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INFO-ALERT brings to your attention a selection of abstracts of current articles and new materials from American publications on current political, economic, social issues and trends in the United States. These materials are available upon request from the **Information Resource Center**.

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POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. THE UNITED STATES IN THE NEW ASIA

Evan A. Feigenbaum and Robert A. Manning

Council on Foreign Relations Special Report No. 50, November 2009, 53 pages

The authors examine Asia's regional architecture and its implication for the United States, and identify shortcomings in the region's existing multilateral landscape. Six principles for U.S. policy toward Asia as a whole, and particularly policies toward Northeast and Southeast Asia are outlined.

2. THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND U.S. POLICY IN ASIA

Robert Sutter

Contemporary Southeast Asia, August 2009, 28 pages

Robert Sutter, a Visiting Professor of Asian Studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, analyzes salient strengths and weaknesses of the United States' policy in Asia at the start of the Obama administration, and examines the new policy positions and approaches to key U.S. allies in the region and Asian regional organizations.

3. OBAMA'S YEAR ONE

Robert Kagan, et al.

World Affairs, Winter 2010, 22 pages

In this article, three authors -- Robert Kagan, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Charles Lane, an editorial writer for the Washington Post, and Ed Pilkington, a New York bureau chief of the Guardian -- evaluate the Obama administration after a year in the office, and offer different views on Obama's handling of foreign policy.

4. **PAX AMERICANA AND THE RISING POWERS**

Rajan Menon

Current History, November 2009, 8 pages

Rajan Menon, Professor of International Relations at Lehigh University, looks at the debate on unipolarity versus multipolarity with its arguments about changes in the distribution of global output, focusing on a future of U.S. dominance, and the possibility of its being equaled or bypassed by other rising powers. The extent to which the United States should and will remain the indispensable nation in world affairs is also examined.

5. **AGAINST TRANSPARENCY**

Lawrence Lessig

The New Republic, October 21, 2009, 8 pages

There is no questioning the good that transparency creates across a wide range of contexts, particularly government. But does it have negative effects as well? Lawrence Lessig, Director of Harvard's Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, examines transparency in politics and government, focusing on the impact of making all possible information relevant to decision-making available to the public.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

6. **AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ASIA**

Marcus Noland

Asian Economic Policy Review, December 2009, 19 pages

The United States and Asia share an enormous stake in each others' continuing prosperity. The author discusses the long-term challenges faced by the Obama administration in organizing American economic diplomacy toward Asia, as well as the challenges of managing globalization and maintaining the open international economic order that has served American and Asian interests for decades already.

7. **REBALANCING GROWTH IN ASIA**

Eswar Prasad

Finance & Development, December 2009, 4 pages

Eswar Prasad, a senior professor of trade policy at Cornell University, discusses how emerging Asian markets can improve their economic welfare and rebalance economic growth in the region. He focuses on growth patterns in the major Asian emerging markets - China, India, Indonesia, Korea, and Thailand.

8. **THE IMPACT OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS ON EMERGING ASIA**

Morris Goldstein and Daniel Xie

Working Paper 09-11, October 2009, 47 pages

The authors analyze how the global financial crisis has impacted Asia, and identify key characteristics that have made Asian economies more or less vulnerable to a transmission of crises from the advanced economies.

9. **ISSUES IN TRADE AND PROTECTIONISM**

Dean Baker

Center for Economic and Policy Research, November 2009, 10 pages

There is widespread concern that the United States and the rest of the world are descending into a round of protectionism and towards a trade war reminiscent of what the world experienced in the Great Depression. Dean Baker, Co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, explores the short and long-term prospects for U.S. trade and how it will affect U.S. trading partners.

10. **ANTICIPATING THE NEXT CRISIS**

Atish R. Ghosh, et al.

Finance & Development, September 2009, 3 pages

The current global financial turmoil has rekindled the interest of both policymakers and the general public in early warning systems (EWS) to anticipate future financial crises. But what alarms can such systems realistically sound? How would they work? And would they be effective? In this article, a group of IMF analysts discuss the new financial alarming systems and its challenges.

