Home and Abroad”
The author, an editor of the Chronicle’s international section, discusses two issues that dominated international education in 2013: a potential slowdown in the flow of foreign students to the United States, and a heated debate over whether global partnerships threaten academic freedom.

22. “Machine Learning”
Seth Fletcher. Scientific American, August 2013, 7 pages.
The author, an editor at Scientific American magazine, explores how schools and universities in the United States are embracing technology that tailors content to students’ abilities and takes teachers out of the lecturing business. But is it an improvement?

23. “In a Time of Experimentation: Excitement and Dread”
The author discusses a 2013 report and charts on technology in higher education, including college students' use of social media, learning-management systems, and educational technology as well as massive open online courses (MOOCs), college teachers' attitudes toward online learning, and college-corporate partnerships.

LIBRARY TRENDS

24. “Library Value in the Developing World”
Nell McCreadie. SAGE, August 2013, 28 pages.
The author analyzes how developing country libraries recognize the importance of evaluating the level of support and service they provide, and discusses how librarians can better support research and teaching staff beyond traditional parameters.

25. “Going to the Cloud vs Doing It In-House”
The authors examine the potential of cloud computing to revolutionize library information technology (IT) and the increasing importance of an adaptive IT services evaluation strategy that can change and be responsive to the speed with which technology evolves, regardless of whether the library goes in-house or cloud-based.

26. “7 Easy Steps to Help You Measure Up”
The author discusses a library’s measurement framework that applies to everything from library evaluation to professional fulfillment, offering a 7-step guideline which helps determine what to focus on, including the need to understand the context under which one operates.