

Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Islamabad

AIRC ALERT

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What's New

SPORTS: Striving for Excellence

Many foreign sports celebrities playing in the United States are active in sports diplomacy or work on behalf of their native countries.

America's sports reflect the increasingly international character of the global sports community. Many American sports stars are immigrants, like basketball star Dikembe Mutombo, or children of immigrants, like champion figure skater Michelle Kwan, whose Chinese parents emigrated from Hong Kong. Many are citizens of other countries and compete in the Olympics or other sports events for their countries of origin. For more on sports in America, please visit America.gov pages at: <http://amlife.america.gov/amlife/sports/index.html>

2-1/H

THE GREENING OF U.S. CORPORATIONS

U.S. Department of State, Volume 13, Number 3, March 2008.

“This issue of eJournal USA delves into what those familiar with the history of the environmental movement in the United States might see as a surprising trend — the way U.S. corporations in recent years have embraced environmentally friendly ways of doing business. What prompts a corporation to “go green”? “We looked across our company and recognized that a focus on environmental technology could be a big business initiative for the company,” said Jeffrey Immelt, the chief executive of General Electric, a leader in this field. “The concept we worked on at the time was this notion that green is green.” So the environment has become a business opportunity, a chance to increase profits, the core of any business enterprise.”



2-2/H

THE OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

U.S. Department of State, Volume 13, Number 4, April 2008.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0408.html>

The Olympic Games remind us of certain universal human values. Every Olympian has a story that echoes the shared human struggle for excellence and our devotion to pursue purpose in life. In this issue of eJournal USA, we celebrate the Olympics through the individual experiences and insights of athletes who share their memories of the Olympic Experience. As the Olympic Games approach in the weeks ahead, some nations and competitors will raise their hopes for victories, and a drumbeat will pound for those coveted medals. It reminds that the true meaning of the Olympic Games is not the medals, but our shared human struggle for excellence and our devotion to pursue purpose in life. In a sense each Olympic athlete's story is every athlete's story. The Games remind us of certain universal human values – the need for persistence and tenacity in the pursuit of excellence, acceptance and dignity in the face of failure.



U.S.— PAKISTAN RELATIONS

2-3/UP

LEVERAGE AND LARGESSE: Pakistan's post-9/11 partnership with America

By Robert Hathaway

Contemporary South Asia, Vol. 16, No. 1, March 2008, pp. 11-24.

Notwithstanding the close partnership between Washington and Islamabad that has developed over the past half-dozen years, Pakistan today is viewed by Americans as a country inimical to the interests and values of the United States. This article seeks to gauge the impact of Pakistan's close ties with Washington since 9/11. In important respects, the partnership has brought the government of Pervez Musharraf substantial benefits, including international legitimacy, the lifting of US sanctions, debt relief, access to sophisticated technology, a helpful American role in reducing tensions with India, and massive amounts of economic and military assistance.

2-4/IS

PAKISTANI PUBLIC OPINION ON DEMOCRACY, ISLAMIST MILITANCY, AND RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

By C. Christine Fair and others

United States Institute of Peace, February 2008

This report is based on the results of a survey conducted from Sept. 12-18, just before President Pervez Musharraf declared a six-week state of emergency and before the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The sample included 907 Pakistani urban adults, selected using multi-stage probability sampling, who were interviewed at home in 19 cities.

2-5/UP

PAKISTAN'S 2008 ELECTIONS: Results and Implications for U.S. Policy

By K. Alan Kronstadt, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Congressional Research Service, April 9, 2008.

The Bush Administration urged restoration of full civilian rule in Islamabad and called for the February 2008 national polls to be free, fair, and transparent. U.S. criticism sharpened after President Musharraf's November 2007 suspension of the Constitution and

imposition of emergency rule and the December 2007 assassination of former Prime Minister and leading opposition figure Benazir Bhutto. To the surprise of nearly all observers, the February elections were relatively free of expected violence. The apparent absence of large-scale election-day rigging allowed opposition parties to decisively defeat Musharraf's allies in Parliament, where nearly all of the senior incumbents lost their seats. An opposition coalition took power in the National Assembly in late March. Parties opposed to Musharraf also took power in three of the country's four provincial assemblies. The result led to the Bush Administration's permanent lifting of coup-related sanctions on aid to Pakistan that had been in place for more than eight years.

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

2-6/DGI

10 IDEAS THAT ARE CHANGING THE WORLD

Time, Vol. 171, No. 12, March 24, 2008, pp. 35-60.

The 21st century will overturn many of our basic assumptions about economic life. The 20th century saw the end of European dominance of global politics and economics. The 21st century will see the end of American dominance too, as new powers, including China, India and Brazil, continue to grow and make their voices heard on the world stage. Yet the century's changes will be even deeper than a rebalancing of economics and geopolitics. The challenges of sustainable development protecting the environment, stabilizing the world's population, narrowing the gaps of rich and poor and ending extreme poverty will render passé the very idea of competing nation-states that scramble for markets, power and resources.

2-7/DGI

THE AGE OF NONPOLARITY: What Will Follow U.S. Dominance

By Richard N. Haass

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 3, May/June 2008, pp. 45-55.

