

Article Round-up January – February 2008

ECONOMIC SECURITY (ES)

1. "The World Economy and the Outlook for the United States"

C. Fred Bergsten. Testimony before the Budget Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, December 5, 2007, 2 pages

The U.S. economy faces significant risks over the coming years. Developments in the financial and housing markets raise the specter of a sharp turndown or even a recession. High energy prices and the falling U.S. dollar, in the face of near full employment, trigger concerns about inflation as well. The author examines several aspects of the world economy and the international economic position of the United States that have an important bearing on these considerations.

2. "Globalization 3.0"

Martin Walker. The Wilson Quarterly, Autumn 2007, 9 pages

The process of globalization throughout the twentieth century is discussed in the article with the author outlining a conceptual framework for understanding the economic globalization taking place in the 21st century. In doing so he, focuses on the role of international trade in the growth of a global economy.

3. "Cheap No More"

The Economist, December 8, 2007, 3 pages

The article discusses the global increase of food prices since 2007, citing a number of factors, including the elevated demand for meat resulting from new prosperity in China and India; the slowing growth in America and Europe; population increases in developing countries; and the conversion of grain to ethanol.

4. "Can Corruption Ever Improve an Economy?"

Douglas A. Houston. CATO Journal, Fall 2007, 18 pages

Corruption is widely seen as a negative force that impacts local economies by stifling competition, paying for poor services and raising the cost of doing business. However, there is a study that found corruption is a useful substitute, if there is no rule of law. This paper seeks to answer the question: Can corruption be a good thing for a country if it expands the economy?

5. "Recession Fever"

Martin Feldstein. Foreign Policy Web Exclusive, January 2008, 2 pages

The author states that there is a greater than 50 percent chance that the United States may experience a recession. He examines what a U.S. recession would mean for America and the world and why a U.S. recession could be worse than most people think.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY (IS)

6. "What Makes A Terrorist"

Alan Krueger. *The American*, November/December 2007

Princeton economics professor Alan Krueger has recently completed research that indicates that neither economic deprivation nor a lack of education are serious contributing factors to terrorism. Krueger's research indicates that consistent with the work on international terrorist incidents, countries with fewer civil liberties and political rights were more likely to be the birthplaces of foreign terrorists. Geographic distance is also a factor. Most terrorists come from nearby nations, he says. Krueger says that the evidence suggests that terrorists care about influencing political outcomes, and are often motivated by geopolitical grievances. Available online at

[http://www.american.com/archive/2007/november-december-magazine-contents/what-makes-a-terrorist/?searchterm="terrorist"](http://www.american.com/archive/2007/november-december-magazine-contents/what-makes-a-terrorist/?searchterm=)

7. "The Rise of China and The Future of the West"

John G. Ikenberry. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 87, No. 1, January-February 2008

China appears poised to overtake the United States as a world power, but the transition need not be a bloody one, according to Ikenberry, professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University. The coming power shift can occur peacefully and on terms favorable to the United States, but only by the United States reinforcing the Western order's system of global governance, first by reestablishing itself as its foremost supporter. Currently available online at

<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20080101faessay87102/g-john-ikenberry/the-rise-of-china-and-the-future-of-the-west.html>

8. "Security Cooperation: A Key to the Challenges of the 21st Century"

Gregory J. Dyekman. *Carlisle Papers in Security Strategy*, November 2007, 20 pages.

According to the author, there will always be tension between balancing military readiness with security cooperation. Most experts believe that military readiness is the most important priority for the Defense Department, but some argue that security cooperation builds partners and prevents conflicts. This paper examines the role of security cooperation and outlines the challenges the United States must overcome to strike a balance.

9. "Great Powers and Hierarchical Order in Southeast Asia"

Evelyn Goh. *International Security*, Winter 2007/2008, 45 pages.

Over the last decade, scholars have debated how Southeast Asian countries will cope with China as a growing power, as well as how their relations with the other major powers in the region would change. This article investigates contemporary Southeast Asian regional security strategies and ideas for maintaining regional order. The author suggests that key Southeast Asian states rely on two main pathways to regional order: the omnimeshment of major powers and the complex balance of influence.

10. "New Fighting Power!" Japan's Growing Maritime Capabilities and East Asian Security"

Richard J. Samuels, *International Security*, Vol. 32, No. 3, Winter 2007, pp. 84-112

Following its World War II debacle, the Japanese military has been characterized as a "self-defense" force, and has never been seen as a serious military player in world affairs. In fact, pacifism was enshrined in the post-War Japanese constitution. Nonetheless, the Japanese in recent years have been quietly modernizing and strengthening their Coast Guard, and are using the words "New Fighting Power" to describe it. So far, its neighbors have not objected, and this tactful assertion of military capability in time may bolster the Japanese public's willingness to support higher defense expenditures.

11. "How Large is China's Economy? Does it Matter?"

Wayne M. Morrison and Michael F. Martin, *Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division*, 6 pages.

China's rapid economic growth since 1979 has transformed it into a major economic power. Over the past few years, many analysts have contended that China could soon overtake the United States to become the world's largest economy, based on estimates of China's economy on a "purchasing power parity" (PPP) basis, which attempts to factor in price differences across countries when estimating the size of a foreign economy in U.S. dollars. However, in December 2007, the World Bank issued a study that lowered its previous 2005 PPP estimate of the size of China's economy by 40%. If these new estimates are accurate, it will likely be many years before China's economy reaches U.S. levels. The new PPP data could also have an impact on U.S. and international perceptions over other aspects of China's economy, including its living standards, poverty levels, and government expenditures, such as on the military.

