

## ARTICLE ALERT # 14

The Article Alert is a compilation of articles and reports published by different journals and Think Tanks. The following topics are covered by this alert:

1. [Foreign Policy](#)
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# April/May 2010

## I. FOREIGN POLICY

### **Afghanistan's Rocky Path to Peace**

By J. Alexander Thier

*(Current History, April 2010)*

For the first time since 2001, a settlement among Afghanistan's warring parties seems a possibility. The route to a sustainable deal, however, remains far from obvious.

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **After Iran Gets the Bomb**

By James M. Lindsay and Ray Takeyh

*(Foreign Affairs, March/April 2010)*

Despite international pressure, Iran appears to be continuing its march toward getting a nuclear bomb. But Washington can contain and mitigate the consequences of Tehran's nuclear defiance, keeping an abhorrent outcome from becoming a catastrophic one.

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **Allies Divided**

By Benjamin J. Schwartz

*(American Interest, March/April 2010)*

"The storm following Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu's rebuff of the Obama Administration's appeal for Israel to halt all settlement expansion—including 'natural growth'—overshadows a rarely noted but more fundamental and intractable divergence between Israeli and American policies. This split is rooted in the two governments' contrasting answers to

the following question: Is Palestinian political and geographic fragmentation a barrier to peace?"

For full text follow the link: <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=801>

### **Are the Settlements Illegal**

By Nicholas Rostow

*(American Interest, March/April 2010)*

"Israeli settlements in the territories that came under Israeli control as a result of the June 1967 war have long been a subject of often highly emotional debate within the United States, Israel and the international community. The Obama Administration's decision to focus on settlements right out of the gate heightened attention on this already salient issue, but it is by no means clear that heightened attention will by itself facilitate resolution of the Palestine/Israel problem."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=782>

### **Armistice Now**

By Ehud Yaari

*(Foreign Affairs, March/April 2010)*

"More than 16 years after the euphoria of the Oslo accords, the Israelis and the Palestinians have still not reached a final-status peace agreement. Indeed, the last decade has been dominated by setbacks -- the second intifada, which started in September 2000; Hamas' victory in the January 2006 Palestinian legislative elections; and then its military takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007 -- all of which have aggravated the conflict. Since an extended impasse is so dangerous, the best option for both the Israelis and the Palestinians is to seek a less ambitious agreement that transforms the situation on the ground and creates momentum for further negotiations by establishing a Palestinian state within armistice boundaries.

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **Behind the Settlements**

By Daniel Kurtzer

*(American Interest, March/April 2010)*

"Ariel Sharon was considered the godfather of the Israeli settlements movement. His ardent support of settlements construction and the legitimacy he lent to the strategic argument for settlements as a means of enhancing Israeli security were vital to the success of the enterprise, particularly in the years after he left the Israeli military for politics. Sharon's basic argument revolved around security. During my time as U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Sharon would often hold forth on the rationale for and his own role in the planning of new settlements."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=781>

### **Enemies into Friends**

By Charles A. Kupchan

*(Foreign Affairs, March/April 2010)*

During his first year in office, U.S. President Barack Obama made engagement with U.S. adversaries one of his administration's priorities. The historical record makes clear that Obama is on the right track: reaching out to adversaries is an essential start to rapprochement.

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **The Illogic of Zero**

By Bruno Tertrais

*(The Washington Quarterly, April 2010)*

The number of, and reliance on, nuclear weapons should be reduced, but the intellectual and political movement in favor of abolition suffers from unconvincing rationales, inherent contradictions, and unrealistic expectations. A nuclear-free world is an illogical goal.

For full text follow the link: [http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr\\_Tertrais.pdf](http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr_Tertrais.pdf)

### **Imagining Iraq, Defining Its Future**

By Missy Ryan

*(World Policy Journal, Spring 2010)*

"Today, the legacy of the American adventure in Iraq is slowly coming into focus. As U.S. soldiers prepare to withdraw after a seven-year occupation, the new Iraqi state takes unsteady steps toward an uncertain future. At the heart of that assessment, which will shape America's standing across the Middle East for years to come, is the nature and performance of the nation the United States leaves behind—its ability to contain a still-tenacious insurgency, the success of its elections, the brand of government it chooses, the role it allots to women and minorities. Even after parliamentary polls in March, when voters defied insurgent attacks to cast ballots, the dangers are many. Iraq has not yet settled major questions about the balance of power between central and regional authorities, how a newly empowered majority will treat minorities, and how to achieve national reconciliation.

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **Martyrdom, Interrupted**

By Matthew Alexander

*(The National Interest, March/April 2010)*

Our interrogation techniques are relics of the Stone Age. To win the battle against terrorism, violent extremism must be converted into antijihad advocates. U.S. interrogators question detainees with no more than a clipboard in their hands, a plastic chair on offer and a plywood wall at their backs. We need no longer be the ugly American. Following in the footsteps of an armed Indonesian academic, we too can destroy our al-Qaeda networks.

For full text follow the link: [Full text](#)

### **NATO Nuclear Policy and Euro-Atlantic Security**

By Sam Nunn

*(Survival, April/May 2010)*

"The revision of NATO's Strategic Concept in 2010 is an historic opportunity. Twenty years after the end of the Cold War, NATO governments and publics will expect, if not demand, that the Alliance re-evaluate long-standing U.S. and NATO nuclear declaratory policy, U.S. tactical nuclear weapons deployed in Europe, and the role of nuclear weapons in NATO security."