The United States' unipolar moment is over. International relations in the twenty-first century will be defined by nonpolarity. Power will be diffuse rather than concentrated, and the influence of nation-states will

decline as that of nonstate actors increases. But this is not all bad news for the United States; Washington can still manage the transition and make the world a safer place.

**2-8/DGI
BIG FOOT**

By Michael Specter

New Yorker, February 25, 2008, pp. 44-53.

The chief executive of the U.K.-based Tesco supermarket company made a speech last year in which he acknowledged the need to drastically reduce carbon-dioxide emissions, and said that his company would assign a “carbon footprint” label to all their products. The author notes that “possessing an excessive carbon footprint is rapidly becoming the modern equivalent of wearing a scarlet letter,” with companies and individuals alike throughout the industrialized world jumping on the “green” bandwagon. The carbon cost of most products is not reflected in their prices, so supporters of market-based approaches say that carbon needs to be priced high enough to discourage consumption. However, the author notes, personal choices and habits are not enough, and climate change cannot be addressed solely through creating a market – it will take laws, money, many simultaneous approaches, and more — to reduce humanity’s carbon emissions by sixty percent by the middle of the century.

**2-9/DGI
CHANGING THE POLITICAL CLIMATE ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**

By Tom Daschle

Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, Vol. ix, No. 1, Winter/Spring 2008, pp. 93-101.

The former Democratic senator from South Dakota, now with the Center for American Progress, believes that the United States must act with urgency to lead the international response to the threat of climate change. However, Daschle argues that the single biggest obstacle to implementing a comprehensive climate change policy is the lack of political will in Washington, especially among the administration officials responsible for implementing it who seem to have ceded leadership to the European Union, isolating the U.S. in the process. The next U.S. president, along with facing other important global and domestic challenges such as reforming the health care system and stopping Iran’s nuclear program, faces the emerging

consequences of climate change and the looming deadline of the 2012 expiration of phase I of the Kyoto Protocol.

**2-10/DGI
CHILD LABOR: Why We Can’t Kick Our Addiction**

By Megha Bahree

Forbes, February 25, 2008, pp. 72-79.

Although there are national and international laws against it, child labor remains a global phenomenon. Companies with stores in the U.S. such as GapKids and Macy’s, Ikea, Lowe’s and Home Depot all claim to have strict policies against selling products made by children, yet such products continue to appear on their shelves. As Bahree writes: “There are many links in the supply chain, and even a well-intentioned importer can’t police them all.” Middlemen find ways to duck responsibility by removing labels that identify a product’s country of origin. Moreover, there are few people to monitor overseas operations to insure that abuses do not occur. The UN International Labor Organization guesses that there are 218 million child laborers worldwide; most of them work in agriculture. The Asia-Pacific region claims the greatest share of underage workers (122 million) followed by sub-Saharan Africa (49 million).

**2-11/DGI
COUNTRY STUDIES: Internet and Database Resources**

By Caroline Geck

Choice, Vol. 45, No. 8, April 2008, pp. 1275-1284.

Country studies are an important part of many library collections, as interest in foreign countries continues to grow. Such studies address diverse information needs and originate from sources ranging from government agencies to think tanks to the commercial sector. One of the leaders continues to be the Library of Congress, with its digitalized collections and Web resource directories. Another is the U.S. Department of State, with its Background Notes and other publications directed at potential visitors to foreign countries and to diplomats taking up residence. Educational institutions have developed Internet portals to socioeconomic and development data sets, along with tools for comparison. Finally, there are Web 2.0 resources, with video-sharing resources (e.g. YouTube) and wikis like Executive Planet.com.

2-12/DGI

THE FIRST 21ST-CENTURY CAMPAIGN

By Ronald Brownstein

National Journal, Vol. 40, No. 16, April 19, 2008.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com>

Brownstein examines the many reasons why he believes that the Democratic battle for the presidential nomination will be remembered as “the first true 21st-century campaign.” He believes that the pairing of intense anti-Bush emotions on the part of Democrats combined with major advances in information technology are responsible for creating this new style of campaigning. Brownstein says “this transformation may be changing the model of what it takes to succeed in presidential politics.” No longer is television the most important medium, rather it is the ability to leverage the Internet to inspire supporters to fundraise and organize on a candidate’s behalf. The Democratic candidates’ capacity to raise money, ability to communicate with supporters at a low cost and capacity of supporters to communicate with like-minded people independently of the campaign has demonstrated the strengths of this new style of campaigning. Brownstein’s article provides numerous examples of both Barack Obama’s and Hillary Clinton’s successful campaign techniques.

2-13/DGI

THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN POWER

By Fareed Zakaria

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 3, May/June 2008, pp. 18-43.

There are many specific policies and programs one could advocate to make the United States’ economy and society more competitive. But beyond all these what is also needed is a broader change in strategy and attitude. The case for the former is obvious. The world is changing, but it is going the United States’ way. The rest that are rising are embracing markets, democratic government (of some form or another), and greater openness and transparency. It might be a world in which the United States takes up less space, but it is one in which American ideas and ideals are overwhelmingly dominant. The United States has a window of opportunity to shape and master the changing global landscape, but only if it first recognizes that the post-American world is a reality--and embraces and celebrates that fact. This essay is adapted from his book

2-14/DGI

DOMESTIC POLITICS

By Neil Munro

National Journal, Vol. 40, No. 14, April 5, 2008.

