



February 2008

**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. GLOBAL CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP**

Klaus Schwab

*Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2008, 12 pages

Global corporate citizenship means that companies must not only be engaged with stakeholders but be stakeholders themselves, alongside governments and civil society. Since companies depend on global development, which in turn relies on stability and increased prosperity, it is in their direct interest to help improve the state of the world, writes Klaus Schwab, Executive Chair of the World Economic Forum.

#### **2. HOW CAPITALISM IS KILLING DEMOCRACY**

Robert B. Reich

*Foreign Policy*, September/October 2007, 5 pages

Free markets were supposed to lead to free societies. Instead, today's supercharged global economy is eroding the power of the people in democracies around the globe. Welcome to a world where the bottom line trumps the common good and government takes a back seat to big business, according to Robert Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, who is now a Professor of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley.

#### **3. THE RISE OF CHINA AND THE FUTURE OF THE WEST**

G. John Ikenberry

*Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2008, 15 pages

China's rise will inevitably bring the United States' unipolar moment to an end. But that does not necessarily mean a violent power struggle or the overthrow of the Western system. The U.S.-led international order can remain dominant even while integrating a more powerful China – but only if Washington sets about strengthening that liberal order now, writes John Ikenberry, Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University.

4. **CAN THE WAR ON TERROR BE WON?**

Philip H. Gordon

*Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2007, 14 pages

The War on Terror can be won, according to Philip Gordon, Senior Fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution, but only if U.S. officials start to think clearly about what success in the war on terror would actually look like. Victory will come only when Washington succeeds in discrediting the terrorists' ideology and undermining their support. These achievements, in turn, will require accepting that the terrorist threat can never be eradicated completely and that acting as though it can will only make the situation worse.

5. **WINNING ASIA**

Victor D. Cha

*Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2007, 16 pages

Pundits, academics, and Bush bashers insist that the United States is losing ground in Asia, but they are wrong, writes Victor Cha, Professor and Director of Asian Studies at Georgetown University. The Bush administration's Asia policy has been an unheralded success. Improved relations with China, stronger U.S.-Japanese cooperation, North Korea's gradual nuclear disarmament, and expanding regional alliances have made Asia more prosperous and secure than it has been in decades.

6. **YOUTH VOTE 2008**

Kristen Oshyn and Tova Andrea Wang

*The Century Foundation Issue Brief*, September 4, 2007, 14 pages

Election 2008 has the potential to be momentous for the youth vote. This brief explores the evolution of the youth vote and its potential impact on the 2008 election. It looks at how campaigns and other organizations are appealing to young voters, capitalizing on new tools, and re-examining old methods.

7. **ASSESSING AMERICAN ASIA POLICY**

Lowell Dittmer

*Asian Survey*, July/August 2007, 15 pages

Lowell Dittmer, Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, argues that U.S. policy in Asia has been overshadowed by the advent of terrorist acts perpetrated by terrorist elements in the Middle East. Asia, he opines, should still be one of the top priorities for U.S. foreign policy, despite the Middle East threat. Even more important is how the United States fares in the ongoing contest for Asian leadership.

8. **THE BIG TEN: THE CASE FOR PRAGMATIC IDEALISM**

James A. Baker, III

*The National Interest*, September/October 2007, 6 pages

James Baker, III, former Secretary of the U.S. Treasury and Secretary of State, outlines ten maxims to guide policymakers in advancing both U.S. interests and values, while at the same time avoiding strategic overreach. He calls his proposal "pragmatic idealism," a foreign policy firmly grounded in values that also appreciates the complexity of the real world.

9. **END OF DREAMS, RETURN OF HISTORY**

Robert Kagan

*Policy Review*, August/September 2007, 15 pages

People still cling to a vision of a new kind of post-Cold War international order, in which ideological conflicts melt away and cultures intermingle through increasingly free commerce and communications. That vision has yet to become reality. Competition between liberalism and absolutism has reemerged with the nations of the world increasingly lining up, as in the past, along ideological lines. Robert Kagan, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, explains how the United States will deal with such a world.

**ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE**

10. **THE WORLD'S BIGGEST MYTH**

Pankaj Ghemawat

*Foreign Policy*, November/December 2007, 4 pages

Some believe globalization is a force for good. Others see it as a global curse. The two sides agree on almost nothing, except that globalization leads to increased market share for fewer players. In fact, both sides could not be more wrong, according to Pankaj Ghemawat, Professor of Global Strategy at IESE Business School, and Josefina Chua Tiampo, Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School.

11. **THE FOUR MODELS OF CORPORATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Robert C. Wolcott, Michael J. Lippitz

*MIT Sloan Management Review*, Fall 2007, 11 pages

The authors, with the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, studied approximately 30 corporations to determine how established organizations strive to create new businesses, also known as corporate entrepreneurship. The authors came up with four different models, ranging from the opportunist model, in which the company has no deliberate approach but relies on grassroots efforts, to the producer model, in which a full service group has a mandate for corporate entrepreneurship established and supported by the company. Regardless of which of the four models is chosen, the authors argue that corporate entrepreneurship needs to be nurtured and managed as a "strategic, deliberate act."

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

12. **CLICKERS IN THE CLASSROOM: AN ACTIVE LEARNING APPROACH**

Margie Martyn

*Educause Quarterly*, Number 2, 2007, 4 pages

Clickers, or student response systems, are a technology used to promote active learning. Most research has shown that students who use clickers in the classroom become more engaged and enjoy using them. Although learning outcomes are higher when using clickers, the question is whether the clickers or the active learning pedagogies are the cause. Margie Martyn, Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science Department at the Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, compares learning outcomes resulting from the use of clickers versus another active learning method -- class discussion.

13. **THE LOST ART OF COOPERATION**

Benjamin R. Barber

*The Wilson Quarterly*, Autumn 2007, 6 pages

The article discusses the devaluing of cooperation in the face of increasingly competitive attitudes in all aspects of American life. Cooperation, according to Benjamin Barber, Professor of Civil Society at the University of Maryland, has been as much an aspect of the heritage of the United States as has competition. But he believes Americans have lost an appreciation of and ability to engage in cooperative enterprises with the ascendancy of competitive market capitalism.

14. **IT'S A HIP-HOP WORLD**

Jeff Chang

*Foreign Policy*, November/December 2007, 8 pages

Rap music has long been considered a form of resistance against authority. Boosted by the commercialization of the music industry, that message has proven its appeal to youth all around the world. Now, from Shanghai to Nairobi to Sao Paulo, hip-hop is evolving into a truly global art of communication.

15. **A WOMAN'S WORLD**

Sara Sklaroff

*The Wilson Quarterly*, Summer 2007, 4 pages

This article forecasts what American life will look like in an increasingly female society. College campuses, medical schools, and most traditionally male dominated professions all reflect gender shifts, and this article looks to history for possible precedents of matriarchy.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

16. **WHO ARE WE?**

William Powers

*National Journal*, July 7, 2007, 1 page

According to the author, journalism should not be about the journalists, but instead about the stories they write. However, changes in both the culture and technology of news are undermining this conventional wisdom. The author discusses the changing state of journalism practices in the United States.

17. **HOW THE MEDIA SHAPE ELECTIONS**

Dotty Lyncy

*America*, October 22, 2007, 4 pages

Dotty Lyncy, an Executive in Residence at the School of Communications at American University, Washington, D.C., examines how media coverage affects elections in the United States.

18. **FOUND IN (MY) SPACE**

Jason Spencer

*American Journalism Review*, October/November 2007, 4 pages

This article examines the role of social networking web sites such as MySpace and Facebook in contemporary journalism. As the popularity of these sites grows, so does their potential as virtual background tools. Jason Spencer, a reporter for the Herald-Journal in Spartanburg, South Carolina, suggests some tips for journalists when using social networking sites in their reporting.