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **The News Rules of War**

By John Arquilla

*(Foreign Policy, March/April, 2010)*

"Every day, the US military spends \$1.75 billion, much of it on big ships, big guns, and big battalions that are not only not needed to win the wars of the present, but are sure to be the wrong approach to waging the wars of the future. What's missing most of all from the US military's arsenal is a deep understanding of networking, the loose but lively interconnection between people that creates and brings a new kind of collective intelligence, power, and purpose to bear -- for good and ill. US military leaders have not sufficiently grasped that even quite small units -- like a platoon of 50 or so soldiers -- can wield great power when connected to others, especially friendly indigenous forces, and when networking closely with even a handful of attack aircraft." John Arquilla is professor of defense analysis at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **...The Next Empire?**

By Howard M. French

*(The Atlantic, May 2010)*

"All across Africa, new tracks are being laid, highways built, ports deepened, commercial contracts signed—all on an unprecedented scale, and led by China, whose appetite for commodities seems insatiable. Do China's grand designs promise the transformation, at last, of a star-crossed continent? Or merely its exploitation? The author travels deep into the heart of Africa, searching for answers."

*For full text follow the link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/05/the-next-empire/8018/>*

### **Obama's Foreign Policy. The Swing Away from Bush: How Far to Go?**

By Henry R. Nau

*(Policy Review, April/May 2010)*

American foreign policy swings like a pendulum. Under President George W. Bush, U.S. foreign policy promoted a democracy agenda, used force readily to buttress and at times even displace diplomacy, championed free markets, and risked if not relished unilateralism. Under President Barack Obama, U.S. foreign policy has swung decisively in the opposite direction. Now, U.S. security interests matter more than democracy, force is a last resort, substantial regulations are needed to end the booms and busts of global capitalism, and multilateralism is the sine qua non of U.S. diplomacy.

*For full text follow the link: <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/89074287.html>*

### **The Other Side of the COIN: Perils of Premature Evacuation from Iraq**

By Kenneth M. Pollack and Irena L. Sargsyan

*(The Washington Quarterly, April 2010)*

"The United States is leaving Iraq. Both the U.S. administration and the Iraqi government have made that clear. In 2008, the United States and Iraq signed a security agreement allowing U.S. troops to stay only until the end of 2011, and in February 2009, President Barack Obama announced that he intended to reduce U.S. forces in Iraq to just 50,000 and to end their combat mission by August 2010. But how the United States leaves is of tremendous importance for the region, the international community, and above all, for the future vital U.S. interests."

*For full text follow the link: [http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr\\_PollackSargsyan.pdf](http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr_PollackSargsyan.pdf)*

## **Reforming the Euro-Atlantic Security Architecture: An Opportunity for U.S. Leadership**

By Jeffrey Mankoff

*(The Washington Quarterly, April 2010)*

"The United States should take a more active interest in the Russian proposal for a new Euro-Atlantic security agreement, and work closely with its European allies to fill in the details. Even beginning to discuss possible arrangements can benefit all involved."

For full text follow the link: [http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr\\_Mankoff.pdf](http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr_Mankoff.pdf)

## **Terrorist Financing and the Internet**

By Michael Jacobson

*(Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, April 2010)*

"While al Qaeda has used the Internet primarily to spread its propaganda and to rally new recruits, the terrorist group has also relied on the Internet for financing-related purposes. Other Islamist terrorist groups, including Hamas, Lashkar e-Taiba, and Hizballah have also made extensive use of the Internet to raise and transfer needed funds to support their activities. The Internet's appeal in this regard for terrorist groups is readily apparent—offering a broad reach, timely efficiency, as well as a certain degree of anonymity and security for both donors and recipients. Unfortunately, while many governments now recognize that the Internet is an increasingly valuable tool for terrorist organizations, the response to this point has been inconsistent. For the U.S. and its allies to effectively counter this dangerous trend, they will have to prioritize their efforts in this area in the years to come. "

[Full text available upon request](#)

## **The U.S. and Iraq: Time to Go Home**

By Toby Dodge

*(Survival, April/May 2010)*

"After Barack Obama's victory in the 2008 U.S. presidential election, debate in Washington about America's role in Iraq dramatically reduced. Afghanistan and Pakistan took over at the top of the foreign-policy agenda and the caravan of instant experts, policy wonks and technocrats packed up and moved on to Kabul. However, in February 2010 debate in the White House and Washington think tanks began once again to focus on Iraq and the utility of the United States' role there."

[Full text available upon request](#)

## **U.S.-China Relations: Is the Future Confrontation Looming**

*(CQ Researcher, May 7, 2010)*

Disputes that have bedeviled relations between the United States and China for decades flared up again following President Obama's decision to sell weapons to Taiwan and receive Tibet's revered Dalai Lama. From the U.S. perspective, China's refusal to raise the value of its currency is undermining America's — and Europe's — economic recovery. Beijing also rebuffed Obama's proposal of "a partnership on the big global issue of our time".

