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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 WORLD STILL NEEDS A LEADER**

Leslie H. Gelb

**Current History**, November 2009, 3 pages

Leslie Gelb, President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, examines America's role in the new world -- one in which no great power dominates world politics the same way it has throughout history. A view into how power is distributed in the 21st century world and how U.S. leaders can use their power effectively is also provided.

### **2. A ROAD MAP FOR ASIAN-PACIFIC SECURITY**

Gary J. Schmitt

**American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research Outlook Series#3**,  
December 2009, 10 pages

Gary Schmitt, Director of the Program on Advanced Strategic Studies at the American Enterprise Institute, examines the Obama administration's foreign policy approach to Asia and presents a road map for current and future U.S. policy, focusing on the strategic needs of the United States to maximize its influence in the region.

3. **RESTRAINING ORDER FOR STRATEGIC MODESTY**

Harvey M. Sapolsky, et al.  
*World Affairs*, Fall 2009, 11 pages

Though the Cold War is long over, there still exists the temptation of and some encouragement for U.S. intervention in post–Cold War conflicts. However, the United States may be better off pursuing a different grand strategy moving forward -- one of restraint. Harvey Sapolsky, Professor of Public Policy and Organization at MIT, explains why such an approach would offer an opportunity to reinvigorate the foundations of America's strength, while at the same time meet the challenges of globalization and terrorism.

4. **ENEMIES INTO FRIENDS**

Charles A. Kupchan  
*Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2010, 15 pages

During his first year in office, U.S. President Barack Obama made engagement with U.S. adversaries one of his administration's priorities. Skeptics insist that this strategy is appeasement by another name. But the historical record makes clear that Obama is on the right track: reaching out to adversaries is an essential start to rapprochement.

5. **INDIA'S RISE, AMERICA'S INTEREST**

Evan A. Feigenbaum  
*Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2010, 16 pages

The United States and India no longer face any of the principal obstacles that once constrained U.S.-Indian cooperation. But the future scope of their relationship is uncertain. It will depend on whether India chooses to align with the United States and whether it sustains its own economic and social changes, and on what policies Washington pursues in those areas that bear heavily on Indian interests.

6. **GOOD START, LONG ROAD**

Joseph S. Nye  
*The American Interest*, January/February 2010, 2 pages

Joseph Nye, University Distinguished Service Professor at Harvard University, discusses the dilemma in world affairs faced by the Obama administration, as well as looks at how to manage the Bush administration's legacy and create his own vision of how Americans should deal with the world.

7. **THE FORGOTTEN FRONT**

Christopher S. Bond and Lewis M. Simons  
*Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2009, 12 pages

The authors examine why U.S. policymakers can no longer afford to ignore Southeast Asia, opining instead that they should concentrate efforts there, with a particular focus on what the United States should do to prevent terrorism and alleviate poverty in the region.

8. **SMARTER DEMOCRACY PROMOTION**

Howard J. Wiarda

*American Foreign Policy Interests*, September 2009, 5 pages

Howard Wiarda, Dean Rusk Professor of International Relations and the founding head of the Department of International Affairs at the University of Georgia, examines democracy promotion as an instrument of foreign policy. Suggestions about advocating for states that have few prospects of becoming democracies, as well as for states that possess the prerequisites of democracy are presented.

9. **CHANGING NORTH KOREA**

Andrei Lankov

*Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2009, 11 pages

The North Korean nuclear problem will be solved not by outside forces but by North Koreans forcing the regime in Pyongyang to change fundamentally. The United States can encourage this by exposing North Koreans to the truth about their impoverishment and about the prosperity of their South Korean cousins and billions of others worldwide.

10. **NEW TOOLS FOR OLD TRAUMAS: USING 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY TO COMBAT HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES**

Sarah K. Dreier and William F. Schulz

*Center for American Progress*, October 2009, 40 pages

Technological advances are having a major impact on the struggle for civil and political rights, yet there are still significant barriers for using many of these technologies to promote a human rights agenda. The authors describe ways in which new technologies are revolutionizing human rights work and make recommendations for how the U.S. government can play a leadership role in promoting the nexus between technology and human rights.

**ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE**

11. **GLOBALIZATION: CURSE OR CURE?**

Jagadeesh Gokhale

*Policy Analysis #659*, February 1, 2010, 24 pages

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? Jagadeesh Gokhale, 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.

