

Article Round-up

March – April 2009

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

1. Too Little, Too Late in Southeast Asia

David Jay Green. *Far Eastern Economic Review*, March 2009, 4 pages.

According to the author, economic growth in Southeast Asia is approaching a recession. He discusses the impact of lower growth in the region and then proposes measures that Southeast Asian countries can take during the crisis to protect and cushion themselves from the fall in overall growth.

2. Protectionism also Rises in Asia

Greg Rushford. *Far Eastern Economic Review*, March 2009, 3 pages.

While the Europeans and Americans have been the focus of much of the criticism, the report also singles out Asian protectionist offenders. The author examines the stance on protectionism of many Asian leaders and warns that Asia has the most to lose if barriers go up.

3. The Future of the Chiang Mai Initiative: An Asian Monetary Fund?

C. Randall Henning. *Policy Brief 09-5*, February 2009, 9 pages.

In 2000, the finance ministers of ASEAN, China, Japan, and South Korea (ASEAN+3) agreed to establish a network of bilateral swap arrangements (BSA) among the ASEAN+3 countries, known as the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI). Now the countries are negotiating among themselves to build these BSAs into a more comprehensive facility. The author provides a brief primer on the CMI, examines the possibilities for the conversion of CMI into a common regional fund, and offers recommendations to East Asian governments and the rest of the world to enhance complementarities between financial regionalism and global institutions, such as the IMF.

4. Adjusting to Global Economic Change: The Dangerous Road Ahead

Robert A. Levine. *RAND Pardee Center*, 2009, 32 pages.

The author combines macroeconomic history since the Great Depression with a brief exposition of economic theory that stems from it to explore how past experience may be applied to the future. He offers suggestions about new tools needed and puts forth policy suggestions for escaping the worst effects of the global crisis.

5. Capitalism's Future Lies in Networks and Cooperation

Farok Contractor. YaleGlobal. 20 April 2009

In the past, adversarial competition and in-house design and production typified the climate and model for business success. Today, that climate has changed, according to management professor Farok Contractor. Cooperation and networks are the new tools for success in the global economy for a whole host of reasons. First, many projects are so large that one company cannot possibly shoulder the risk or the cost to bring a project to completion. Additionally, with many products requiring hundreds of production steps, it is inefficient and difficult for one company to try to master every step. Thus companies must cooperate within a network of suppliers and partners to remain competitive, perhaps even survive. Such cooperation can lead to "altruistic" sharing in which companies may wait years for a project to turn a profit, in the mean time relying on the good faith of the involved partners to uphold their commitments. In such an environment, the fittest corporation will be the one that collaborates best with others.

6. Wall Street on the Tundra

Michael Lewis. Vanity Fair, April 2009.

What led the small country of Iceland to decide in 2003 to reinvent itself as a global financial power? Michael Lewis chronicles Iceland's economic roller-coaster, as it rapidly expanded, then in October 2008 experienced economic meltdown when its new, large banks collapsed. An entire nation that had no experience with high finance gazed upon the example of Wall Street and said, "We can do that." But, he says, Icelanders should have asked themselves why Iceland should be "seemingly essential to global finance." At the beginning, when local interest rates were more than 15 percent, Icelanders chose not to borrow in the country's krona, but instead took out loans in Swiss francs and Japanese yen at much lower rates. Those bargains made people lots of money on currency trades. The krona and housing prices kept rising, creating false prosperity. Many who had made their living from fishing suddenly became wealthy bankers; borrowers had imported the future into the present. As the krona collapsed in 2008, loans made in yen and francs became much more expensive and mortgages ballooned. Large numbers of Icelanders have to return to their earlier occupations. Currently available online at <http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2009/04/iceland200904>

SOCIAL ISSUES AND GOVERNANCE

7. Democracy Promotion under Obama: Finding a Way Forward

Thomas Carothers. Policy Brief No. 77, February 2009, 8 pages.

The author argues that while a careful post-Bush process of repair and recovery on democracy policy is in order, the idea that President Obama should embrace a broad, realist corrective is a mistake. He offers the key to finding a positive new way forward, discussing how elements of President Obama's political style and philosophy can translate naturally into useful steps forward.

8. The Death and Life of Great American Newspapers

John Nichols and Robert W. McChesney. *The Nation*, New York: March 18, 2009. Vol. 288, Iss.10) and Feb 2009, vol. 39 Issue 11, pp. 50-54)

Communities across America are suffering through a crisis that could leave a dramatically diminished version of democracy in its wake. It is not the economic meltdown, although the crisis is related to the broader day of reckoning that appears to have arrived. The crisis of which we speak involves more than mere economics. Journalism is collapsing, and with it comes the most serious threat in our lifetimes to self-government and the rule of law as it has been understood here in the United States.