[Full text available upon request](#)

## **Making Multilateralism Work: How the G-20 Can Help the United Nations**

By Jones Bruce

*(The Stanley Foundation. April 2010)*

"The moves in 2008-09, prompted by the global financial crisis, to convene the G-20 at the level of heads of state constituted the first major adaptation of global arrangements to better fit with the fact of the emerging powers. Clearly it will not be the last. G-20 negotiations have already given a critical impetus to governance reforms at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and The World Bank. Criticisms of the G-20 from within the UN focus on its illegitimacy (defined in UN-centric terms) and its potential usurpation of functions formally tasked to UN bodies by the Charter. The fundamental problem with the nascent rivalry between the G-bodies and the UN bodies is an underlying misconception of their comparative advantages and of the potential relationship between them. Rather than viewing the G-20 as a threatened usurper of the United Nations, this paper takes a different starting point. It regards the universality of the United Nations, apart from certain operational weaknesses, as an enduring political strength of the organization. It also assumes that the G-20 (like the G-8 before it) will have minimal operational or actionable roles and will depend on the formal institutions to implement most, if not all, of its major initiatives.

*For full text follow the link: [http://www.stanleyfoundation.org/publications/pab/Jones\\_PAB\\_410.pdf](http://www.stanleyfoundation.org/publications/pab/Jones_PAB_410.pdf)*

## **II. ECONOMIC ISSUES**

### **Detour Ahead. The Great Recession is not Over yet**

By Desmond Lachman

*(American Interest, March/April 2010)*

"It would be the grossest of understatements to observe that the economics profession hardly covered itself with glory by its abysmal forecasting record over the past two years. Not only did most Wall Street and academic economists fail to foresee the severity and length of the worst postwar U.S. economic recession; for the most part, they strongly doubted that the bursting of the largest U.S. housing bubble on record would result in a recession at all."

*For full text follow the link: <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=785>*

### **Green Economics**

By Paul Krugman

*(New York Times Magazine, April 11, 2010)*

The author, Nobel Prize-winning economist, notes that we can afford to tackle climate change, but any serious solution must rely mainly on giving everyone a self-interested reason to produce fewer emissions. This is not fair, he says, but climate altruism must take a back seat to getting such a system in place. Rather than focus on climate change itself, it is necessary instead to understand climate economics, or rather the economics of lessening climate change. Ronald Reagan liked to talk about the magic of the marketplace but today conservatives now think that the marketplace loses its magic as soon as market incentives are invoked in favor of issues such as energy conservation.

*For full text follow the link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/11/magazine/11Economy-t.html>*

### **How a New Jobless Era will Transform America**

By Don Peck

*(The Atlantic, March 2010)*

"The Great Recession may be over, but this era of high joblessness is probably just beginning. Before it ends, it will likely change the life course and character of a generation of young adults. It will leave an indelible imprint on many blue-collar men. It could cripple marriage as an institution in many communities. It may already be plunging many inner cities into a despair not seen for decades. Ultimately, it is likely to warp our politics, our culture, and the character of our society for years to come." Don Peck is a deputy managing editor of The Atlantic.

*For full text follow the link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/03/how-a-new-jobless-era-will-transform-america/7919/>*

### **U.S. Economic Confidence Declining in Late May**

*by Dennis Jacobe*

*(Gallup, May 2010)*

While economic confidence improved in late April and early May -- most likely in response to the recent better job numbers -- Gallup's daily monitoring of economic confidence documents deterioration last week.

*For full text follow the link: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/136634/Economic-Confidence-Declining-Late-May.aspx>*

### **Why Doesn't Russia Join the WTO?**

*By Anders Åslund*

*(The Washington Quarterly, April 2010)*

To join the World Trade Organization is a strategic choice for Moscow. Putin strongly supported entry in his first term, but lost interest in his second. Now, Russia's accession bid has primarily become a litmus test of relative power between Putin and Medvedev.

*For full text follow the link: [http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr\\_Aslund.pdf](http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr_Aslund.pdf)*

### **U.S.–China Strategic and Economic Dialogue: America Must Lead by Example**

*by Derek Scissors*

*(Heritage Foundation May, 2010)*

The annual Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) serves as a useful way for America and China to exchange information, which helps avoid economic disputes before they materialize. But it has produced modest cooperation even where the two sides have shared interests, such as energy. It has not, and will not, address severe problems in the American, Chinese, or world economies.

*For full text follow the link: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2010/05/US-China-Strategic-and-Economic-Dialogue-America-Must-Lead-by-Example>*

### **The Russian Economic Crisis**

*By Jeffrey Mankoff,*

*(Council on Foreign Relations)*

In this Council Special Report, Jeffrey Mankoff examines just this set of issues. He starts by identifying three elements of the economic crisis in Russia: a financial crisis that hit Russian banks and firms, a sharp decline in the price of Russia's principal export commodities, and a recession marked by low domestic demand. He then analyzes the crisis's implications for Russia's political dynamics and foreign policy

For full text follow the link: [http://www.cfr.org/publication/21803/russian\\_economic\\_crisis.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/21803/russian_economic_crisis.html)

## **III. DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES**

### **10 Ways to Kick the Offshore-Oil Habit**

By Jonathan Hiskes

*(Grist, May 24, 2010)*

"One of the most depressing aspects of the Gulf of Mexico oil leak is the idea that we've got no choice but to rely on offshore drilling and the stomach-turning dangers it carries. We know all the problems with importing oil from petro-dictatorships. Electric cars aren't ready to replace fuel-combustion engines. The only option, political leaders tell us, is for Americans to choke down the occasional drilling catastrophe and deal with the ugly consequences."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.grist.org/article/2010-05-24-10-ways-to-kick-the-offshore-oil-habit>

### **Authoritarianism Vs. the Internet**

By Daniel Calingaert

*(Policy Review, April/May 2010)*

In the heady days following the disputed June 12, 2009, presidential election in Iran, images of protests against election fraud were captured on mobile phone cameras and sent via the internet by ordinary citizens to the outside world. While reporters from major international media were forced to leave the country or were holed up in their hotel rooms, short messages sent by Twitter and videos posted on YouTube filled the gap in information. Thus, at a time when the Iranian government was trying to hide the protests from television and newspaper reporters, the internet provided a window for audiences outside the country to see what was going on inside and gave Iranians a way to tell the world at large what was happening to them. The internet in Iran is, however, subject to harsh controls, just as other walks of life are.

