

## Article Round-up

August – September 2006

### Regional Relations

- 1. "The United and Vietnam: Vision for an Evolving Relationship"**  
Remarks of Ambassador Michael W. Marine at the Ho Chi Minh City Union of Friendship Organizations, September 20, 2006. To view the fulltext in English and Vietnamese, please click here  
<http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov/highlights/09/21/2006.html>
- 2. "International Volunteering: Smart Power"**  
Lex Rieffel and Sarah Zalud. *Brookings Policy Briefs*, June 2006, 9 pages.  
International volunteer programs contribute directly and indirectly to America's security and well-being. They represent one of the best avenues Americans can pursue to improve relations with the rest of the world. The scale of these programs, however, is far below the levels suggested by their benefits. The time is ripe for a breakthrough in this area, with policies aimed at strengthening existing programs such as increased funding for the Peace Corps, raising the public awareness of volunteer programs overseas, linking service and study, and measuring effectiveness.
- 3. "Transformational Leadership and U.S. Grand Strategy"**  
Joseph S. Nye. *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2006, 25 pages.  
Through changes he made to U.S. grand strategy after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, George W. Bush hopes to be remembered as a "transformational president," leaving a lasting mark on U.S. foreign policy. Nye points out that while senior administration officials believe "Bush's aggressive democratization will prove successful," evidence offered by history is less optimistic. Bush's legacy, he concludes, depends largely on the outcome in the war in Iraq. As of now, the jury is still out.
- 4. "The Remaking of a Unipolar World"**  
Robert Jervis. *Washington Quarterly*, Summer 2006, 13 pages.  
Jervis, professor of international politics at Columbia University, asserts that the U.S., as the current hegemon, would be expected to defend its unipolar status with a conservative foreign policy. Instead, the U.S. is acting more like a revolutionary state than the dominating world power. The current U.S. policy is based on the belief that America's dominance will falter unless aggressive action is taken to preserve it. The problem with this new ideology, Jervis says, is that the U.S. system was not designed to support an active foreign policy and it will be too expensive and produce instability that the American public will be reluctant to support.
- 5. "China's Charm: Implications of Chinese Soft Power"**  
Josh Kurlantzick. *Carnegie Endowment Policy Brief No. 47*, June 2006, 8 pages.

Over the past decade China has downplayed its hard power in Southeast Asia, instead creating a strategy to build its soft power. Kurlantzick analyzes China's influence and soft power policy tools and argues that, while China's rising soft power could prove benign or even beneficial in some respects, it could prove disastrous for Southeast Asia—for democratization, for anticorruption initiatives, and for good governance. He concludes that before China's appeal spreads to other parts of the developing world, U.S. policy makers need to understand how China exerts soft power, and whether elements of China's charm could threaten U.S. interests.

**6. "China and the Commons: Angell or Mahan?"**

James R. Holmes and Toshi Yoshihara. *World Affairs*, Spring 2006, 20 pages.

The authors argue that Chinese strategists seem increasingly inured to the early-twentieth-century paradigms of geopolitics, particularly regarding its naval policies. The question is whether they will adopt the approach of U.S. Admiral Thayer Mahan, who advocated the aggressive use of sea power to ensure security of shipping lanes, or English academic Norman Angell, who believed that military force was in nobody's best economic interest. The authors consider scenarios involving Taiwan, Korean unification, the pursuit of energy security, and the influence of geopolitics on the country's approach to maritime issues. How China ultimately chooses to address control of the "commons" -- sea, air, and space -- will determine the regional security situation in the coming decades.

**7. "Toward a Long-Range Energy Security Policy"**

Nader Elhefnawy. *Parameters*, Spring 2006, 14 pages.

According to the author, debate on U.S. energy policy has usually been limited to arguments that the United States must preserve its access to the oil reserves of the Middle East and of Central Asia -- with a limited sense that domestic energy supplies would be highly desirable. In the event of a new energy crisis, there may be more state failures, weapons proliferation, and resource conflict. The prospect exists for an economy based on renewable energy, he asserts, because the security problems likely to result from tightening oil supplies are a basis for making the transition to alternatives -- which is widely acknowledged as inevitable in the long run, anyway.

## **Economics and Trade**

**8. "Remarks by Deputy USTR Karan Bhatia before the US - ASEAN Business Council"**

At the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council Annual Dinner, Washington, D.C., July 11, 2006, 6 pages.