12. **FORTIFYING THE FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS**

Barry Eichengreen

*Current History*, January 2010, 7 pages

Barry Eichengreen, Professor of Economics and Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, discusses strategies to strengthen the global financial architecture so as to prevent a recurrence of the kind of crisis the world suffered in late 2008.

13. **CLIMATE SHOCKS AND EXPORTS**

Benjamin F. Jones and Benjamin A. Olken

*National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 15711*, January 2010, 12 pages

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.

14. **THE TRANSFORMATION OF WORLD TRADE**

Uri Dadush and Shimelse Ali

*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Policy Outlook*, February 2010, 20 pages

The authors look 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.

**SOCIAL ISSUES & VALUES, EDUCATION & THE ARTS**

15. **TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY SKILLS IN EVERYDAY TEACHING**

Wayne Thornes

*Connect Magazine*, January/February 2010, 3 pages

What is 21st-century learning and what does it mean for teaching? The author, a curriculum and technology integration specialist, discusses the challenges of teaching 21st-century skills in his school in Tucson, Arizona, through the adoption of a 21st-century learning framework for implementation across the curriculum.

16. **INCORPORATING EDUCATION FOR CIVIC AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INTO THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM**

Jan R. Liss and Ariane Liazos

*Change*, January/February 2010, 6 pages

Project Pericles supports faculty members in developing, teaching, and evaluating courses that incorporate civic engagement in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

17. **“IMPORTANT, IF TRUE”: GRADUATE EDUCATION WILL DRIVE AMERICA’S FUTURE PROSPERITY**

Debra W. Stewart

**Change**, January/February 2010,

America’s economic and social prosperity depends on nurturing and improving graduate programs, and both universities and policy makers need to act in some very specific ways to secure their future success.

18. **WHAT MAKES A GREAT TEACHER?**

Amanda Ripley

**The Atlantic**, January/February 2010, 8 pages

According to the author, some teachers are an inspiration, capable of moving students’ grade levels ahead of their classmates, while other teachers are not. Amanda Ripley, a *TIME* Magazine contributor, discusses what it takes to be a great teacher.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

19. **THE RECONSTRUCTION OF AMERICAN JOURNALISM**

Leonard Jr. Downie and Michael Schudson

**Columbia Journalism Review**, November/December 2009, 24 pages

Leonard Downie, former executive editor of *The Washington Post* and Michael Schudson, a Professor of Communication at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism, provide a view into the function of the American press and the future of “accountability” journalism, which is viewed as a public service, during this time of crisis in news media. Six recommendations for the support of credible, independent and original news reporting are offered.

20. **CIRCULATION BOOST?**

Will Skowronski

**American Journalism Review**, June/July 2009, 2 pages

The author discusses the electronic publishing of newspapers and how it may help maintain subscription-based circulation, noting that technological innovations have made it easier to replicate the design and format of print newspapers on the Internet.

21. **ARE NEXT-GENERATION JOURNALISTS THE FUTURE FOR A PROFESSION IN TRANSITION?**

Christopher Connell

**Carnegie Reporter**, Fall 2009, 13 pages

Christopher Connell, an independent journalist, introduces News21, a multi-million-dollar experiment by Carnegie Corporation of New York and the James S. and John L. Knight Foundation that looks to determine if a new crop of journalists can awaken interest in news where older and more experienced journalists have failed.

22. **THE WORLD IS DIGITAL**

Daniel Castro and Scott Andes

***Internet Computing***, November/December 2009, 5 pages

The transition to a digital and connected world disrupts economies and creates new challenges, but it can also lead to economic growth and improvements in quality of life. How should policymakers respond? The authors discuss the current debates on the impact of IT-driven globalization and offer the key lessons policymakers should learn from these debates.

23. **TAKE A STAND**

Brent Cunningham

***Columbia Journalism Review***, September/October 2009, 8 pages

According to Brent Cunningham, managing editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review*, traditional journalism is little more than a record keeper for the benefit of influential people and organizations who are rarely subject to critical scrutiny. Calling on the press to take on a new mission of being true arbiters of a nation's discourse raises questions as to whether the press have the will and the means to do so.