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **Farewell, Facebook**

By Laura McGann

*(American Prospect, May 11, 2010)*

"Why one super-connected internet enthusiast decided it was time to pull the plug. The chorus of pro-privacy, anti-Facebook bloggers is getting louder. Facebook wants to keep track of everything you "like" -- all over the Web and even in the real world. McDonald's has signed on as Facebook's first geolocation partner. Whatever that means. The Observer has a deeper relationship with the author's Facebook page than his best friend."

For full text follow the link: [http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=farewell\\_facebook](http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=farewell_facebook)

### **The Future of Investigative Journalism**

By Brant Houston

*(Daedalus, Spring 2010)*

"There is little dispute about whether there should be a future for investigative reporting. The issues are how will it be defined, how will it maintain high standards and quality, in what forms and with what methods will it thrive, and how will it be financed."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.amacad.org/publications/daedalus/spring2010/houston.pdf>

### **Google and the Great Firewall**

By Christopher R. Hughes

*(Survival, April/May 2010)*

"Google, the world's most popular Internet search engine, hit the headlines in January 2010 when it announced that it might shut down its operations in China due to a spate of cyber attacks on its corporate infrastructure. Its complaints fall into two related categories: surveillance of the online activities of human-rights activists through unauthorised accessing of Google-based e-mail (Gmail) accounts in China and the world, and the theft of intellectual property."

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **The Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill: An Accident Waiting to Happen**

By John McQuaid

*(Yale Environment 360, May 10, 2010)*

Recent calls to expand offshore drilling in the U.S. reflected a belief that deepwater oil operations had become so safe and technologically advanced that the danger of an accident was infinitesimal. McQuaid, a journalist specializing in environmental and science issues, writes that the growing volume of crude oil billowing from a ruptured well at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, puts to rest the notion that offshore drilling is a risk-free endeavor. While the exact causes of well blowout, explosion and sinking of the Deepwater Horizon offshore rig may not be known for months, systemic problems are becoming apparent, including lax government oversight, complacency by the oil industry, the reluctance of government agencies and oil companies to consider worst-case scenarios, the fragmentation of tasks among different contractors, and the complexities of drilling miles under the ocean floor in an unforgiving environment.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2272>

### **'Haystack' Gives Iranian Opposition Hope for Evading Internet Censorship**

By Scott Peterson

*(Christian Science Monitor, posted April 16, 2010)*

Opposition activists in Iran are beginning to deploy "Haystack" – encryption software they hope will defeat extensive government efforts to block popular mobilization on the Internet inside the country. Haystack is custom-made for Iran in San Francisco by the nonprofit Censorship Research Center and is the first anti-censorship technology to be licensed by the U.S. government for export to Iran. Twitter and Facebook have played crucial roles in helping protesters organize, but Iranian "cyber police" successfully shut down the ability of Iranians to communicate with each other via the Internet. Haystack's encryption data is similar to accessing a bank website. It hides that data inside other normal data streams and makes it look like normal Internet traffic itself, so the original data is difficult to detect and stop. It remains to be seen if this new technology will be able to win the confidence of Iranian activists as well as stay ahead of government counterattacks.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2010/0416/Haystack-gives-Iranian-opposition-hope-for-evading-Internet-censorship>

## **The Internet and the Future of News**

By Paul Sagan and Tom Leighton

*(Daedalus, Spring 2010)*

"By any measure, the growth of the Internet over the last decade has been astounding. It took the telephone seventy-five years to reach fifty million users; it took television thirteen years. It took the Web just five.<sup>1</sup> In a few short decades, the Internet has gone from an obscure technological novelty to something as basic and essential to our lives as electricity."

*For full text follow the link: <http://www.amacad.org/publications/daedalus/spring2010/saganLeighton.pdf>*

## **Repression Goes Digital**

By Joel Simon

*(Columbia Journalism Review, March/April 2010)*

The Internet provides avenues for journalism and free speech, but it has also become a chokepoint for free press as oppressive governments exploit vulnerable areas in the information environment. Iran, Burma, China, Vietnam and Tunisia are governments which deny Internet access, practice censorship, or use monitoring technology to identify and persecute activists; Nokia Siemens, a Finnish-German joint venture, has sold Iran such technology. The author lauds Google's recent stand in China to refuse to comply with government censorship. Broad international coalitions of journalists and others — including governments — concerned about press freedom are important to maintain pressure on repressive governments to ensure dissident voices continue to be heard.