In 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act, which greatly changed how federal and state authorities handle domestic violence cases. Since then, lawmakers have approved more than \$5.5 billion on programs for battered women’s shelters, rape crisis centers, police training and domestic violence research. But now, as new controversial research indicates that as much half of domestic violence incidents involved reciprocal violence, “the question of how to respond to family violence has become controversial, as ideology and research collide.” Munro looks at research that indicates that more cases of domestic violence are initiated by women, and how there is an ongoing debate in the criminal-justice system about the best way to handle these types of domestic violence cases. Munro interviews scholars and practitioners to get a more in-depth understanding of how there is no one-size-fits all way of handling domestic violence cases.

2-15/DGI

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH: Changing Norms, Constant Rights

By Lawrence Gostin and others.

Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, Vol. 9, No. 1, Winter/Spring 2008, pp. 83-92.

Gostin, associate dean at Georgetown University Law School, and Gable, law professor at Wayne State University, write that, “of all the vulnerable groups that face stigmatization in our society, persons with mental disabilities are perhaps the most disadvantaged.” They note that NGOs around the world continue to discover appalling conditions in institutions for persons with mental disabilities, and community mental health services are often underfunded and punitive. Widespread recognition of this mistreatment has not prevented it from continuing to occur. Human-rights violations affecting persons with mental disabilities will only be reduced by legislation and mental-health policies consistent with human-rights norms; they urge all countries to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2-16/DGI

NONPROFIT NEWS

By Carol Guensburg

American Journalism Review, Vol. 30, No. 1, February/March 2008, pp. 26-33.<http://www.ajr.org>

With traditional news organizations continuing to trim their budgets and reduce their staffs, long-term, labor-intensive investigative and enterprise journalism are more frequently made possible by funding from foundations and nonprofits, writes Guensburg, herself a former newspaper reporter who now writes for a non-profit organization. The foundations are interested in compensating for what they see as diminished coverage of civic issues. And as paid advertising abandons print journalism for the Internet, news organizations are eager for new revenue. In 2005, U.S. foundations granted \$158 million for media and communications. Journalism's funders include Carnegie, Ford and Pew Charitable Trusts. Knight, the leading journalism funder overall, announced more than \$21 million in journalism grants in 2006 and more than \$50 million in 2007. "Done right, the journalism-funder relationship benefits both the parties as well as the public they aim to serve."

2-17/DGI

THINKING LOCALLY BEFORE ACTING GLOBALLY: The Rise of Selective Provincialism

By Zach Messitte

World Literature Today, Vol. 82, No. 2, March/April 2008, pp. 34-39.

Messitte, Professor of Geopolitics at the University of Oklahoma, assesses a variety of contradictory trends in the world today – such as globalism vs. provincialism, democracy vs. autocracy, "McWorld vs. Jihad." He draws from a wide range of sources -- including writings of public opinion makers, polls from Pew, and US government officials. He asserts that some of the concepts of globalism are supported by majorities around the world, but there are "real concerns about a growing borderless world where capital, labor, and ideas flow freely and are unfettered." Messitte's students are positive about the future, concluding that, in 20 years, they hope for "great leaps forward in transportation and science, an overall improvement in their quality of daily life, and freedom and democracy in more parts of the world."

2-18/IS

AFTER IRAQ: Future U.S. Military Posture in the Middle East

By Bradley L. Bowman

Washington Quarterly, Vol. 31, No. 2, Spring 2008, pp. 77-91.

The author, a former Council on Foreign Relations fellow and former professor at the U.S. Military Academy, believes that as forces are withdrawn from Iraq, the U.S. should resist the temptation to increase or redeploy troops to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. The U.S. can deter Iran and reassure its GCC allies by other means without expanding military bases. A large U.S. regional military presence is unnecessary and often counterproductive as the American experience during the Cold War proved, when the presence of U.S. troops in the region was limited and infrequent. Today, the U.S. needs only a minimal military in the Middle East to counter threats to its three key interests: to guarantee a reliable flow of oil from the Persian Gulf region; to ensure that regional states and non-state actors do not obtain weapons of mass destruction; and to prevent the region from becoming a haven for extremism.

2-19/IS

CONNECTING TERRORIST NETWORKS

By Justin Magouirk and others.

Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, Vol. 31, No. 1, 2008, pp. 1-16.

Terrorism, a defining phenomenon of the current times, is a varied class of political violence that can be characterized with multiple ideological motivations, varied tactics, and varying levels of lethality, according to the authors. They have recently completed research from the Global Transnational Terrorism Project, but plan an additional study later in 2008. Clearly in their research, they have revealed that terrorism is not monolithic as is often characterized by the news media and policymakers. The research also demonstrates two important components to terrorism — the groups are global and they target the "far enemy" not of local origin. These characteristics are important for policymakers, who are confronted with a challenge often poorly understood. The research also indicates that madrassahs, or religious schools, have little to do in general

with the creation of terrorists. One interesting aspect of the research is that kinship plays a vital role in binding terrorist groups that are often decentralized and that networks are increasingly family-oriented.

