

## Article Round up

February – March 2006

### **Economics and Trade**

1. "National Trade Estimate Report - Vietnam"

The White House's Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. March 31, 2006, 7 pages.  
The U.S. goods trade deficit with Vietnam was 5.4 billion in 2005. Vietnam is currently the 58th largest export market for U.S. goods.

2. "U.S. International Trade: Data and Forecasts"

Dick K. Nanto and Thomas Lum. CRS Report for Congress, January 31, 2006, 19 pages.  
The U.S. trade balance is one macroeconomic variable that may or may not indicate underlying problems with the competitiveness of particular industries or the competitiveness of a nation. Based on 2004 data, the report presents background and analysis of the U.S. international trade status, and recent developments with data and forecasts,.

3. "The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth"

Benjamin M. Friedman. Society, January/February 2006, 8 pages.  
Although morality prohibits people and nations to place undue emphasis on material concerns, it is clear that economic growth often fosters greater opportunity for social diversity and democracy.

4. "The Problem with Growth as a Solution"

Richard Anderson-Connolly. Challenge, January/February 2006, 29 pages.  
Many observers have looked favorably on the ability of the U.S. economy to record high rates of economic growth. But does economic growth mean economic progress? The author strongly argues that on purely economic grounds, growth should not necessarily equal progress. Progress, he says, must be measured in other ways.

5. "Poverty and Globalization"

Shanker Singham and Donna Hrinak. National Interest, Winter 2005/06, 6 pages.  
Trade "liberalization" has not lived up to its promise to relieve poverty because domestic economic reforms required to create a true competitive market have not accompanied liberalization reforms. . Additionally, trade negotiations are conducted with a strong bias toward producers rather than consumers. The authors propose that trade negotiators should take a stronger stance in favor of consumer welfare through finding ways to link the level of competition in markets to the liberalization processes.

6. "Aid and Growth: The Policy Challenge"

Raghuram Rajan. Finance & Development, December 2005, 4 pages.  
Rajan, Director of the International Monetary Fund's Research Department, notes that there is little evidence of an unconditional effect of aid on growth. There are clearly some things that seem important such as good governance, sensible macroeconomic management, laws and policies supporting a positive business environment, and an economy open to international trade. He recommends rich countries make policies that

meet these requirements as an essential condition for aid, but cautions against micromanaging or being too prescriptive.

7. "Rethinking Community Economic Development"

Ron Shaffer, Steve Deller and Dave Marcouiller. *Economic Development Quarterly*, February 2006, 16 pages.

The authors present a more interdisciplinary approach to community economic development and propose an alternative paradigm that includes six elements – resources, markets, institutions, society, decision making, and space. They focus on the framework that links economic theory to practice, especially the integration of economic and non-economic factors.

### **Regional Security**

8. "Corruption and International Security"

Kimberly Thachuk. *The SAIS Review*, Winter-Spring 2005, 10 pages.

The Global War on Terrorism has made policy analysts around the world rethink the implications of corruption for the peaceful existence of states. Corruption has become the catalyst that enables groups to conspire on a global scale and threaten international security..

9. "How to Think About Terrorism?"

Richard K. Betts. *Wilson Quarterly*, Winter 2006, 6 pages.

Why is it always hard to anticipate every terrorist threat and virtually impossible to prevent those expected to happen? Even with better intelligence and technology, there is not much reason for optimism, the author says. However, there are steps we can take now.

10. "Enhancing Maritime Security in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore"

J. Ashley Roach, *Journal of International Affairs*, Fall/Winter 2005, 17 pages.

The Straits of Malacca and Singapore are the main channels connecting the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea, and are the shortest routes for tankers trading between the Middle East and Far East Asian countries. Ships and their seafarers face constant dangers such as theft, violence, kidnapping, and murder. Cooperation is essential to achieving maritime security in the straits.

11. "Maritime Piracy: Defining the Problem"

Dana Dillon. *The SAIS Review*, Winter-Spring 2005, 10 pages.

The current definition of piracy is completely inadequate as a tool for policymakers. The leading statistics and reporting systems are misleading. Most acts cited are not the classic boarding and hijacking of merchant vessels on the high seas. A reformulation of the definition of piracy will help defend against these maritime crimes..

12. "Think Again: Soft Power"

Joseph S. Nye Jr. *Foreign Policy Web Exclusive*, February 2006, 3 pages.

What exactly is “soft power” and how useful is it in dealing with today’s challenges? The author, who coined the word in his 1990 article, thinks that as it has moved into common usage, the term has been stretched and twisted, sometimes beyond recognition. The article provides a clearer picture of what it really means.

## **Social Issues**

### 13. "The Roots of Democracy"

Carles Boix. Policy Review, February & March 2006, 13 pages.

Since 9/11, spreading democracy around the globe has become the centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy. However, this enterprise is at risk because very few people have a sufficient understanding of the economic and institutional capital that is conducive to the extension of political liberties.. The main point is the nature of democracy must be understood.