*For full text follow the link: [http://www.cjr.org/feature/repression\\_goes\\_digital.php?page=all](http://www.cjr.org/feature/repression_goes_digital.php?page=all)*

## **The Security Costs of Energy Independence**

By Gregory D. Miller

*(The Washington Quarterly, April 2010)*

"This article does not suggest that the United States should continue to import oil at current levels; being so dependent on other states is a source of vulnerability and a lost opportunity for innovation. It is crucial to point out, however, some possible unintended consequences of a reduction in oil dependence. How can the United States and all developed states mitigate these dangers? "

*For full text follow the link: [http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr\\_Miller.pdf](http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr_Miller.pdf)*

## **Shanghai Dreams**

By Brook Larmer

*(National Geographic, March 2010)*

On May 1, Expo 2010 will open in Shanghai, an ambitious effort by the Chinese government to showcase its most populous city. For this event, the city has reportedly anted up \$45 billion, more than Beijing spent on the Olympic Games. The author notes that Expo 2010 is Shanghai's latest campaign to reinvent itself. As China's one global city, Shanghai has long straddled the East-West divide, having started out as a meeting place between Western merchants and Chinese migrants. The city has long been set apart from the rest of China, with its distinct language, customs, architecture, food and attitudes. Says Larmer, "Shanghai's urban explosion will continue long after the expo is over. All the tearing down and building up underscores one Shanghainese trait: its obsession with the new."

For full text follow the link: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/03/shanghai/larmer-text>

### **Sustaining Quality Journalism**

By Jill Abramson

*(Daedalus, Spring 2010)*

It is well past time to reject the artificial divide between the guardians of print journalism and the boosters of blogs, Internet news aggregators, and other new media. Rather than battling over whether bloggers are real journalists or whether newspapers need to be preserved, the fight should focus more on championing serious, quality journalism, no matter who produces it or where it is published.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.amacad.org/publications/daedalus/spring2010/abramson.pdf>

## **IV. U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES**

### **Do Muslims Vote Islamic?**

By Charles Kurzman and Ijlal Naqvi

*(Journal of Democracy, April 2010)*

Those who warn against efforts to promote free elections in Muslim-majority countries often point to the threat posed by Islamic parties that stand ready to use democracy against itself. But what does the record really show regarding the ability of Islamic parties to win over Muslim voters?

For full text follow the link: <http://www.journalofdemocracy.org/articles/gratis/Kurzman-21-2.pdf>

### **Gridlock in Washington. Is Congress too Polarized to Act?**

*(CQ Researcher, April 30, 2010)*

Historic health-care legislation was enacted this spring, but the slow crawl of the law through the Senate suggests to many observers that Washington is in a state of gridlock — nearly unable to make new policy. Some political scientists blame the increasingly fierce competition for power between the ideologically rigid Democratic and Republican parties, which has risen to levels not seen since the Civil War. Other analysts blame the Senate's cloture rule, which requires a 60-vote supermajority to end a filibuster and proceed to voting. The rule gives undue, perhaps even unconstitutional, power to the minority, its critics argue. But other scholars maintain that the eventual passage of the health-care law is proof that Washington is not paralyzed. Indeed, they say a more serious problem is widespread voter misunderstanding of the importance the U.S. Constitution places on lengthy deliberation of issues before new laws are made.

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **Inside Man**

By Joshua Green

*(The Atlantic, April 2010)*

"Congress members accuse Timothy Geithner of coddling Wall Street. Wall Street accuses him of abetting socialism.

Yet when the history books are written, Geithner will be recognized as Barack Obama's key lieutenant in the struggle to right the economy and fix the finance system. Economically, Geithner's plan has worked better and more cheaply than anyone could have imagined a year ago. Politically, it threatens to undermine Obama's presidency. Is Geithner a courageous public servant doing the right thing? Or have his years as a player in global finance made him loath to change an industry that needs fundamental reform?"

For full text follow the link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/04/inside-man/7992/>

### **Lessons from the Health-Care Wars**

By Peter Dreier

*(The American Prospect, May 2010)*

"The health-care battle taught progressives how to play the inside-outside game more effectively. They will need to draw on those lessons for upcoming battles. "For every issue that Congress will be facing the rest of this year and beyond," Kirsch [the director of Health Care for America Now (HCAN), a broad coalition of more than a thousand labor, consumer, civil-rights, anti-poverty, community, netroots, and religious groups] says, "we need to force them to answer the same question: Which side are you on? The public good or corporate America?" Peter Dreier is E.P. Clapp Distinguished Professor of Politics and director of the Urban & Environmental Policy Program at Occidental College.

For full text follow the link: [http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=lessons\\_from\\_the\\_health\\_care\\_wars](http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=lessons_from_the_health_care_wars)

### **Tea Party Movement: Will Angry Conservatives Reshape the Republican Party?**

*(CQ Researcher, March 19, 2010)*

"The Tea Party movement seemed to come out of nowhere. Suddenly, citizens angry over the multi-billion-dollar economic stimulus and the Obama administration's health-care plan were leading rallies, confronting lawmakers and holding forth on radio and TV. Closely tied to the Republican Party — though also critical of the GOP — the movement proved essential to the surprise victory of Republican Sen. Scott Brown in Massachusetts. Tea partiers say Brown's election proves the movement runs strong outside of "red states." But some political experts voice skepticism, arguing that the Tea Party's fiscal hawkishness won't appeal to most Democrats and many independents. Meanwhile, some dissension has appeared among tea partiers, with many preferring to sidestep social issues, such as immigration, and others emphasizing them. Still, the movement exerts strong appeal for citizens fearful of growing government debt and distrustful of the administration."

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **Three Supreme Court Myths**

By Stuart Taylor, Jr.