2-20/IS

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT

By Christopher Hitchens

World Affairs, Vol. 170, No. 3, Winter 2008,

pp. 9-14.

<http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org>

Perennial gadfly Christopher Hitchens takes aim at the White House, urging a “Nixon-in-China” movement toward improving relations with Iran. Many Iranians have relatives abroad, are connected to the outside world despite government censorship, are frustrated with their government, and are open to improving relations. The author proposes building upon U.S. aid to Iran following the 2003 Bam earthquake to a public offer to help seismically vulnerable Iran secure key infrastructure, something its own regime ignores. The U.S. has eliminated external threats in Iraq and Afghanistan, and now should encourage Iranians to bring about things they already want – better governance and improved relations with the outside world.

2-21/IS

DISARMAMENT REDUX

By Peter J. Scoblic

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Vol. 64, No. 1,

March/April 2008, pp. 35-39.

<http://thebulletin.metapress.com>

Scoblic, executive editor of *The New Republic*, writes that the subject of nuclear disarmament has only recently again become a subject of polite conversation in Washington, due in part to recent *Wall Street Journal* by former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Shultz, former Secretary of Defense William Perry and former Senator Sam Nunn. With decades of foreign policy experience among them, Scoblic says these “eminences grises” garner respect from both sides of the political aisle. His article effectively tracks the ebb and flow of U.S. political interest in the subject and points to recent legislation introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein calling for a nuclear policy review by the president and a nuclear posture review by the Defense Department. He quotes a recent University of Maryland survey indicating that 73 percent of Americans support the verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, while noting that such opinion does

not generally translate into mainstream of political action. Introducing a dose of realism, the author says that “the deeper one cuts into nuclear arsenals, the harder it becomes to cut any more.”

2-22/IS

FROM REVOLUTION TO REFORM: A Brief History of U.S. Intelligence

By John Tidd

SAIS Review, Vol. 28, No. 1, Winter/Spring 2008,

pp. 5-24.

The author, lecturer at the School of Public Administration and Policy at the University of Arizona, notes that a network of large, permanent intelligence-gathering organizations has been a feature of U.S. government only since World War II. During the Revolutionary War and into the first half of the nineteenth century, intelligence activity was very limited; Tidd charts the uneven growth of U.S. intelligence organizations from the Civil War until World War I. It was the Second World War, followed by the Cold War, that saw an explosive growth in intelligence-gathering. This is one of a series of articles in *SPIES*, an issue of the *SAIS Review* devoted to the role of intelligence in U.S. policymaking and the unprecedented challenges the U.S. intelligence community is facing today.

2-23/IS

GLOBAL JIHADIST RECIDIVISM: A Red Flag

By Dennis A. Pluchinsky

Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, Vol. 31, No. 3,

2008, pp. 182-200.

Pluchinsky, a research analyst in Washington, raises an important issue about terrorists and the likelihood that, once released from custody by authorities, they will return to terrorism. Research in this area has been nearly completely lacking because most governments have been unable to effectively track the whereabouts of terrorists once released from custody, though in a few instances there have been reports by authorities that former terrorists were captured conducting new terrorist activities. Pluchinsky argues that, given the sharp rise in transnational terrorism across multiple national boundaries, terrorist recidivism has the potential to become a major counterterrorism problem over the next several decades. "It is a manpower issue that has the potential to periodically refuel the global jihadist movement," he writes. There are clearly valid presumptions, preliminary indicators and anecdotal evidence that suggest that global jihadist recidivism

needs to be further examined, and tracking systems developed.

2-24/IS

IDEAS, NETWORKS, AND ISLAMIST MOVEMENTS: Evidence from Central Asia And The Caucasus

By Cathleen Collins

World Politics, Vol. 60. No. 1, October 2007, pp. 64-96.

Opposition Islamist movements vary significantly in origins, leadership, and strategies, but to be successful must develop a “locally-based” Islamist ideology that appeals to local supporters rather than a global Islamist agenda. Offering a case study of the Islamist Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, the Islamic Party of Azerbaijan, as well as the regionally active Hizb ut-Tahir al-Islami, the author underlines the importance of informal social networks to mobilizing in an authoritarian environment, as well as the limits of Islamist political movements to bring about change.

2-25/IS

LOST OVER IRAN

By Eric Umansky

Columbia Journalism Review, March/April 2008, pp. 26-30.

The author, contributing editor to CJR, writes that the National Intelligence Estimate of December 2007 that concluded that Iran had frozen its nuclear weaponization program back in 2003 came as a shock to the U.S. media, which had asked few questions about administration claims that Iran was not far away from building nuclear weapons. The U.S. received more help from the Iranians than anyone else in its campaign to root out al-Qaeda from Afghanistan. Soon after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Iran made an offer that “put nearly everything on the table”, writes the author, from support for Hezbollah to the nuclear-energy program. The overtures received very little publicity, as Iranian officials did not want to be seen publicly making peace offerings to Washington.

2-26/IS

THE MILITARY AND SOCIETY BEYOND THE POSTMODERN ERA

By John Allen Williams

ORBIS, Vol. 52, No. 2, Spring 2008, pp. 197-216.