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES (DGI)

12. "The Choice"

George Packer, *New Yorker*, January 28, 2008, 8 pages.

What are the differences between U.S. presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama? The author describes Clinton as "an executive with a focus on achieving goals" and Obama "a visionary with the ability to inspire individuals." He comments on the choice presented to voters between experience and change, an insider and an outsider, and between a female candidate and an African-American candidate.

13. "Forum: Charting the Future of Food"

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

This forum explores the fate of farming in the 21st century. The four articles in the forum include: "The Softest Subsidy" (Kym Anderson and Ernesto Valenzuela) on agricultural subsidy cuts; "Food, Feed, or Fuel?" (Siwa Msangi and Mandy Ewing) which explores the linkages between biofuels and agricultural market economies; "Agricultural Trade and Climate Change" (Lee Ann Jackson) which asks if the WTO can promote resilience in the

face of uncertainty; and “The Local Organic Food Paradigm” (Alex A. Avery and Dennis T. Avery) which debates the merits of local vs. global food systems.

14. “A Changing Climate: The Road Ahead for the United States”

Todd Stern, William Antholis, Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 1, Winter 2007-2008, pp. 175-187

The next U.S. president must adopt an aggressive policy to address global climate change, according to these authors who are with the Center for American Progress and the Brookings Institution respectively. This article is one of a series, CLIMATE POLICY CROSSROADS, in this issue. Available online at <http://www.twq.com/08winter/index.cfm?id=287>

15. "Paper or Plastic"

Shawn Query. E Magazine: The Environmental Magazine, November/December 2007, 3 pages.

The article offers information on the ban of plastic bags in various cities of the United States and concerns regarding the adoption of paper bags as an alternative. City governments want to ban plastic bags, due to their potential in damaging the environment, including clogging storm drains and threatening marine wildlife. However, paper bags and bio degradable products also have a major disadvantage in that their production cost is higher.

16. "The Value of Fair Use"

George H. Pike. Information Today, December 2007, 2 pages.

This article discusses the growing threat to the fair use of copyrighted material in the United States as online and digital content continues to grow. According to the author, the ease in which digital content can be copied, published, and distributed works against the principles underlying the fair use doctrine.

17. “Beyond the Age of Petroleum”

Michael T. Klare. The Nation, November 12, 2007, 5 pages.

The article discusses the future decline in oil production. The U.S. Energy Department has begun talking about "liquids" as fuel, rather than oil, as a way to signal the shift from solely petroleum fuels to encompass other liquid fuel. The level of consumption and output will likely be separated by 2030, and a rise in military intervention to control energy supplies is predicted.

18. “Child Labor: Why We Can’t Kick Our Addiction”

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

Although there are national and international laws against it, child labor remains a global phenomenon. 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). Bahree writes that child labor is “a fact of a global economy,

and will continue to be, as long as Americans (and Europeans) demand cheap goods -- and incomes in emerging economies remain low." Currently available online at <http://www.forbes.com/manufacturing/forbes/2008/0225/072.html>

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES (SV)

19. "Foreign Students in the United States: Policies and Legislation"
CRS Report for Congress, Updated December 10, 2007, 23 pages.

This report reviewed and updated the policies and legislation of the U.S. toward foreign students.

20. "Design Thinking"

Bell, Steven J., *American Libraries*, vol. 39, nos. 1-2, January/February 2008, pp. 44-49

According to the author, design thinking can offer a new perspective and a creative approach in organizing the professional workspace and creating the best possible worker experience. Design thinkers take a much more deliberate and thoughtful approach to problem resolution; they rarely jump on bandwagons. The author adapts his principles (understand; observe; visualize; evaluate/refine; implement) to the library professional but emphasizes that they can be used by others as well. With design thinking, librarians can navigate users to the library and its electronic resources and move beyond the traditional mindset of library service. Books and articles by and about design thinkers, such as *The Art of Innovation*, can provide greater detail and more concrete examples of how design thinking is applied to the creation of products and services. The Blended Librarians Online Learning Community (blendedlibrarian.org) is beginning to explore ways in which design thinking can be applied to further collaboration with community partners and help students achieve academic success.

21. "What is Public Diplomacy? Past Practices, Present Conduct, Possible Future"
Walter R. Roberts. *Mediterranean Quarterly*, vol. 18, no. 4, Fall 2007, pp. 36-52

The author, cofounder of the Public Diplomacy Institute at George Washington University and a former member of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy notes that in a modern, information-rich world, particularly with the development of the Internet, foreign publics are becoming more informed and sophisticated. Their attitudes are having an ever-greater impact on the actions of their governments, even in autocratic countries, and it is essential now that governments be able to reach the publics of other countries. The success of public diplomacy depends on a country's policies, and has now become an essential part of our foreign policy.

22. "Melinda Gates Goes Public"

Sellers, Patricia, *Fortune*, vol. 157, no. 1, January 21, 2008, pp. 44//56

In this interview, Melinda Gates, wife of Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates, talks about her husband, working in partnership with Warren Buffett, and her role in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and its new approach to philanthropy.

23. "The Beginner's Mind"

Jennifer Griffin-Wiesner and Chris Maser. USA Today, November 2007, 2 pages.

Educators influence on young people often is second only to that of family. Therefore, the impact of actions that a teacher and his or her students take is like "dropping a pebble into a quiet pool of water." This article discusses the importance of teachers in making our young people better individuals.

24. "American Teachers"

Robert Slater. Education Next, Winter 2008, 7 pages.

This article examines the status of elementary and secondary school teachers in the United States.

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