

Article Alert

January 2006

Economics and Trade

1. “Agricultural Biotechnology Adoption in Developing Countries”

Matin Qaim. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, December 2005, 18 pages.

Qaim, an agricultural economist, details three main differences between agricultural biotechnology and previous crop technologies that influence their availability and access for farmers. He discusses intellectual property rights (IPR), regulatory procedures, and seed prices. He concludes that biotechnology holds great potential for developing countries, but the benefits on a larger scale require complementary public endeavors to ensure wider dissemination.

2. “Recovering Sustainable Development”

David G. Victor. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2006, 13 pages.

Sustainable development – the notion that boosting economic growth, protecting natural resources, and ensuring social justice can all be complimentary goals – has lost much appeal over the past two decades. The concept can regain relevance, the author argues, only if its original purpose – helping the poor live healthier lives on their own terms – is restored.

3. “Understanding Child Labor: Patterns, Types, and Causes”

Eric V. Edmonds, Assistant Professor of Economics, Dartmouth College, *Electronic Journal*, May 2005, 6 pages.

Edmonds argues that an effective policy for ending child labor can be crafted only within the context of a country's overall economic development strategy.

4. “Reforming the World Bank”

Jessica Einhorn. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2006, 7 pages.

The author argues that the World Bank's outdated financial structure is a threat to its continued relevance. She recommends some structural changes that will help the bank deal with the needs of its middle-income clients more effectively, and adapt its own financial infrastructure to the modern world of global finance.

5. “Who Supplied My Cheese? Supply Chain Management in the Global Economy”

Thomas F. Siems. *Business Economics*, October 2005, 15 pages.

Today, with an Internet connection and some specialized skills, individuals and companies located in the remote ends of the earth can compete and collaborate globally. While many factors can influence macroeconomic variables, evidence shows that better global supply chain management and a more global economy should not be overlooked. The author examines the evolution of supply chain management and the impacts of new technology on its operations.

Regional Security

6. "Asian Anchors Shift"

James Kitfield. *National Journal*, November 12, 2005, 6 pages.

The long-term success of the Bush administration's Asian strategy will likely depend on its ability to reshape and reinvigorate its strategic relationships in the region, particularly with two nations that host the bulk of U.S. military forces in Asia, Japan and South Korea.

7. "The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?"

Friedberg, Aaron L. *International Security*, Fall 2005, pp. 7-45

What will characterize the relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China in the future? Will it be marked by convergence toward deepening cooperation, stability, and peace or by deterioration that leads to increasingly open competition and perhaps even war? The answers to these questions are of great significance. At this point, they are also unknown. Most analysts who write on U.S.-China relations deploy arguments derived from three main camps in contemporary international relations theory: realism, liberalism, and constructivism. Those whose basic analytical premises place them in one of these three schools, however, do not necessarily have similar views regarding the specific question of the future of U.S.-China relations. It is possible to identify realists who believe that the relationship will be stable and peaceful, liberals who expect confrontation and conflict, and constructivists who think that things could go either way? The six basic positions in this debate all rest on claims about the importance of particular causal mechanisms or sets of similarly aligned causal forces. In reality, one set of forces may turn out to be so powerful as to overwhelm the rest. But it is also conceivable that the future will be shaped by a confluence of different forces, some mutually reinforcing and others opposed.

8. "Sovereignty as Responsibility"

Amitai Etzioni. *Osiris*, Winter 2006, 15 pages.

"Sovereignty as responsibility" is a new normative principle of international order that says sovereign states not only have the right, but also the duty, to intervene in other states' internal affairs if those nations do not conduct their internal affairs in ways that meet internationally recognized standards. Although this principle has become very popular in recent years, the author argues that it opens a gaping hole in the foundation of democracy, which cannot be ignored.

9. "The Urgent Need to Strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime"

Pierre Goldschmidt. *Carnegie Endowment Policy Outlook #25*, January 2006, 8 pages.

In the wake of Iran's announcement of its intention to resume its nuclear research program, Goldschmidt, former Deputy Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), calls for the United Nations Security Council to adopt a generic and binding resolution that would automatically authorize three steps if a state does not comply with the IAEA.

10. "Paying for Terror"

David Kaplan, Bay Fang and Soni Sangwan. U.S. News & World Report, December 5, 10 pages.

Although the motives of terrorists and crime syndicates differ, both groups now thrive in the same subterranean world of black markets, drug trafficking and laundered money. Counterterrorism efforts, which suffer from the same kind of bureaucratic turf battles and cultural barriers that still plague intelligence agencies, must grapple with this nexus between organized crime and terrorism. The article says that taking on this worldwide plague of crime and corruption may be more than the public bargained for.

Social Issues

11. "Institutions, History, and Economic Development"

Kenneth W. Dam. John M. Olin Law & Economics Working Paper #271, January 2006, 29 pages.

If one wants insight into how the developing world can attain rule of law, one good place to start would be to ask how countries in today's developed world did it. The author examines the Western European experience in legal institutional development, suggesting that if developed countries like the United States and Japan can succeed in such development despite historical, societal, or other differences from Western European nations, other countries can as well.

12. "What Is Democracy? Liberal Institutions and Stability in Changing Societies"

William Anthony Hay. Orbis, Winter 2006, 19 pages.