Williams, professor of political science at Loyola Uni-

versity, Chicago, notes that there are new security challenges resulting from the Sept. 11 attacks and there is a renewed focus on the military's role in defending U.S. interests and homeland. As a result, U.S. military forces (and perhaps in the West generally) are evolving from their Cold War and immediate post-Cold War perspectives to confront transnational and sub-national non-state dangers. These changes have significant implications for military professionalism and the relations between the military and society. The author puts these changes into a wider theoretical context, and modifies the “Postmodern Military” model, as the “Hybrid” model. Williams updates it to reflect changes in the threat and civil-military relations in the United States as well as in other countries.

2-27/IS

MUSLIM EXCEPTIONALISM? Measuring the “Democracy Gap”

By Arthur A. Goldsmith

Middle East Policy, Vol. 14, No. 3, Fall 2007, pp. 86-96.

Democratization of the Muslim Middle East is a foreign policy goal of the Bush administration; democracy is lacking in many Islamic countries, though the root cause is unclear. The author, professor at the University of Massachusetts, uses a couple of measures, including the Freedom House Index, to refute claims that democracy and Islam are irreconcilable. Dr. Goldsmith concludes that every country is unique and generalizations about a particular society and its incompatibility with democracy should never be made.

2-28/IS

THE NEW AGGRESSIVENESS IN IRAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

By Mark Gasiorowski

Middle East Policy Journal, Vol. 14, No. 2, Summer 2007, pp. 125-132.

Gasiorowski, professor at Louisiana State University, explores appropriate American responses to the new aggressive foreign policy displayed by Iran in the areas of its nuclear program as well as Iraq. Causes of the aggressiveness in Iran's foreign policy are attributed to recent changes inside Iran and its foreign policy environment. Constraints inside the country serve to limit Iran's foreign policy aggressiveness. These constraints include limited capabilities of Iranian armed forces and popular discontent and resentment due to economic conditions, international isolation and cultural restric-

tions.

2-29/IS

REAL LEADERS DO SOFT POWER: Learning the Lessons of Iraq

By James B. Steinberg

Washington Quarterly, Vol. 31, No. 2, Spring 2008, pp. 155-164.

The author, dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and deputy national security adviser from 1996 to 2001, presents a call for the U.S. to “return to the strategies of leadership that brought it unprecedented power and security in the first place.” Recent foreign relations strategy has failed because it misjudged the nature of the enemy and of the threat; it failed to understand the central importance of allied support, and it undermined the position of the U.S. in the world by “calling into question the legitimacy of U.S. leadership.” In spite of these criticisms, “there is much to be said for the aspirations of the Bush policy” -- Americans need to focus on the danger of terrorists with nuclear weapons; we would be safer if more governments were open and accountable, with respect for the rule of law. Additionally, international organizations need reform to face the challenges of globalization. It is important that the U.S. not overcompensate for these past mistakes by forsaking its leadership role. It must stop “playing into al Qaida’s narrative” by using terms such as “Islamic fascism”, be more willing to take into account the views of others, and “take seriously the need to reform international organizations rather than disparage or ignore them.”

2-30/IS

RESHAPING THE U.S.-INDIAN NUCLEAR DEAL TO LESSEN THE NONPROLIFERATION LOSSES

By Charles D Ferguson

Arms Control Today, Vol. 38, No. 3, Apr 2008. pp. 15-21.

To the Indian government, the civil nuclear cooperation agreement it signed with the United States last year looks like a way for New Delhi to escape this dilemma, giving it access to global uranium reserves without imposing limits on its nuclear weapons program. U.S. leadership could also influence India to become a more responsible nuclear-armed state through signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and committing to a cutoff of weapons-usable fissile material in addition to adhering to conditions on civil-

ian nuclear commerce.

2-31/IS

US AND THEM: The Enduring Power of Ethnic Nationalism

By Jerry Z. Muller

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 2, March-April 2008. <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/>

According to Muller, professor of history at the Catholic University of America, persistent ethnic nationalism does not happen by chance; rather, it is inevitable in the continued development of nation-states. Ethnic separation into different states has economic and cultural costs, besides bloodshed that has cost million of lives since the 19th century. Yet the expanding harmony of Europe since World War II represents not failure of ethnic nationalism but its success, having removed sources of conflict both within and between countries. "The fact that ethnic and state boundaries now largely coincide has meant that there are fewer disputes over borders or expatriate communities," Muller says, "leading to the most stable territorial configuration in European history." In existing multiethnic countries where ethnic violence erupts, partition into separate nation-states may be the most humane lasting solution.

2-32/IS

U.S. BASES AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

By Alexander Cooley

Orbis, Vol. 52, No. 1, Winter 2008, pp. 65-90.

Cooley, assistant professor of political science at Barnard College, Columbia University, asserts that under the Pentagon’s current Global Defense Posture Review (GDPR), the U.S. is reducing its forces at several major Cold War bases and is establishing a global network of smaller, more flexible facilities in new areas such as Central Asia, the Black Sea and Africa. Drawing upon recent experience in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, the author cautions that these new U.S. overseas bases, despite their lighter footprint and regardless of the prevailing security situation, risk becoming enmeshed in the local struggles and political agendas of elites within these host countries. Periods of turbulent political transition and regime instability may encourage host country politicians to challenge the legitimacy and terms of the U.S. basing presence for their own political purposes. These are important lessons for U.S. planners who are simultaneously promoting de-

mocratization while they negotiate basing and military access agreements in politically volatile countries.