9. The Concept of Soft Power in China's Strategic Discourse

Joel Wuthnow. *Issues & Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 2, June 2008, pp. 1-25.

Chinese strategists have concluded that "soft power," such as transmitting values, culture, innovation and other factors, is critical for the country to achieve an external environment that is conducive its long term objective to advance from being a regional to a global power. China wants to mitigate perceptions that it is a threat and promote an image as a country in peaceful development. To help promote a more sympathetic rising foreign elite, China is promoting Chinese studies through "Confucius Institutes" around the world and providing government scholarships for foreign university students similar to the U.S. Fulbright program. In the developing world, China is seeking to build influence not only to obtain natural resources but also diplomatic support at the United Nations. It is also employing "economic diplomacy" in the developing world through donations of foreign aid, low interest loans, restraints on exports and technical assistance. The author notes China's efforts but argues it faces image challenges because of contradictory messages, such as marketing its ancient past while accepting Western values and modernization, and portraying itself as a responsible state but is closely associated with rogue regimes.

REGIONAL SECURITY

10. How to Get Asia Right: Recommendations for the Obama Administration

Ralph A. Cossa. *American Foreign Policy Interests*, January 2009, 9 pages.

Asia is a region of growing economic and strategic importance to the United States today and will be for decades to come. The author discusses the status of U.S. relationships with the countries of Asia and offers an agenda of issues that the Obama administration should turn its attention to right away.

11. ASEAN: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Julie Ginsberg. *Council of Foreign Relations Backgrounder*, February 25, 2009, 4 pages.

As the global economic crisis increases the importance of trade, and with both China and the United States eye greater engagement with Southeast Asia, ASEAN may play a more robust role in the region. The author discusses the increasing role of ASEAN in the region, focusing on regional security and human rights issues, as well as growing trade.

12. U.S. Engagement in East Asia: A Case for 'Track Two' Diplomacy

Sarah Ellen Graham and John Robert Kelley. *Orbis*, Winter 2009, 19 pages.

The authors assess the prospects for Washington to improve its relations with China through the mechanism of "track two" diplomacy by examining its main components and functions with illustrative examples. The authors also discuss major areas of U.S. interest in East Asia and show how track two diplomacy might usefully be pursued within these contexts.

13. A Balanced Strategy: Reprogramming the Pentagon for a New Age

Robert M. Gates. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2009, 13 pages.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates discusses his plan to reorganize the American Armed Forces, stating that threats to U.S. national security cannot be met exclusively through the application of higher military appropriations. He examines an even-handed approach that will manage the nation's three primary defense concerns: the conduct of wars already in existence, the management of future insurgency threats, and preparations for future conventional conflicts.

14. Population: Some Boom, Some Decline

Joseph Chamie. *YaleGlobal*, 18 March 2009

World population nearly quadrupled during the 20th century, and in early March, US National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair told the Senate Armed Services Committee Tuesday that by 2025 it could grow by another 1 billion people. That would put pressure on the global environment as well as on food, water and energy supplies, setting up the potential for conflicts over resources. While population has grown at a fast clip in some developing countries, in the developed world it's been in decline. Varying fertility rates among regions can also contribute to poverty, destabilization and turmoil, explains demographer Joseph Chamie. Uncertainty shrouds projections beyond a few years out, yet Chamie points to some clear trends: Some demographers expect that increases in education, employment for women, contraception development and urbanization could lower fertility rates to replacement levels, thus stabilizing population. But small fractional differences in fertility rates can affect population totals by the billions, leading to economic and social havoc, and Chamie urges policymakers to pay close attention to a central challenge for this century.

15. Safe Seas Are Big Business

Asia Pacific Defense Forum, 4th Quarter 2008, pp. 28-33

The growth of seaborne trade has raised the importance of maritime security in recent years. The threats to maritime security include piracy, terrorism, drug trafficking, gun-running, human smuggling, pollution, accidents and interstate conflicts. A recent study noted several factors affecting maritime security -- more traffic, congested "choke points," the difficulty of sea surveillance, poor coastal and portside security, corrupt officials, and the availability of small arms. The mere threat of piracy deters

trade, and piracy and other maritime crimes increase shipping costs by raising insurance rates and forcing shippers to hire armed guards. Another threat to maritime security is the lack of standardized global regulations which permit activities such as open registries with lax regulations that allow ship owners to conceal their true identities. Ports are also a weak link, as officials even in major ports are able to inspect less than 10 percent of shipments. To promote maritime security, among the international initiatives are the piracy reporting centers in Southeast Asia that cover the Indian Ocean region, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. Available online at http://forum.apan-info.net/2008-4th_quarter/APDF_V33N4_Final.pdf

GLOBAL ISSUES AND ENVIRONMENT

16. From Rhetoric to Reality: U.S. and Global Energy Security

Shirley Ann Jackson. Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, February 5, 2009, 11 pages.