[Ambassador Karan K. Bhatia](#), Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, discusses the U.S. trade policy concerning the Doha Round of trade negotiations, as well as the economic relationships with Asia in general, and with Southeast Asia in particular. For more information about the prospect of bilateral free trade agreements with ASEAN countries including Thailand, please visit the USTR's [Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative](#) Website.

U.S. Government document. Full text available [here](#) (HTML format).

**9. "Leading the Way: How U.S. Trade Policy Can Overcome**

### **Doha's Failings"**

Daniel J. Ikenson. *Cato Trade Policy Analysis #33*, June 19, 2006, 24 pages.

The relationship between openness to trade and economic growth is today well documented. Studies have shown that countries that are more open to trade grow faster than those that are relatively closed. But increased trade does not require new trade agreements. Through unilateral liberalization, policymakers can achieve the U.S. objectives of the Doha Round: better opportunities for American businesses, more affordable products for consumers, improved prospects for farmers and producers in developing countries, alleviation of poverty, and greater international receptivity to U.S. policies.

### **10. "Increasing Economic Opportunity: Challenges and Strategies"**

Ben S. Bernanke. Remarks at the Fifth Regional Issues Conference of the Fifteenth Congressional District of Texas, Washington, D.C., June 13, 2006, 6 pages.

Families today face a financial marketplace that is increasingly complex, with numerous products and service providers from which to choose. [Ben S. Bernanke](#), the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, discusses some strategies for helping families, particularly lower-income families, improve their economic and financial well-being. He touches on several approaches for helping people of modest means take advantage of these financial opportunities while managing the risks and avoiding possible pitfalls. [U.S. Government document. Full text available \[here\]\(#\) \(HTML format\).](#)

### **11. "IPRs, Technological Development, and Economic Development"**

Dolfsma, Wilfred. *Journal of Economic Issues*, Vol. 150, No. 2, June 2006, pp. 333-342

Dolfsma says intellectual property rights (IPRs) have become increasingly prominent in debates and are almost unanimously deemed to favor economic development -- especially by policymakers in developed countries. It is acknowledged that some parties may benefit more from a system of IPRs than others, but some degree of improvement for all parties is the expected outcome, he writes. He analyzes the empirical and theoretical findings relevant to the question of IPRs' effect on technological development, and thus prospect for economic development. He concludes that the ideal levels of IPRs change as a country becomes more developed. For example, he notes that under today's IPRs Japan might not have had its strong electronics industry and the U.S. might not have had its strong film industry. Dolfsma asserts IPR systems need to be carefully designed to balance the needs for incentives for inventors, incentives for follow-on innovations, consumer benefits and economic development.

### **12. "Cartagena [Biosafety] Protocol: A New Trade Barrier?"**

Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes. *Regulation*, Summer 2006, 8 pages.

The author analyzes the implications of the Biosafety Protocol (BSP) -- an international agreement for regulating the transfer, handling and use of genetically modified organisms. He focuses particularly on approaches to mandatory labeling, the details of which have yet to be agreed upon. Seemingly small changes in labeling requirements can lead to significantly

different trade impacts and compliance costs, he notes. Total cost and distribution of costs, he recommends, should be fully analyzed before finalizing the details of mandatory labeling for the BSP.

**13. "The Threat Posed by Transnational Political Corruption to Global Commercial and Development Banking"**

John T. McCormick and Nancy Paterson. *Journal of Financial Crime*, Vol. 13, no. 2, 2006, 12 pages.

The authors discuss the threat that transnational political corruption poses to both the world's development banking and commercial banking sectors. Through case studies, they demonstrate how corrupt officials, using various fraudulent and corrupt schemes, steal funds from development banks and then launder the illicit proceeds in legitimate commercial banking systems around the world. They note that development and commercial banks can only expect the risks from corruption to increase as more signatory nations to various anti-corruption treaties and conventions criminalize the bribery of foreign public officials.

## Social Issues

**14. "A Global Snapshot"**

Richard W. Soudriette and Andrew Ellis. *Journal of Democracy*, April, 2006, 11 pages.

Designing an electoral system is a fundamental step in building a sustainable democracy. The authors explain the differences between a plurality/majority system and a proportional representation system. They analyze five key factors to consider when selecting an electoral system: electoral boundaries, voter education, the modernization of election equipment, ballot papers and counting, and long-term sustainability. The article also includes a table comparing more than 120 countries' electoral systems.

**15. "How to Minimize Money's Role in Politics"**

Steven Hill. *National Civic Review*, Summer 2006, 11 pages.

The author argues that public financing is the most promising form of campaign finance reform because it levels the playing field and gives candidates an incentive to accept spending limits. With public financing poorer candidates can challenge well-funded ones, enlivening the debate and opening up the system. It also removes the burden of fundraising. But while Hill believes public financing is currently the best solution, he argues that it is not enough.