2-33/IS

WAR AND THE WEST

By Willianson Murray

ORBIS, Vol. 52, No. 2, Spring 2008, pp. 348-356.

Williamson, Professor Emeritus at Ohio State University, writes that the outline of human history over the last two thousand years is framed by armed conflict. The West now enjoys the product of several developments in political and social domains culminating in what can be called a Military Revolution. The creation of powerful states as the overarching social organization is an example of one such revolution, which supported a series of smaller innovations and changes in the way the West fought its wars. The author asserts history reveals the degree of political, social, economic and technological adaptation needed to minimize the consequences of failure. He believes that the study of history is necessary to insure that we do not have to fight wars more often, or at far higher cost in human terms.

2-34/IS

WHAT LIES BENEATH: The Future of NATO through the ISAF Prism

By Julianne Smith and others.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies, Publication date: March 2008.

<http://www.csis>.

Few would have thought in 1990 that NATO had a bright future. The fall of the Berlin Wall, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the demise of the Warsaw Pact had pundits and academics alike predicting NATO's demise. But instead of withering away, NATO has spent the last 18 years redefining itself and taking on new missions. It has expanded into Central and Eastern Europe, ensuring the spread of democracy and stability; helped to end conflict in the former Yugoslavia; and provided relief for the victims of natural disasters in Pakistan and on America's Gulf coast. Today the Alliance is on the front line of the struggle against global terrorism with a full on campaign against al Qaeda and Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

2-35/ES

CHARTING THE FUTURE OF FOOD

Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, Vol. 9, No. 1, Winter/Spring 2008, pp. 3-6.

New technologies are forcing rapid globalization of markets, and the agriculture industry has no choice but to adapt. There is, however, a stark disparity between developed and developing nations; a biotech and GMO revolution is occurring in developed nations, while developing nations are struggling to overcome unfavorable intellectual property laws and trade barriers. Biofuel production is consuming more agricultural resources, raising food prices and reducing exports. Though policy experts participating in the current round of trade negotiations in Doha are attempting to address the challenges facing farmers, the outcome is unclear. This forum explores the fate of farming in the 21st century.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

2-36/ES

CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATISTICS TO MODERN PROGRESS

By Dharam Chopra

Choice, vol. 45, no. 7, March 2008, pp. 1097-1107.

This bibliographical essay provides a snapshot of the history, importance, and applications of statistics which is undergoing constant changes, providing very important tools for gaining knowledge using inductive logic and computer technology. The mathematical science of statistics deals with the collection, analysis, interpretation or explanation, and presentation of data, and is applicable to a wide variety of academic disciplines, from the natural and social sciences to the humanities, and to government and business. Statistical methods can be used to summarize or describe a collection of data (descriptive statistics) or they may be modeled in a way that accounts for randomness and uncertainty in the observations, and then used to draw inferences about the process or population being studied (inferential statistics).

2-37/ES

THE ECONOMIST HAS NO CLOTHES

By Robert Nadeau

Scientific American, Vol. 298, No. 3, March 2008.

The author, who teaches environmental science and public policy at George Mason University, notes that the nineteenth-century creators of neoclassical economics — the field whose theories underpin the modern market economy — developed their theories by adapting equations from nineteenth-century physics that themselves became obsolete. Says Nadeau, “it is clear that neoclassical economics has become outdated ... [it] is based on unscientific assumptions that are hindering the implementation of viable economic solutions for global warming and other menacing environmental problems.” Among the assumptions of neoclassical economics: that natural resources exist in a domain separate from the closed market system; that the value of these resources can only be determined by the market system; that environmental damage is a cost external to the market system; and that there are no physical limits to the growth of market systems. The present-day global environmental crisis means that “this theory can no longer be regarded as useful ... because neoclassical economics does not even acknowledge the costs of environmental problems and the limits to economic growth, it constitutes one of the greatest barriers to combating climate change and other threats to the planet.”

2-38/ES

FAST 50: The World's Most Innovative Companies

By Chuck Salter and others.

Fast Company, No. 123, March 2008, pp. 73-117.

Writers from the magazine *Fast Company* identify 50 companies that are moving forward in innovative ways. Some companies are included on the list for their new patents granted this year, others for innovative management techniques, or new products brought to market. Tata made the list for trying to bring a \$2500 car to India and GE for re-engineering the CF34 jet engine. Communications and computer firms are represented as well as niche retailers. Google is first on the list and the authors describe what makes Google an innovative company through profiles of Google managers.

2-39/ES

LAW AND TRANSNATIONAL CORRUPTION: The Need For Lincoln's Law Abroad

By Paul Carrington

Law and Contemporary Problems, Vol. 70, No. 4, Autumn 2007, pp. 109-138.

