

Article Round-up

July- August 2007

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

1. "Challenges of Higher Education in Vietnam: Possible Roles for the United States"

Ambassador Michael W. Marine, the former U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, HCMC August 8, 6 pages.

At the University of Hawaii's Shidler College of Business Executive MBA Program in Ho Chi Minh City on August 6, 2007, the former U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam outlined some possible roles for the U.S. to help Vietnam improve its educational system.

2. "The Buffet Way"

U.S. News and World Report, August 6, 2007, page 46-56.

Warren Buffet is not just the most successful investor in modern history but also the most successful teacher. In 50 years of investing, he has made a lot of people rich. What are the keys to his success, and do they still apply? In this series of stories, readers can learn the secrets of the master.

3. "Has Globalization Passed Its Peak?"

Rawi Abdelal and Adam Segal. Foreign Affairs, January/February 2007, 11 pages.

In this article, the contemporary conception of globalization is compared to ones from a previous era, lasting from about 1870 to 1914. The authors predict that globalization will continue based on the technological revolution that has carried it thus far, but they also state that certain obstacles will appear, such as increasing resource nationalism, where a government asserts greater control over its domestic resources.

4. "A New Deal for Globalization"

Kenneth Scheve. Foreign Affairs, July/August, 2007, pp. 34-47

This article focuses on the rise of protectionism in the United States in the face of globalization. It states that the income for the majority of U.S. workers has stagnated or fallen in the last few years leading up to 2007. It looks at three common explanations for the rise of protectionism in the U.S. and then rejects them: that a narrow set of industries are lobbying to turn lawmakers against globalization, that there is a lack of education concerning globalization, and that the need to balance economic interests with national security concerns has resulted in a more protectionist stance. It states that the stagnation of income is the prime reason for the rise in protectionism and that the benefits of globalization have been unevenly distributed.

5. "Microfinance: The Newest Financial Technology of the Washington Consensus"

Patrice Flynn. Challenge, March-April 2007, 12 pages.

Leading global financial institutions have announced their newest model to govern global capitalism, known as microfinance. This article compares the new model to the previous one that had been used during the 1990s, and discusses some of the implications for potential users of microfinance technologies. The advantages and disadvantages of microfinance are also examined.

6. "Lessons Of The Asian Crisis 10 Years Later"

Janet L. Yellen, New Perspectives Quarterly, Spring 2007, pp. 40-44.

This article focuses on the effect of the 1997 Asian financial crisis on the global economy. According to the author, the five Asian nations associated with the crisis include Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia during which their economies decreased by an average of 7.7 percent and millions of their people lost their jobs. It is stated that the financial crisis in Asia was different in many ways from other global financial crises.

7. "The Paradox of Capital"

Eswar Prasad, Raghuram Rajan, and Arvind Subramanian, Finance & Development, vol. 44, no. 1, March 2007, pp. 16-19.

According to standard economic theory, financial capital should flow from richer, industrial countries to poorer, developing countries in search of new investment opportunities and a higher rate of return. Foreign direct investment (FDI) does follow that pattern, but other capital flows tend to move in the opposite direction -- a phenomenon that has long puzzled economists. The authors of this article point out that the paradox has intensified since 1990, when it was first described by Robert Lucas. By examining a sample of 51 nonindustrial countries, the authors also found out that countries that relied less on foreign finance have grown faster in the long run. In other words, higher growth in those countries is associated mainly with higher domestic savings. The authors suggest this may be a result of weak financial systems in many developing countries that hamper the absorption of foreign capital, slow down borrowing, and force savings. In some countries with weak financial systems, foreign capital may be neither needed nor helpful, the authors conclude, because the forces of globalization may be generating productivity gains and growth despite those financial weaknesses. "Any discussion of the merits of capital account openness is likely to be very specific to a country," they say.

REGIONAL SECURITY

8. "Crafting a U.S. Policy on Asia"

Carin Zissis. Council on Foreign Relations Backgrounder, April 10, 2007, 5 pages.

U.S. policy in the East Asian region has been focused on long-running conflicts such as the Korean peninsula and the Taiwan Strait; after 9/11, however, U.S. attentions shifted to the Middle East and counterterrorism efforts. A consensus of experts believes that "America's standing in the Asia-Pacific region has suffered over the past decade" and to recoup prestige in the region, American policies need to concentrate on strengthening multilateral organizations such as ASEAN and APEC.

9. "America's Grand Design In Asia"

Daniel Twining. Washington Quarterly, Summer 2007, 16 pages.

The author, the Fulbright scholar at Oxford University and a transatlantic fellow of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, believes that U.S. policymakers are employing a radically different strategy in Asia to facilitate the ascent of friendly Asian centers of power that will both constrain, not contain, China and allow the U.S. to retain its position as Asia's decisive strategic actor. The U.S. is actively cultivating Japan as a center of power and reshaping Southeast Asian security by constructing new partnerships. However, Indonesia and Vietnam may prove more important to the U.S. than Thailand and the Philippines. In 2005, the U.S. announced an historic effort to facilitate India's rise as an independent power.