**16. "Whose Information Age?"**

Sharon Mastracci. *Challenge*/July-August 2006, pages 111-122.

It is taken for granted that those who have only a high school education will not easily find jobs in information technology industries, that in the current economy, they will inevitably be left at a disadvantage. But this economist finds that the conventional wisdom is exaggerated.

**17. "Outstanding Educators and Citizens: Improving the Connection Between Our Public Schools and Our Communities. "**

Gary R. Chandler. *National Civic Review*, Summer 2006, 7 pages.

Educators across the United States are finding new ways to bridge the communication gaps that often exist among themselves, parents, and other community members. As a result, entire communities are coming together to build safe, seamless, and supportive learning environments for youth. This article highlights some of the outstanding examples of community-building activities implemented by educators who earned the Ambassador in Education Award in 2003, 2004, and 2005.

## Global Issues and Environment

### 18. "An Anti-Addiction Pill?"

Benoit Denizet-Lewis. *New York Times Magazine*, June 25, 2006, 6 pages. Addiction to drugs, alcohol, gambling and other habits has long been called a disease by some, and a "brain disorder" by others. Now, using advances in brain-imaging technology, scientists are beginning to understand the chemical reactions that cause addiction, and develop medications which may reduce or stop the addictive behaviors. The author discusses new discoveries in brain chemistry, experiments in developing and testing new medications, and the responses of pharmaceutical companies, addiction treatment organizations, and some addicts.

### 19. "Rescuing a Planet Under Stress"

Lester R. Brown. *Futurist*, July-August 2006, 8 pages. The world must move toward a new economic model powered by renewable energy and by a manufacturing strategy which designs and creates all products for ultimate recycling, writes the president of the Earth Policy Institute. Technology and knowledge of how to achieve this new economic model is well within the human grasp, if not already available, but the difficult thing is making the transition before economic decline and environmental collapse begin.

### 20. "The Next Big One"

Joel Achenbach. *National Geographic*, April 2006, 27 pages. The modern science of seismology was born after the 1906 earthquake that hit San Francisco. The author explores the advances that scientists have made in trying to predict when earthquakes will strike, and the efforts by local and national governments in quake-prone regions of the world in making buildings, utilities, communications systems and transportation infrastructure less susceptible to damage in a quake.

## Media, Communications and Information Technology

### 21. "Adapt Or Die"

Rachel Smolkin. *American Journalism Review*, June/July 2006, 7 pages. As newspaper companies confront a challenging future, they are increasingly viewing their trademark print product as the engine driving a diverse "portfolio" that embraces other "platforms" such as Web sites and niche publications. Is this a strategy for survival?

### 22. "Lessons for the Future Internet: Learning from the Past"

Michael M. Roberts. *Educause Review*, July/August 2006, 6 pages.

The author, long involved in Internet policy, describes a few highlights of Internet development in the past, analyzes some of the policy factors at work in that development, and suggests some avenues for academic contributions to the successful evolution of the future Internet.

## U.S. Politics, Society and Culture

### 23. "The Doable Dozen"

*American Prospect*, June 2006, 7 pages.

A collection of contributors to the American Prospect lists the issues Democrats and Republicans should be thinking about as the fall 2006 mid-year elections approach. Issues include income inequality, tax inequality, global conflict resolution, patents on pharmaceutical drugs, Medicare drug benefits, unfair credit-card rates, and universal access to broadband technology.

### 24. "Investi-Gate: What's Really at Stake in the November Elections"

Zachary Roth. *Washington Monthly*, June 2006, 5 pages.

Roth argues that the current Republican-held Congress has abandoned the tradition of bipartisan congressional oversight. Roth points to recent hearings on domestic wiretapping and Hurricane Katrina as situations where Republican chairs failed to subpoena the White House and the Justice Department, leading to paltry investigations. Roth writes that proper investigations are needed to keep government honest, to uncover real mistakes and move the country forward.

### 25. "Can Minority Languages Be Saved?"

Martin Baily, Diana Farrell, and Jaana Remes. *International Economy*, Winter 2006, 8 pages.

Dynamic, competitive local services can unlock a huge contribution to GDP growth and employment, say the authors. Unfortunately, they are being overlooked. Policymakers who want to leverage the economic power of local services growth need to ensure barriers to competition are removed and service companies are treated equally with manufacturing firms. The authors highlight the positive relationship between the local service sector and employment, and provide recommendations.

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