*(National Journal, April 16, 2010)*

"At both ends of the ideological spectrum, politicians, activists, journalists, and academics like to stress how big a change the next Supreme Court justice could make in the course of the law. The appointment will, says the conventional wisdom, be among President Obama's most important legacies. Many also stress how far to the right (say liberals) or left (say conservatives) of center the Supreme Court has been in recent years, the better to dramatize the need to correct the perceived imbalance. And the dominant media image has been of "the conservative Court" (recent articles in The Washington Post), or "the Supreme Court's conservative majority" (New York Times editorials), or a Court "as conservative as it's been in nearly a century" (Newsweek commentary by my friend Dahlia Lithwick). All this brings to mind three contrarian theses." Stuart Taylor Jr. is a regular columnist for

National Journal.

For full text follow the link: [http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/or\\_20100417\\_7613.php](http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/or_20100417_7613.php)

### **A Triumph for Political Speech**

By Jennifer Rubin

*(Commentary, May 2010)*

The United States Supreme Court has come under fire in recent decades for what many critics have condemned as a hunger to subsume the policymaking functions of Congress and the executive branch. But this January, the Court rocked the political landscape by performing what is indisputably its core function: serving as the constitutional guardian of fundamental rights that elected leaders have blithely disregarded in pursuit of political advantage or in the name of a misbegotten policy goal.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/a-triumph-for-political-speech-15427>

### **The Vanishing Liberal**

By Kevin Baker

*(Harper's Magazine, April 2010)*

"Democrats have been reduced to a state of psychological helplessness, one in which any political obstacles--ranging from the prevarications of stalking horses to the plaintive cries of the tea-baggers out in the streets, to the sterner demands of the Joint Chiefs of Staff or Big Pharma--are transformed into insurmountable organic obstacles. Here Baker points out that in this state of political depression, it no longer matters how many elections liberals win for the Democrats, or how badly Republican, right-wing policies fail or how much damage they do to the country or the world. There is simply no way to do anything differently. Such hapless fatalism is, of course, in direct opposition to every tenet of American liberalism, which is rooted in the idea that human agency is still possible in the modern world--that democratic action can make a difference when ranged against vast, impersonal forces and supposedly immutable "laws" of human society." Kevin Baker is an American novelist and journalist.

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **What Kind of Socialist Is Barack Obama?**

By Jonah Goldberg

*(Commentary, May 2010)*

The assertion that Barack Obama is a socialist became a hallmark of the 2008 presidential campaign. His opponent, John McCain, used Obama's own extemporaneous words to an Ohio plumber as Exhibit A: "When you spread the wealth around," Obama had said, "it's good for everybody." That, McCain insisted, sounded "a lot like socialism," as did Obama's proposals to raise taxes on the wealthy and high earners for the explicit purpose of taking better care of the lower and middle classes with that redistributed money.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/what-kind-of-socialist-is-barack-obama--15421?page=all>

### **What Liberalism Is Missing**

By Laurence D. Cooper

*(Policy Review, April/May 2010)*

"Liberalism's ascendancy, so confidently proclaimed just a year ago, now seems a thing of the past. Did it ever even begin? The 2006 and 2008 elections were perhaps more Republican defeats than Democratic victories, let alone liberal victories. But whatever its fortunes, there is a sense in which liberalism is indeed riding high: a substantive sense. And all who have a stake in liberalism - or in its defeat - would do well to understand it." Laurence D. Cooper is associate professor of political science at Carleton College.

[Full text available upon request](#)

### **New Media, Old Media: How Blogs and Social Media Agendas Relate and Differ from Traditional Press**

*(Pew Research Center Publications, May 2010)*

Some 44% of online news users get news at least a few times a week through emails, automatic updates or posts from social networking sites...

For full text follow the link: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1602/new-media-review-differences-from-traditional-press>

### **Assessing the Cell Phone Challenge**

By Leah Christian, Scott Keeter, Kristen Purcell and Aaron Smith

*(Pew Research Center Publications, May 2010)*

The latest estimates of telephone coverage, released last week by the National Center for Health Statistics, found that 25% of households (and 23% of adults) in the second half of 2009 had no landline service and only cell phone service (just 2% of households had no telephone service of any type). For certain subgroups in the population, the numbers are considerably higher...

For full text follow the link: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1601/assessing-cell-phone-challenge-in-public-opinion-surveys>

## **V. U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THINK TANK REPORTS, POLICY PAPERS**

### **Afghanistan: Searching for Political Agreement**

By Gilles Dorronsoro

*(Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, April 2010)*

Coalition strategy in Afghanistan has reached an impasse: tactical successes will not defeat the Taliban while Pakistan offers sanctuary, nor can security be "Afghanized" by a government that lacks legitimacy and is irreparably unpopular. A less costly, both in lives and money, and more effective option would be a negotiated agreement with the Taliban that paves the way for a unity government.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/what-kind-of-socialist-is-barack-obama--15421?page=all>

### **Al-Qaeda's Allies**

By Anne Stenersen

*(New America Foundation, April 19, 2010)*

The paper examines the nature of the relationship between al-Qaeda and the Taliban after 2001, which is complex

because neither the Taliban nor al-Qaeda is a homogenous actor. Rather, each is a network of like-minded groups and individuals that answer, to some degree or other, to a centralized leadership.