### 14. "The Dynamics of Political Corruption: Re-Examining the Influence of Democracy"

Charles Blake and Christopher Martin. Democratization, February 2006, 14 pages.

The authors use the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) to study democracy's influence on the probability of corruption. They argue that there is little to support the prevailing wisdom that democratic regimes hold governing officials more accountable than autocratic ones. Economic and cultural variables are a more predictable check on corruption than the role of democracy. However, the authors believe that it is the consolidation of a “vital democratic process over time that has a robust, negative relationship with corruption.”

### 15. "International Law in the United States"

Andrew C. McCarthy. Commentary, February 2006, 8 pages.

The article offers insights on the authority of international law in the United States. The Constitution established a system of enumerated powers sufficient to secure the nation and promote commerce respectful of individual choice and local sovereignty. The law of nations and treaties are the sources of authority governing the country's international relationships. The challenges posed by treaties to constitutional order and national security are also discussed.

## **Global Issues and Environment**

### 16. " A Floundering WTO – Part I &II"

Edward Gresser. YaleGlobal, 21 March 2006, 4 pages.

According to the author, without WTO agreement on reforms before April 30th, the hope for fair trade for developing nations could be postponed indefinitely.

### 17. "The New World of Global Health"

Jon Cohen. Science, January 13, 2006, 6 pages.

In recent years, support and funding for improving public health in developing countries has sharply increased with the realization that improving a population’s health can speed development and sustainability of a nation. Cohen examines the arguments surrounding

the proper means for delivering aid to the developing world and the debate over how to spend aid to achieve the greatest gains in overall health.

18. "Silent Streams"

Mary Battiata. Washington Post Magazine, November 27, 2005, 14 pages.

There is a growing realization that streams are vital to a healthy freshwater system and that dying streams have significant implications for the supply of clean drinking water. The problem, the author states, is pavement. Concrete and asphalt prevents rainwater from seeping into the ground, and instead funnels it to the nearest body of water at a velocity and volume many times greater than they can handle. In the last decade, large numbers of local watershed and stream-protection volunteer groups have emerged in the U.S., particularly several active groups in the suburban Washington, D.C. area.

19. "Power to the Poor: Tapping the Wealth of Ecosystems"

Greg Mock and Paul Steele. Environment, January/February 2006, 16 pages.

Global poverty exists despite efforts over the last 60 years to eradicate it. Accompanying this serious concern are the interconnected problems of global-scale ecosystem degradation and a widespread lack of democratic governance. Can the world combat poverty by conserving ecosystems and giving the poor a stronger voice?

### **Media, Communications and Information Technology**

20. "Effective Management of Information Security and Privacy"

Alicia Anderson. EDUCAUSE Quarterly, Volume 29, Number 1, 2006, 4 pages.

A series of information system hack-ins in several major American universities have served as wake-up calls to develop a comprehensive information security and privacy strategy. The difficult task involves balancing a culture of openness with a need for security and privacy. The author points out that security and privacy are not IT issues. Instead, they demand a comprehensive, strategic, team approach to find effective solutions.

21. "The Rise of Blogs"

K. Daniel Glover. National Journal, January 21, 2006, 6 pages.

After gaining prominence in the media and the political arena, blogs, are having a growing impact in policy-making circles. Activists have used blogs to influence debates on various issues. The author takes a look at the trend through profiling 17 House and Senate members who created blogs in 2005 and 11 bloggers who have had the most impact in Washington.

22. "Video Games and the Future of Learning"

David Williamson, et al. Phi Delta Kappan, November 2005, 8 pages.

Video games are commonly looked upon as "merely entertainment," within the academic community, but the government, corporations, and the military have recognized their value as educational tools, urging schools to catch on. Educators face the challenge of developing games that provide a learning experience that will prepare students for "meaningful activity in our postindustrial, technology-rich, real world."

## **U.S. Politics, Society and Culture**

### 23. "The Role of Fair Use in Libraries and Education"

Association Research Library Bimonthly Report. February 2006

The testimony of the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) before the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Commercial Protection on November 16, 2005, by Prue Adler.

### 24. "Why the Culture War is the Wrong War"

E. J. Dionne, Jr. The Atlantic Monthly, January/February 2006, 6 pages.

There always has been a culture war in United States.. Citing election exit polls, Dionne claims the country is not as polarized on important issues as journalists and political activists might contend. The real division in the nation is between those who want to have a culture war and those who don't. Dionne concludes that Americans would be better off trying to find common ground by challenging the culture-war metaphor while deflating the partisan posturing of liberals and conservatives.

### 25. "Global Issues in Higher Education?"

Stephen P. Heynerman. E-journal USA, February 2006, 5 pages.

Global influences have affected higher education and today higher education has become "mass education." Americans should play a positive role running a successful model of higher education by living up to international standards of conduct

### 26. "Building Creative Communities: The Role of Art and Culture"

John M. Eger. The Futurist, March/April 2006, 5 pages.

The author, a leading authority on information technology, argues that cities must nurture the creative potential and community engagement of their citizens.