10. "China is making friends and influencing people"

Joshua Kurlantzick. U.S. News and World Report, July 29, 2007, 4 pages.

The author analyzes how China's soft power is rising and why its power is both good and bad for America.

SOCIAL ISSUES

11. "Realism: Why Democracy Promotion Matters"

Barry F. Lowenkron. American Foreign Policy Interests, May 2007, 6 pages.

The author explores democracy in all of its limitations. He provides a telling definition of the best of all possible ideologies, explains why the quest to attain it is crucial to achieving peace and stability in the world, and offers guidelines for attaining it.

12. "Two Parties, Two Types of Nominees, Two Paths to Winning a Presidential Nomination, 1972-2004"

D. Jason Berggren. Presidential Studies Quarterly, June 2007, 25 pages.

The U.S. presidential primary poll data over the last three decades are examined to determine patterns in how candidates are selected by Republicans and Democrats.

13. "Charity, Philanthropy, Public Service, or Enterprise: What Are The Big Questions of Nonprofit Management Today?"

Roger A Lohmann. Public Administration Review, May-June, 2007, pp. 437-444.

"Nonprofit sector" issues, both in public discourse and pedagogy, are too narrowly cast as problems confronting public-serving nonprofits and grant-making foundations. Consisting also of membership organizations, educational institutions, and political pressure groups, the sector constitutes a major force in society which, in its interactive entirety, might better be termed a "social economy." This social economy both influences and is shaped by public administration, and it is now very much under public scrutiny. The author raises seminal questions that challenge the mission, management, and resources of this critical sector of society.

14. “The Nonprofit Industrial Complex: Is There Such a Thing As Too Much Civil Society?”

Gerard Alexander. *Weekly Standard*, Vol. 12, No. 30, April 23, 2007, pp. 24-28.

The nonprofit sector of the U.S. economy is showing rapid, massive growth, the author says, and there is speculation that it may change the nature of American society. Combined annual expenditures for all U.S. nonprofits in 2004 neared \$1 trillion, and 2001 total employment was 12 million. Furthermore, this does not include religious organizations, which are treated differently for tax purposes. Nor does it include state colleges or universities, which now frequently register as nonprofits. By 2003 there were 1.2 million faculty members nationwide, 54 percent working full-time and most at state schools, Alexander says. Nor do these numbers account for hundreds of thousands of college administrators. U.S. nonprofits have seen their combined assets grow from \$30 billion in 1975 to \$525 billion in 2005. Microsoft founder Bill Gates' foundation is the richest, with assets of \$29 billion. Second is the Ford Foundation with \$12 billion. There are also 62 colleges or universities with endowments of \$1 billion or more: Harvard has \$29 billion, Yale \$18 billion, Stanford \$14 billion. The Gates Foundation's annual giving now begins to rival Sweden's annual foreign aid, yet it still represents just 1 percent of U.S. nonprofits' giving.

15. “On Improving Nation-State Governance”

Robert Rotberg. *Daedalus*, vol. 136, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 152-155.

The author, a fellow of the American Academy, a Harvard professor and the president of the World Peace Foundation, argues for the creation of a universal system of ranking states with respect to their results in good-governance, just as the nongovernmental organization Transparency International is ranking states in respect to corruption. In the author's view, a transparent and objective ranking system would provide a stronger incentive to improvement and would have a more positive effect on the developing world than pressure from Washington, London or Brussels. He cites eight main categories of political services that numerous studies link to economic growth. The most important is security, followed by the rule of law, freedom to participate in the political process, and economic opportunity. The other fundamental categories are health care, education, transportation and communication infrastructure, and the empowerment of civil society. As shown by numerous public opinion surveys in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, these are also the aspects of "good governance" that most people throughout the world agree upon, writes the author.

GLOBAL ISSUES AND ENVIRONMENT

16. “The Failed State Index 2007”

Foreign Policy. July/August 2007, pages 55-63.

The world's weakest states aren't just a danger to themselves. They can threaten the progress and stability of countries half a world way. In the third annual Failed States Index, *Foreign Policy* and Fund for Peace rank the countries where risk of failure is running high.

17. "The Truth about Recycling"

The Economist. June 9, 2007, 4 pages.

This article offers a global survey of the state of materials recycling, weighing the economics, the techniques, and momentum of the practice. It reports that in some cases, products headed for recycling are disassembled in ways that release harmful gases into the environment or expose workers to toxins. The most promising trend in the field is adoption of the "closed loop cycle" where materials and packaging are designed from the outset to create no waste, using materials that can be either recycled indefinitely or completely biodegradable.