For full text follow the link: <http://counterterrorism.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/stenersen2.pdf>

### **Be Counted, America! How Are We Doing?**

*(Center for Urban Research, April 8, 2010)*

An analysis of 2010 Census participation rates so far has found wide variation from one city to the next in the degree to which race and ethnicity predict response rates. Nationally, areas with high Hispanic populations have had below-average response rates so far. But in Miami, Newark and New York, three cities with substantial Latino populations, "greater Hispanic populations tended to increase participation rates" at the census-tract, or neighborhood, level, the analysis concludes.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.urbanresearch.org/resources/census2010participationWeek2>

### **Better Health Care at Lower Costs: Why Health Care Reform Will Drive Better Models of Health Care Delivery**

By Ellen-Marie Whelan and Lesley Russell

*(Center for American Progress, March 19, 2010)*

The paper describes a number of innovative models of care delivery that are currently delivering the dual goals of providing better health care and better value, and outlines the key elements of these new approaches to health care delivery and financing that should be part of the reform of the health care system.

For full text follow the link: [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/03/pdf/health\\_delivery.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/03/pdf/health_delivery.pdf)

### **Climate Crisis, Credit Crisis: The Quest for Green Growth**

By Kemal Dervis et al.

*(Brookings Institution, Web posted April 22, 2010)*

As the global economy struggles to sustain its recovery from the deepest recession in sixty years, another challenge looms large: preventing the Earth from warming more than 3.6 °F, widely considered by climate experts as the acceptable level to reduce the risk of irreversible global damage resulting from climate change. To meet these challenges, authors contend that we must look beyond our national borders, recognize that we face an uncertain future, and collaborate to ensure our collective well-being.

For full text follow the link:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/0422\\_climate\\_change\\_poverty/0422\\_climate\\_change\\_poverty.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/0422_climate_change_poverty/0422_climate_change_poverty.pdf)

### **Distrust, Discontent, Anger and Partisan Rancor**

By Andrew Kohut

*(Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, April 18, 2010)*

By almost every conceivable measure Americans are less positive and more critical of government these days. The survey finds a storm of conditions associated with distrust of government – a dismal economy, an unhappy public, bitter partisan-based backlash, and epic discontent with Congress and elected officials.

For full text follow the link: <http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/606.pdf>

### **The Economic of Influencing Iran**

By Suzanne Maloney

*(Brookings Institution, March 22, 2010)*

Influencing the Islamic Republic of Iran has proven to be a perennial conundrum for American presidents, says the author. The complexity of Iranian politics and the intractability of the problems posed by Tehran's revolutionary theocracy may explain why, over the course of three decades, each U.S. administration has been forced to revise its initial approach to Iran in hopes of achieving better outcomes. The overall result has been an American tendency to oscillate between engagement and pressure, with frustratingly limited results.

*For full text follow the link:*

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/03\\_economic\\_pressure\\_iran\\_maloney/201003\\_economic\\_pressure\\_iran\\_maloney.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/03_economic_pressure_iran_maloney/201003_economic_pressure_iran_maloney.pdf)

### **For Obama, Vexing Detainee Decisions Loom**

*(Council on Foreign Relations, April 14, 2010)*

The Obama administration, at first swift to move away from Bush-era detainee practices, has found itself struggling through a political and legal thicket about where and how to try those accused of war crimes, according to the author.

*For full text follow the link:* [http://www.cfr.org/publication/21895/for\\_obama\\_vexing\\_detainee\\_decisions\\_loom.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/21895/for_obama_vexing_detainee_decisions_loom.html)

### **The Foreign Policy of Barack Obama: Between Dreaming and Doing**

By Alexander Moens and Inu Barbee

*(Cicero Foundation Great Debate Paper, no.10/04, March 2010)*

"Barack Obama's presidential character and decision style is dominated by three traits. He is intellectually curious and has a taste for philosophical reflection. His willingness to understand perspectives other than his own and his rejection of rigid ideology makes him lean towards relative rather than absolute values. Finally, Obama has a practical side which calls for pragmatism and compromise." Alexander Moens is a professor of Political Science at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver and a senior fellow at the Fraser Institute in the Centre for Canadian-American Relations. Inu Barbee is a senior fellow at the Fraser Institute.

*For full text follow the link:* [http://www.cicerofoundation.org/lectures/Moens\\_Barbee\\_Barack\\_Obama\\_Foreign\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.cicerofoundation.org/lectures/Moens_Barbee_Barack_Obama_Foreign_Policy.pdf)

### **How Insurgencies End**

By Ben Connable and Martin C. Libicki

*(RAND Corporation, April 22, 2010)*

The study tested conventional wisdom about how insurgencies end against the evidence from 89 insurgencies. It compares a quantitative and qualitative analysis of 89 insurgency case studies with lessons from insurgency and counterinsurgency (COIN) literature. While no two insurgencies are the same, the authors find that modern insurgencies last about ten years and that a government's chances of winning may increase slightly over time.

*For full text follow the link:* [http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2010/RAND\\_MG965.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2010/RAND_MG965.pdf)

### **Iran Sanctions**

By Kenneth Katzman

*(Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, April 9, 2010)*

Numerous laws and regulations have been adopted or issued to try to curb Iran's support for militant groups and slow its weapons of mass destruction programs. The sanctions are intended to reduce the revenue available to Iran's government and to generate domestic pressure within Iran to adopt policies more acceptable to the international community. The wide range of U.S. sanctions restrict U.S. trade with and investment in Iran, prohibit U.S. foreign aid to Iran, and require the United States to vote against international lending to Iran.