How can the United States tackle its own energy security and what role will it take as the world addresses this challenge? The author examines the complex state of global energy security affairs and looks at the options and opportunities inherent within them. Steps for the Obama administration to begin crafting a comprehensive energy security roadmap are also offered.

17. Thirsty Energy: Water and Energy in the 21st Century

World Economic Forum. February 2009, 56 pages.

This report explores the risks and opportunities inherent in the ancient relationship between energy and water, which has taken on a new urgency as competition for finite freshwater resources rises. It illustrates water-related challenges and potential solutions with perspectives from distinguished leaders in energy, water provision, engineering, and academia, concluding that local solutions must be found to optimize the use of both of these resources around the world.

18. Help Wanted for Green Jobs

Liza Featherstone. The Nation, February 16, 2009, 5 pages.

The author discusses how environmental-friendly jobs are being created and how the U.S. government can stimulate green industries, such as the wind industry, thereby producing even more green jobs. The author examines how the wind industry produces jobs involving the building, maintaining, and transmission of electricity and discusses the ways that U.S. President Barack Obama's administration can create and promote them.

19. Saving the Environment: Five Creative Approaches

Clifton Anderson. The Futurist, March-April 2009, 4 pages.

This article provides insight into how the actions of five individuals -- a globe-trotting community development specialist, a designer who learns from nature, a leading bio-regionalist, a Good Samaritan intent on helping humans (and nonhumans), and a scholar who sees signs that a new global cultural transformation is now in progress -- can help the world move toward a more environmentally sustainable future. Not only do they each share a deep concern for Planet Earth and its inhabitants, but they also express their concerns in very different ways.

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

20. Networking News

Arielle Emmett. *American Journalism Review*, December 2008/January 2009, 4 pages.

The author examines how mass media -- journalists and news gathering organizations alike -- is employing and interacting with online social networks, such as Facebook and Twitter in their efforts to compete in a challenging and fast-changing media landscape.

21. Goodbye to the Age of Newspapers (Hello to a New Era of Corruption)

Paul Starr. *The New Republic*, March 4, 2009, 8 pages.

The author discusses the problems experienced by the newspaper industry in the financial crisis of 2009 and how newspapers are being replaced by Internet news. He explores the lack of funding for public service journalism, as well as how philanthropic support is needed to keep public service journalism alive and how the decline of newspapers will affect U.S. politics and society.

22. U-Content: Doing It with Wikipedia

Nicholas Tomaiuolo. *Searcher*, April 2009, 8 pages.

The author discusses criticisms against the free online collaborative encyclopedia Wikipedia, as well as looks at its popularity as an online reference source. The author shows how staff at university libraries are working to make Wikipedia better for their students and everyone else who makes this free, online resource a first stop for information.

U.S. SOCIETY AND CULTURE

23. Virtual Schools

John E. Chubb, et al. *Education Next*, Winter 2009, 11 pages.

Will education technology change the role of the teacher and the nature of learning? Is technological change likely to increase significantly the amount of home schooling? Can new education technologies short-circuit change-resistant politics and help to remake schools? The authors discuss the transformative power of today's technology and the potential impact of technology on education.

24. Twin Peaks

Adam Gopnik. *Smithsonian*, February 2009, 5 pages.

The author discusses how former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln and naturalist Charles Darwin, who were born into very different circumstances on opposite sides of the Atlantic on the same day in February 1809, helped shape the modern world. The piece also looks at how they became icons of their respective causes, comparing their early lives and upbringing while also examining the beliefs current to the early 19th century and how science and democracy threatened those beliefs.

25. 10 Must-See Endangered Cultural Treasures

T. A. Frail, et al. *Smithsonian*, March 2009, 20 pages.

The authors highlight a list of ten endangered treasures around the world, ranging from prehistoric monuments at the Hill of Tara in Ireland to neglected stretches of the venerable Route 66 in the United States. Among other world sites making the list are the Buddhist Xumishan Grottoes in China, ancient petroglyphs at Dampier Rock Art Complex in Australia, and the Visoki Decani Monastery in Kosovo.

26. Higher Education and Public Diplomacy

Alan Dessoiff. *International Educator*, vol. 17, No. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 16-20.

Former Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs and current President and CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Patricia de Stacy Harrison, gives an interview urging patience on waiting for returns on investments made in international education. Ultimately, international education is an incredible value as it fosters a community of people of goodwill with mutual respect and understanding. A joint Department of State and Homeland Security advisory panel recently issued a report specifically advocating international education as a key component of public diplomacy. Harrison concludes this interview by citing the need for international education to be a two-way street with American students also studying abroad. This article is currently available on the Internet at:

http://www.nafsa.org/ /File/ /ie_sep08_voices.pdf

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