Is it possible to export democracy? That question underlies current U.S. foreign policy, and answering it requires an operational definition of democracy that distinguishes its essential attributes from circumstantial ones. The author argues that democracy typically emerges from within a society, and imposing it externally presents further challenges while risking backlash.

13. "Why Federalism Matters"

Pietro S. Nivola. Brookings Policy Brief #146, October 2005, 8 pages.

Federalism, which permits a large measure of regional self-rule, is supposed to be "a preserver of people's liberties" and "a vehicle for a flexible response to their problems." But now, the promise and practice of federalism are frequently at odds. In this article, the author weighs several advantages of federalism against each other.

14. "Controlling Global Corruption: Are We There Yet?"

Michael Johnston. Current History, December 2005, 5 pages.

Political corruption has climbed back up the international policy agenda as it has become clear that in some regions corruption is linked with violence and trafficking in drugs, arms, and human beings. The last two decades have seen a proliferation of advocacy, research, and reforms. The author provides a perspective on the fight against corruption, and discusses the effects of the global economy on it.

Global Issues and Environment

15. "Peak Oil Forum"

Kjell Aleklett, et al. *World Watch*, January/February 2006, 16 pages.

Oil accounts for one-third of global energy use and underpins the modern industrial way of life. Now that global oil production is nearing its peak (experts predict that the peak will arrive in the years 2008-2010), we have to find a plan to allocate this increasingly precious commodity, and think about alternative energy sources which are less expensive. Here, five experts discuss what life is like without cheap and abundant petroleum, and why we should start policy planning now to mitigate the effects of oil production decline.

16. "Tsunami: Wave of Change"

Eric L. Geist, Vasily V. Totov, and Costas E. Synolakis. *Scientific American*, January 2006, 8 pages.

After the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004, scientists and warning centers are now better equipped to forecast and model these monstrous waves. This paper provides the latest developments.

17. "Getting a Grip on Carbon"

Jeff Tollefson. *CQ Weekly*, December 5, 2005, 7 pages.

The global warming debate has moved beyond whether it exists to what should be done to control it. However, there are no surefire, inexpensive, consumer-friendly ways to curtail greenhouse gases. Even if the world could rid itself of carbon dioxide emissions today, most scientists say the earth would continue to get warmer for decades.

18. "From the Headwaters to the Sea: The Critical Need to Protect Freshwater Ecosystems"

Susanne Stoll-Kleemann. *Environment*, December 2005, 14 pages.

Healthy freshwater ecosystems provide numerous life-support services, offering food, water supply for crop irrigation, and flood and storm damage mitigation. The key is to find innovative ways to protect them.

19. "The Internet Is Broken"

David Talbot. *Technology Review*, December 2005/January 2006, 7 pages.

As Internet applications have proliferated over the years, companies and network engineers came up with ingenious and expedient patches, plugs, and workarounds. The result is a complex and convoluted affair that is difficult to manage and more fragile with each passing day. It also has fundamental flaws that can cost companies billions, impede innovation, and threaten national security. The author declares that it is time for a clean-slate approach to fix the Internet.

20. "Information Ethics in the Business Research Environment"

Roberta Brody. *Online*, January/February 2006, 4 pages.

Few business transactions do not generate information or rely upon an exchange of information. The author examines elements of both applied business ethics and

information ethics, and discusses the issues, dilemmas, and challenges stemming from the duties and tasks of business information professionals.

21. "The Avian Virus: The Cusp Of An Epidemic"

Garrett, Laurie. Current, October 2005, pp. 9-17

Scientists have long predicted the appearance of an influenza virus capable of infecting 40 percent of the world's human population and killing in unimaginable numbers. Since it first emerged in 1997, avian influenza has become deadlier and more resilient. It has infected 109 people, killing 59 of them. If the virus becomes capable of human-to-human transmission and retains its high potency, humanity could face a pandemic unlike any other witnessed.

22. "The Google Book Search Project: Is Online Indexing a Fair Use Under Copyright Law?"

Robin Jeweler. CRS Report for Congress, December 28, 2005, 6 pages.

Google, Inc. is digitally scanning the collections of several prominent libraries in order to create a vast searchable database of literary works. Copyright holders who have not authorized and object to digitization have filed lawsuits against the company. This report provides background on the pending litigation.

U.S. Politics, Society and Culture

23. "Religious Protection"

Spencer Ackerman. The New Republic, December 12, 2005, 6 pages.

Why have so few American Muslims become terrorists? The author offers a surprising answer.

24. "Higher Education in 2015"

Daniel Yankelovich. The Education Digest, January 2006, 11 pages.

Yankelovich investigates the future of higher education in 2015. He concludes that higher education may not be very responsive to the larger society in the next decade. It has too many constituencies to satisfy, too many traditions, too many constraints on it to lend it flexibility, or political will, to adapt rapidly to the outside world.

25. "The Worldwide Expansion Of Higher Education In The Twentieth Century"

Schofer, Evan; Meyer, John W. American Sociological Review, December 2005, pp. 898-920

The authors analyze the rapid, worldwide expansion of higher educational enrollments over the twentieth century in both developed and developing countries.