The author, a professor of law at Duke University, believes that the endemic corruption of weak governments in poor nations is a major impediment to the development of world trade. The World Bank reports that bribes totaling a trillion dollars were paid in 2002 while the larger share of that amount was undoubtedly paid by firms that extract and export natural resources for sale in the developed world. Bribery is endemic in many oil-producing developing nations, in which oil revenues have been appropriated by a small group of government officials. Now these same institutions have been invited to enact legislation or to ratify a treaty establishing the means for effective private enforcement of international laws forbidding corrupt practices. Such legislation is rooted in recognition of the frailties of government, and the limits of what can be asked of government lawyers in a fragmented social order. When developing nations are forced to rely on their public prosecutors to impose criminal punishment, corrupt practices can flourish. This reality is now widely acknowledged, but the responses of developed nations have not been adequate to address it.

2-40/ES

THE MICROMAGIC OF MICROCREDIT

By Karol Boudreaux and others.

Wilson Quarterly, Vol. 32, No. 1, Winter 2008, pp. 27-31.

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org>

Is microcredit the solution to poverty in the world? No, say the authors, both with George Mason University. Although microcredit is undeniably making people's lives better around the world, it is not pulling them out of poverty. “It is hard to find entrepreneurs who start with these tiny loans and graduate to run commercial empires,” they write. Many lenders refuse to extend microcredit to start-ups. “The more modest truth is that microcredit may help some people, perhaps earning \$2 a day, to earn something like \$2.50 a day,” the authors say. Not a dramatic improvement, but definitely a step forward to a poor person in many third-world countries. An important advantage to microcredit is that unlike many charitable services, microcredit is capable of paying for itself. “The future of

microcredit lies in the commercial sector, not in unsustainable aid programs,” the authors say.

2-41/ES

PUTTING YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS: How Expensive Is Food, Really?

By Sharon Astyk

Grist, posted April 14, 2008.

The author, a farmer and writer on food, energy and sustainability issues, notes that skyrocketing food prices are creating widespread hardship, with many low-wage households spending half their income on food. In earlier agrarian societies, it was commonplace to spend a lot of money on food; low food prices of the past half century is an anomaly, generated by large-scale agriculture requiring massive energy and fertilizer inputs. However, Astyk notes that we cannot regard food prices in isolation from society as a whole; while food prices may have been low, the cost of housing has skyrocketed, and people must work long hours to pay for all the dependencies created by the modern industrial economy. Large-scale urbanization has meant that the price of land has become divorced from the value of what it can produce. Low food prices has meant low compensation for farmers — only a small number of massive agribusinesses are able to survive. The rise in food prices that has resulted from increased energy costs will eventually require a return to localized agriculture, which will benefit farmers, and will mean that land and house prices will have to return to a level at which they are tied to the value of the soil beneath them.

2-42/ES

WHAT WENT WRONG

Economist, Vol. 386, No. 8572, March 22, 2008, pp. 79-88.

In this special report, the Economist examines how close Wall Street came to a systemic collapse, and how the financial system will change as a result. They note that the origins of this crisis are in the 1980s, when the financial services industry began a pattern of growth that may only now have come to an end. Financial services’ share of total corporate profits grew from ten percent in the early 1980s to forty percent last year — but account for only fifteen percent of corporate America’s gross value and only five percent of private-sector jobs. After the “dotcom” crash in 2001, America’s GDP growth has been the lowest in half a century; yet, even as the ground beneath it fell away, the

financial services industry has “defied gravity” by using debt, securitization and proprietary trading to boost fees and profits, made possible by cheap money and low consumer-price inflation.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

2-43/SV

BORN AGAIN

By Walter Russel Mead

Atlantic Monthly, March 2008, pp. 21//24.

The evangelical Christian movement in the U.S. is showing signs of maturing, notes Mead. It is gaining more social and political influence, but as it broadens, it is becoming more pluralistic and less strident, and “less likely to be held hostage by a single issue or a single party”. The megachurches that are flourishing in the Midwest and Sun Belt are reaching audiences that are better educated, more urban and sophisticated than the rural Southern fundamentalists of an earlier era. Mead notes that the true story of the evangelical movement today is its “shift from insurgent to insider, with all of the moderating effects that transition implies.”

2-44/SV

DESERT BLOOM: Start-Up Universities in the Oil-Rich Persian Gulf are Luring Scholars from Less-Stable Arab Nations

By Zvika Krieger

Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 54, No. 29, March 28, 2008, pp. B7-B11.

The intellectual landscape of the Middle East is changing dramatically as Persian Gulf countries pour more than \$20 billion annually into cultural and educational projects and more than a dozen American universities open branches and campuses there. Qatar’s Education City has attracted branches of Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, Georgetown and Northwestern, while Dubai’s Academic City has attracted Harvard, Boston University and Michigan State. Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaymah and Sharjah have attracted Johns Hopkins, MIT, New York University, George Mason, and American University. The Arab World’s best and brightest faculty and intellectuals are moving to the Gulf in droves, according to Krieger, a former Middle East correspondent for Newsweek, as is the Arab media and publish-

ing world. Even before the Gulf's bid to become the region's intellectual and academic center, Arab doctors, engineers, teachers and intellectuals were fleeing the repression and/or violence in such traditional centers as Cairo, Beirut and Baghdad, most of them emigrating to Europe or the United States. A second article by Kreiger, "An Academic Building Boom Transforms the Gulf," looks at the competition between the several emirates to lure top American universities.

2-45/SV

HOW TO MAKE GREAT TEACHERS

By Claudia Wallis

Time, Vol. 171, No. 8, February 25, 2008, pp. 28-34.