11. **WHO WILL SUSTAIN GLOBALIZATION?**

Adam S. Posen

Current History, November 2009, 6 pages

Adam Posen, a Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, examines the U.S. role and support for global economic integration in the wake of the global financial crisis of 2008-2009. He also discusses the possibility of a backlash in Western countries as well as ways to manage it.

SOCIAL ISSUES & VALUES, EDUCATION & THE ARTS

12. **THE FUTURE OF READING**

Tom Peters

Library Journal, November 1, 2009, 5 pages

Tom Peters, CEO of TAP Information Services, examines the future of reading and changing reading habits in the 21st century with a focus on social and technological developments that have affected the practice of reading and literacy, including television and comic books. The importance of libraries to the future of reading is discussed.

13. **GOOGLE MAPPING YOUR COMMUNITY**

Bob Coulter

Connect Magazine, September/October 2009, 2 pages

Bob Coulter, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden's Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, discusses the role of technology in education, and how students can develop skills in critical analysis as well as use online tools such as Google Maps to offer tactful feedback.

14. **THE LONG WAY HOME**

Paul Theroux

Smithsonian, September 2009, 8 pages

The master travel writer presents a personal narrative that explores his own experience of traveling across the United States beginning in Los Angeles, California, and ending in his home of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Along the way, he makes many of the iconic stops of the American road trip -- the Las Vegas strip, the Red Rocks of Arizona, the memorial to victims of the Oklahoma City terrorist attack, and the blues bars on Memphis' Beale Street.

15. **GETTING PLACES**

Jim Mathews and Mark Wagler

Connect Magazine, September/October 2009, 4 pages

The authors discuss the use of mobile media to increase place-based learning in the United States and how students can use technology, such as electronic mail and web searches, in their field research and investigations.

16. **WHEN BOOKS ARE YOUR FRIENDS**

Daniel Chudnov

Computers in Libraries, November/December 2009, 3 pages

Daniel Chudnov, Information Technology Specialist of the Office of Strategic Initiatives at the Library of Congress, discusses how to improve the process of digitizing libraries, citing the need to keep updated on processes and the difficulties involved, especially when it comes to tracking real-time changes and improvements.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

17. **POLITICAL COMMUNICATION -- OLD AND NEW MEDIA RELATIONSHIPS**

Michael Gurevitch, Stephen Coleman and Jay G. Blumler

Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, September 2009, 18 pages

Three communication experts from the University of Maryland's Phillip Merrill College of Journalism and University of Leeds examine the way in which television changed the political landscape and analyze how far new media, such as the Internet, are displacing television or reconfiguring the political communications ecology. Opportunities and challenges facing media producers, politicians, and citizens also are explored.

18. **TEN CRITICAL TRENDS FOR CYBERSECURITY**

Marvin J. Cetron and Owen Davies

The Futurist, September/October 2009, 10 pages

Technological advances and greater connectivity may be making information systems less rather than more secure. A special panel of military, intelligence, and forecasting experts examine the ten most significant trends that will shape the future of cybersecurity.

19. **IS THE FOREIGN NEWS BUREAU PART OF THE PAST?**

Diana Russo

Global Journalist, Fall 2009, 8 pages

Despite increasing globalization of the economy and issues such as global warming and international terrorism, news outlets continue to shutter foreign bureaus and slash foreign coverage at an alarming rate. Diana Russo, a professor of journalism at Clarke College, Iowa, discusses the challenge foreign correspondents are now facing.

20. **REVOLUTION IN A BOX**

Charles Kenny

Foreign Policy, November/December 2009, 7 pages

The rapid proliferation of television sets, along with digital and satellite channels around the globe, has made television a powerful force for shrinking the emotional distance between peoples within and between countries. Charles Kenny, a Development Economist, examines the growth of global television access, and its impact on social change and governance.