For full text follow the link: [http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS20871\\_20100409.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS20871_20100409.pdf)

### **Iraq: Struggling Through 'Highest Risk' Window**

By Brett H. McGurk

*(Council on Foreign Relations, April 7, 2010)*

Until the last six or seven days, violence in Iraq had become cyclical and predictable over the past year, with large bombings taking place every ninety days. This past week has seen something altogether different in character, and potentially destabilizing. Targets have been Iraqi civilians, and the attacks have come with greater frequency and scope than seen in over a year. General Raymond Odierno, the commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, has called the ninety days after an election the "window of highest risk," and we are smack in the middle of that window now. The author says that the August timeline of withdraw should not be ironclad.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.cfr.org/publication/21842/iraq.html>

### **Judicial Nominations in the First Fourteen Months of the Obama and Bush Administrations**

By Russell Wheeler

*(Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, April 21, 2010)*

"Russell Wheeler examines judicial nominations of President Obama and former President George W. Bush 14 months into each president's administration. Wheeler uncovers and reviews key trends, including the relative paucity of Obama's nominees, higher hearing and confirmation rates for Obama's nominees, longer times for Senate action on Obama's circuit nominees, and demographic differences between the two sets of nominees." Russell Wheeler is a visiting fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution and president of the Governance Institute.

For full text follow the link:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/0407\\_judicial\\_nominations\\_wheeler/0407\\_judicial\\_nominations\\_wheeler.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/0407_judicial_nominations_wheeler/0407_judicial_nominations_wheeler.pdf)

### **North Korea's 2009 Nuclear Test Containment, Monitoring, Implications**

By Jonathan Medalia

*(Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, April 2, 2010)*

On May 25, 2009, North Korea announced that it had conducted its second underground nuclear test. Unlike its first test, in 2006, there is no public record that the second one released radioactive materials indicative of a nuclear explosion. How could North Korea have contained these materials from the May 2009 event and what are the implications?

For full text follow the link: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R41160.pdf>

### **Nuclear Weapons**

*(U.S. Government Accountability Office, Web posted April 8, 2010)*

In March 2009, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a separately organized agency within the

Department of Energy, completed construction of the National Ignition Facility (NIF). GAO recommends that NNSA take actions to improve its effectiveness in (1) using outside experts to advise on scientific and technical challenges, by ensuring, for example, that the new committee reports to NNSA and advises on ignition activities early, and (2) managing NIC's cost, schedule, and scope.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10488.pdf>

### **Obama's New Nuclear Policies: A Step in the Right Direction**

By Michael E. O'Hanlon

*(Brookings Institution, April 7, 2010)*

With the overlapping events of recent weeks on the nuclear front, the signing of the START Follow-On Treaty and the conclusion of the Nuclear Posture Review, the Obama administration has made a significant and positive mark in dealing with one of the greatest threats to the planet, says the author.

For full text follow the link: [http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0407\\_nuclear\\_arms\\_ohanlon.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0407_nuclear_arms_ohanlon.aspx)

### **Profile: Al-Qaeda in Iraq (A.K.A. Al-Qaeda in Mesopotamia)**

By Greg Bruno

*(Council on Foreign Relations, April 26, 2010)*

The U.S. military officials have called al-Qaeda in Iraq 'public enemy No. 1,' but some experts question the militant group's capabilities and relevance.

For full text follow the link:

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/14811/profile.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fbackgrounder](http://www.cfr.org/publication/14811/profile.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder)

### **Security for Peace: Setting the Conditions for a Palestinian State**

*(Center for a New American Security, Web posted April 20, 2010.)*

The report looks beyond the issues of the day and focuses on what an international peacekeeping force to defend a two-state solution in the Middle East might look like. Though no individual case study can replicate the challenges of the Middle East, the authors extract lessons learned from other peacekeeping operations - including military and political lessons - that could be applicable.

For full text follow the link:

[http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/MEPP\\_Exum\\_March2010\\_code512\\_WEB%20report.pdf](http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/MEPP_Exum_March2010_code512_WEB%20report.pdf)

### **U.S.-Israel: Time for an 'Honest' Talk**

By Bernard Gwetzman

*(Council on Foreign Relations, March 22, 2010)*

President Obama's scheduled meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu should stress that any rejection of a peace settlement will erode the U.S.-Israeli relationship, says Middle East diplomatic historian William B. Quandt.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.cfr.org/publication/21707/usisrael.html>

### **Who's Winning the Clean Energy Race? Growth, Competition and Opportunity in the World's Largest Economies**

*(Pew Charitable Trusts, March 24, 2010)*

For the first time, China led the United States and other G-20 members in 2009 clean energy investments and finance, according to the data. China invested \$34.6 billion in the clean energy economy, nearly double the United States' total of \$18.6 billion. Over the last five years, the United States also trailed five G-20 members, Turkey, Brazil, China, the United Kingdom, and Italy, in the rate of clean energy investment growth.

*For full text follow the link: [http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Global\\_warming/G-20%20Report.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Global_warming/G-20%20Report.pdf)*

### **Will Arizona Be America's Future?**

By William H. Frey

*(Brookings Institution, April 28, 2010)*

As the controversy surrounding Arizona's new immigration legislation continues, William Frey identifies a "cultural generation gap" in relation to largely white baby boomers and older citizens that may be fueling anti-immigrant sentiment in the state. He explores this trend and provides perspective on what it may mean for the rest of the United States.

*For full text follow the link: [http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0428\\_arizona\\_frey.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0428_arizona_frey.aspx)*