American public schools are struggling to attract and retain high-quality teachers. Is it time we paid them for performance? We never forget our best teachers--those who imbued us with a deeper understanding or an enduring passion, the ones we come back to visit years after graduating, the educators who opened doors and altered the course of our lives. I was lucky enough to encounter two such teachers my senior year in a public high school in Connecticut. Dr. Cappel told us from the outset that his goal was not to prepare us for the AP biology exam; it was to teach us how to think like scientists, which he proceeded to do with a quiet passion, mainly in the laboratory. Mrs. Hastings, my stern, Radcliffe-trained English teacher, was as devoted to her subject as the gentle Doc Cappel was to his: a tough taskmaster on the art of writing essays and an avid guide to the pleasures of James Joyce. Looking back, I'd have to credit this inspirational pair for carving the path that led me to a career writing about science. It would be wonderful if we knew more about teachers such as these and how to multiply their number. How do they come by their craft? What qualities and capacities do they possess? Can these abilities be measured? Can they be taught? Perhaps above all: How should excellent teaching be rewarded so that the best teachers--the most competent, caring and compelling--remain in a profession known for low pay, low status and soul-crushing bureaucracy?

2-46/SV

MOBILIZING MILLENNIALS

By Tamara Draut and others

American Prospect, Vol. 19, No. 3, March 2008, pp. A1-A23.

Today's young adults are the first generation whose

living standards may decline from their parents'. There is abundant evidence of declining economic opportunity and growing insecurity, with widespread debt and the shrinking number of jobs paying decent wages for most without advanced degrees. Most political campaign rhetoric has been aimed at middle-aged and retired voters, while the concerns of the young are largely confined to the margins. However, there is growing political activism, with 43 percent of young people ages 18-29 having voted this year, and an increasing interest in trade unionism. In this special series, eight authors appraise the gloomy outlook for today's young people, and call for a sustained commitment to improve their economic horizons.

2-47/SV

A NATION OF GIVERS

By Arthur C. Brooks

The American, March/April 2008,

In 2006, Americans gave about \$295 billion to charity. This was up 4.2 percent over 2005 levels, and charitable giving has generally risen faster than the growth of the American economy for more than half a century. Correcting for inflation and population changes, GDP per person in America has risen over the past 50 years by about 150 percent, while charitable giving per person has risen by about 190 percent. That is, the average American family has gotten much richer in real terms over the past half century, and charitable giving has more than kept pace with this trend. Charitable giving should be seen not just as a nice detail about American life, and even less as a mere tax deduction. It should be seen as a national priority.

2-48/SV

ONE NATION UNDER ELVIS: An Environmentalism for Us All

By Rebecca Solnit

Orion, March/April 2008.

<http://www.orionmagazine.org>

Solnit, a journalist and author, uses American country music to illustrate the disdain that many in the U.S. environmentalist movement have had toward minorities, the poor and many rural dwellers. She notes that this elitism has turned away many segments of America that would otherwise have been natural allies and played into the hands of entrenched economic interests. The potential for a broad-based environmental movement was thwarted by the anti-communism and anti-labor union sentiment of the post-World War II

era, and was not helped by the culture clash that erupted in the 1960s; Solnit writes that the environmental justice movement has set out to rectify that. She writes that environmental movement's founding father, John Muir, who himself grew up on a farm in Wisconsin, "did not so much flee the farm for the wilderness as invent wilderness as a counter-image to the farm on which his brutal father nearly worked him to death." The ethos that nature is a place where one vacations or retreats to, but where one does not work or live, has colored the outlook of the U.S. environmental movement ever since.

2-49/SV

RIDING THE WAVES OF TODAY'S ONLINE WEB TOOLS

By Edward Metz

Online, Vol. 32, No. 1, January/February 2008, pp. 18-21.

The author, a librarian at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, finds that the days of Web surfing, when the user went from site to site to check on the latest content updates, are long gone, replaced by RSS feeds and online news aggregators. Now, as more productivity tools become available online and Web 2.0 social networking tools proliferate, it would certainly be helpful to have just one single platform to host and organize all of these services. The great wealth of gadgetry to choose from adds to iGoogle's attraction. The iGoogle content directory stores an impressive array of some 25,000 content modules or gadgets, as these mini Web applications are called. For many, if not most, of their users, Google is the search engine of choice. People are also drawn to Google for its other search and productivity tools. iGoogle makes it easy to create some very simple gadgets through several templates for things like a framed photo, a personal list, or even a YouTube video channel.

2-50/SV

WHY CAN'T A WOMAN BE MORE LIKE A MAN?

By Christina Hoff Sommers

The American, March/April 2008, pp. 27-94.

Although more women than men are receiving PhDs in the United States, only 24 percent of the PhDs in physical sciences are held by women. Many feminists believe this number to be a travesty and are suggesting radical steps to raise this percentage, such as implementing quota systems for degrees in fields that are

dominated by males. Hoff Sommers ferociously attacks this "solution," analyzing studies accusing science programs of being gender-biased and finds them to be unscientific and unconvincing. Sommers argues that using quota systems to create more female scientists is both sexist and potentially hazardous to scientific progress.