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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. **OBAMA'S NEXT THREE YEARS**

John R. Bolton

Commentary, January 2010, 5 pages

Where is Barack Obama's foreign policy headed? John Bolton, a Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, discusses the face of U.S. President Barack Obama's foreign policy over the next three years. The three policy areas that will allow Obama to showcase core characteristics of his worldview are analyzed.

2. **THE UNITED STATES AND ASIA IN 2009: PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND STRATEGIC CONTINUITY**

François Godement

Asian Survey, January/February 2010, 17 pages

In crafting his Asia policy, President Barack Obama needs to find a balance between continuing the policies of his predecessor and keeping his public promise of change. The author examines public policy, strategic continuity and U.S. relations with Asia during Obama's first year of presidency.

3. **THE NEW SCHIZOPHRENIA: ASIA BETWEEN INTEGRATION AND ISOLATION**

Joshua Kurlantzick

Current History, January 2010, 7 pages

Joshua Kurlantzick, a Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, discusses trends towards cultural, economic and political cooperation among Asian nations, as well as looks at the rising nationalist sentiment in the region.

4. **WHY DEMOCRACY NEEDS A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD**

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way
Journal of Democracy, January 2010, 12 pages

Steven Levitsky, Professor of Government at Harvard University and Lucan A. Way, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto, discuss the importance of a level playing field for political competition and global efforts at democratization. They focus on the ways in which multiparty elections can be unfairly manipulated by ruling parties wishing to maintain their power by unscrupulous means.

5. **POWERPLAY: ORIGINS OF THE U.S. ALLIANCE SYSTEM IN ASIA**

Victor D. Cha
International Security, Winter 2009/10, 39 pages

Why did the United States pursue a network of bilateral alliances in East Asia following the end of World War II rather than the multilateral security alliances it preferred in Europe, Southeast Asia, and the South Pacific? Using the "power play" theory, Victor Cha, D.S. Song Professor of Government and Asian Studies at the Georgetown University and Senior Adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, examines U.S. strategy in Asia at the end of World War II.

6. **TRANSITIONS TO THE RULE OF LAW**

Francis Fukuyama
Journal of Democracy, January 2010, 12 pages

Francis Fukuyama, International Political Economy Professor at the John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, discusses the global history of the rule of law in the context of democratization efforts. He compares the development of legal traditions in various cultures and examines the ways in which such traditions helped to counteract authoritarian trends.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

7. **POWER SHIFT: HOW THE WEST CAN ADAPT AND THRIVE IN AN ASIAN CENTURY**

Ashley J. Tellis
Asia Paper Series, January 2010, 12 pages

How can the United States sustain an economic system that produces great benefits for itself and others while having the simultaneous effect of fueling the growth of what could be its most significant geopolitical rival over time? Ashley Tellis, Senior Associate of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, examines the relative decline of American power in the international economy while also looking at the rapid Asian economic growth that drives the current expectations that the coming era will be an Asian century.

8. **HOW AMERICA CAN RISE AGAIN**

James Fallows
The Atlantic, January/February 2010, 14 pages

Despite a year of economic downturn, James Fallows, a correspondent with *The Atlantic*, still believes that the U.S. possesses a number of strong forces that prevent it from an irreversible decline. He discusses the cycle of crisis and renewal in America, focusing on what the United States should or should not concern itself.

9. **THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND DEMOCRACY: A YEAR LATER**

Zachary Davis and Thomas Carothers

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Web Commentary, March 2010, 3 pages

Will struggling democracies fall under the weight of the recession? Zachary Davis, Junior Fellow in the Democracy and Rule of Law Program, and Thomas Carothers, Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace examine the relationship between a global recession and democratic governments.

10. **THE WORLD ORDER IN 2050**

Uri Dadush and Bennett Stancil

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Policy Outlook, February 2010, 31 pages

The rise of China, India, and other emerging markets has been anticipated for years by numerous economists, and the recent global recession has only accelerated this trend. The authors offer insight into the implications of this changing economic landscape for economic growth through 2050.

11. **THE CRASH OF '08**

Laurence Whitehead

Journal of Democracy, January 2010, 12 pages

The author analyzes the global financial crisis which began in 2008, focusing on the relationship between democracy and the regulatory institutions that implement economic policies. The macroeconomic trends related to the crisis are also explored.

SOCIAL ISSUES & VALUES, EDUCATION & THE ARTS

12. **LITERARY LEARNING IN THE HYPERDIGITAL AGE**

Mark Bauerlein

The Futurist, January/February 2010, 2 pages

Will the modern era of learning change the way of teaching? Will papers, pens or pencils be replaced with learning interfaces and other gadgets? Mark Bauerlein, Professor of English at Emory University, looks at the educational forecast regarding literary learning in this hyper-digital age in the United States.

13. **HIGHER EDUCATION MIGRATES TO YOUTUBE AND SOCIAL NETWORKS**

Marilyn Gilroy

The Education Digest, March 2010, 5 pages

Marilyn Gilroy, a teacher at Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey, discusses how the creation of YouTubeEDU, an education section on the video sharing website YouTube, is changing higher education in the United States.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

14. THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET

Janna Quitney Anderson and Lee Rainie

Pew Internet & American Life Project, February 19, 2010, 48 pages

This survey examines the future of the Internet-connected world over the next 10 years and the likely innovation that will occur, focusing on eliciting observations on the likely impact and influence of the Internet.

15. CYBER WARRIORS

James Fallows

The Atlantic, March 2010, 5 pages

James Fallows, a correspondent with *The Atlantic*, discusses the risk of cyber attack against the United States through the internet, focusing on the non-military use of cyber warfare tactics and electronic intelligence for economic and political gains.

16. MAN OF THE WORLD

James McGrath Morris

The Wilson Quarterly, Winter 2010, 6 pages

Joseph Pulitzer, the pioneering newspaper reporter, publisher and sponsor of the high-minded Pulitzer Prizes whose taste for sensationalism and sense of public service propelled American journalism into the modern era, is profiled in this article written by the author of *Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power*.

17. TEACHING WITH TWITTER

Jeffrey R. Young

The Education Digest, March 2010, 4 pages

Jeffrey Young, a senior writer for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, discusses how to use online social microblogs to change classroom dynamics. A classroom software called "Hotseat," in which students enter questions from their cell phones or laptops using Twitter or the social networking page Facebook, is also introduced.

18. WHY MAGIC BULLETS DON'T WORK

David F. Feldon

Change, March/April 2010, 7 pages

David Feldon, an Assistant Professor of STEM education and educational psychology at the University of Virginia, discusses the trends and strategies in teaching and learning. The role of Cognitive Load Theory (CLT) in linking effective lectures and technology is also discussed, as is the need for advance planning and continuous monitoring of students' progress to apply CLT in a course.