18. "The Dirty Truth About Coal: Why Yesterday's Technology Should Not Be Part Of Tomorrow's Energy Future"

Alice McKeown. Sierra Club, June 2007, 20 pages.

The author states that coal-fired power plants are major contributors to global warming. She further asserts that "mining and burning coal scars lungs, tears up the land, pollutes water, devastates communities, and makes global warming worse." The coal industry, however, is pushing "clean" coal alternatives such as Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) that captures coal-fired exhaust and stores it underground and Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) that converts coal to a gas then burned to produce electricity. The study urges that coal be mined responsibly and burned cleanly without exacerbating global warming.

19. "The Ideology of Development"

William Easterly. Foreign Policy, July/August, 3 pages.

The failed ideologies of the last century have come to an end. But a new one has risen to take their place. It is the ideology of development and it promises a solution to all the world's ills. However, the author argues that like communism, fascism and other before it, developmentalism is a dangerous and deadly failure.

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

20. "Working Without Wires"

Christopher Swope. Governing, May 2007, 5 pages.

A number of cities in the United States are installing wireless broadband networks to provide free public access to the Internet. While these projects usually have to do with public access rather than municipal uses, the city of Corpus Christi, Texas took a different approach. This city installed its own WiFi network, which provides high-speed data exchange between field employees -- such as police, firefighters, and building inspectors -- and their offices, and allows real-time monitoring of public parks, city vehicles, and even water and gas meters.

U.S. SOCIETY AND CULTURE

21. "Diversity in the United States and Abroad: What Does It Mean When American Studies Is Transnational?"

Emory Elliott. American Quarterly, March 2007, 22 pages.

Students who study abroad today learn not only about cultural differences; they also discover how much they have in common with other students around the world. The author argues for the formation of transnational American studies, saying that genuine inclusiveness and broad international collaboration are especially crucial. She concludes that more dialogue between U.S. scholars and those who study American history, foreign policy, society and culture outside the U.S. will broaden the field and effectively generate developments that will lead to thoughtful citizenship and a more humane future.

22. "Are Reference Desks Dying Out?"

Scott Carlson. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, April 20, 2007, 3 pages.

New technological tools have replaced many librarians' face-to-face encounters, but the reference desks and the persons behind them are needed still. The future of reference desks and reference librarians is discussed.

23. "Is America A Christian Nation?"

Hugh Heclo. *Political Science Quarterly*, Spring 2007, pp.59-88.

Heclo analyzes whether or not America is a Christian nation by considering related scholarly literature, social demographics, and voting trends. First, he opines that, yes, America is a Christian nation in a very broad sense of its formal, demographic identity. Second, no, America is not a nation of Christians in any strong traditional meaning of the term -- not in moral guidance, not by doctrinal creed, and not by cultural behavior. Third, yes, America is a nation powerfully influenced by Christianity, both in its legal institutions and its political ethos. Fourth and finally, as judged by Christianity itself, America is not and cannot be a Christian nation. He argues that America, like every other worldly power, is an incommensurate, inferior thing and hence, if one takes this religion seriously as it presented itself in human form, the answer to the question is no way.

24. "A Woman for U.S. President? Gender and leadership traits before and after 9/11"

Susan B. Hansen and Laura Wills Otero. *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*, Vol. 28, No. 1, 2006, pp. 35-59.

A public agenda focused on terrorism and war may have added to voters' doubts about women's leadership, but popular support for electing a woman has rebounded since 2001-2003. An analysis of candidates' traits using American National Election Studies (ANES) surveys found that the "strong leader" cue actually became less rather than more important as a predictor of the presidential vote in 2004 than in 2000. The trait "candidate cares about you" was significantly more important in 2004 than in many previous election years, especially for women. Women politicians who can prove their "toughness" or their skills at crisis management may have an advantage with voters (especially women voters) if they can take advantage of their perceived edge in compassion.

25. "Is America Ready For A Black President?"

Al Sharpton, Carol Swain. *Ebony*, January 2007, pp. 140-141.

Two prominent individuals present differing, but not opposing, opinions on whether American voters would elect a black person to be president. The Rev. Al Sharpton, a long-time activist and a 2004 presidential candidate, says the same grass-roots energy that drove the civil rights struggle will be needed to elect the first black president. "It won't happen from the top party structure downward," he writes. Americans' comfort with the dominant black television presence - evident in the success of Bill Cosby and Oprah Winfrey - and with blacks in politics and business, signals that the time is nigh for a black president. Swain, a professor of political science and law at Vanderbilt University, also says America could elect a black president, but argues it won't be an activist from the civil rights movement, but rather a person like Barack Obama or Gen. Colin Powell, both of whom embody the hope of immigrants for the American Dream. Swain believes America will elect a black male president long before it elects a woman. "At play are our Judeo-Christian and now Muslim traditions that have limited the roles of women," she writes.

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