

ARTICLE ALERT # 12

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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If you have questions, please contact us at: mkrtychana@usa.am

I. FOREIGN POLICY

Al Qaeda Threat Escalates

By Elizabeth Williamson, Charles Levinson and Yochi Dreazen
(*Wall Street Journal*, January 4, 2010)

Although Yemen is clearly an increasingly important incubator for terrorists, it is not clear how U.S. forces would be involved in any new military action against al-Qaeda in that country. According to this report, the United States plans to double its counterterrorism support to Yemen from \$67 million to as much as \$190 million in 2010. But the risk is that the money will be used by corrupt government officials to fund an ongoing civil war in that destitute country rather than for counterterrorism efforts. Past attacks against al-Qaeda by the Yemeni government have proved disappointing. When the Yemeni government attempted a large offensive against al-Qaeda in 2004 in the province of Marib, for example, the army lost 27 soldiers in three hours of fighting before it withdrew, leaving al Qaeda's clout in the area unchecked.

For full text follow the link: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126256082159914117.html?mod=article-outset-box>

American Grand Strategy After Iraq

By Sarah Kreps
(*Orbis*, Fall 2009)

"The author, assistant professor at the Department of Government at Cornell University, writes that, to the extent that a strategy can be identified in the first year of the Obama Administration, its defining features are not a break from the past but continuity. She first identifies the elements of grand strategy, pointing to the international distribution of power, American bureaucracy, and public as the key sources of constraint and opportunity. Kreps then shows how shifts in these factors—comparatively less U.S. power, an overstretched military conducting counterinsurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a weary American public—produced a shift in grand strategy that predated the 2008 election and that remains consistent with the current strategic setting. This article is part of a special series, Debating American Grand Strategy After Major War."

[Full text available upon request](#)

Change and the American Security Paradigm

By Kenneth Allard
(*Orbis*, Winter 2010)

The author explores how the U.S. security paradigm, especially when it comes to borders and security of the homeland, is shifting as a result of cooperation between drug and terrorist networks.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.fpri.org/orbis/5401/allard.americansecurityparadigm.pdf>

The Deadly Price of Pursuing Peace

By Evelyn Gordon
(*Commentary*, January 2010)

Israel's efforts to resolve its conflict with the Palestinians have not only failed; they have also harmed its image.
For full text follow the link: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/the-deadly-price-of-pursuing-peace-15321>

Democracy, Foreign Policy, and Terrorism

By Burcu Savun
(*Journal of Conflict Resolution*, December 2009)

"This article takes a closer look at the relationship between democracy and transnational terrorism. It investigates what it is about democracies that make them particularly vulnerable to terrorism from abroad. The authors suggest that states that exhibit a certain type of foreign policy behavior, regardless of their regime type, are likely to attract transnational terrorism. States that are actively involved in international politics are likely to create resentment abroad and hence more likely to be the target of transnational terrorism than are states that pursue a more isolationist foreign policy. Democratic states are more likely to be targeted by transnational terrorist groups not because of their regime type per se but because of the type of foreign policy they tend to pursue. The empirical analysis provides support for the argument."
[Full text available upon request](#)

From Hope to Audacity. Appraising Obama's Foreign Policy

By Zbigniew Brzezinski
(*Foreign Affairs*, December 2009)

"Barack Obama's foreign policy has generated more expectations than strategic breakthroughs. Three urgent issues -- the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Iran's nuclear ambitions, and the Afghan-Pakistani challenge -- will test his ability to significantly change U.S. policy."
[Full text available upon request](#)

How America Can Rise Again

By James Fallows
(*The Atlantic*, January/February 2010)

Is America going to hell? After a year of economic calamity that many fear has sent us into irreversible decline, the author finds reassurance in the peculiarly American cycle of crisis and renewal, and in the continuing strength of the forces that have made the country great: our university system, our receptiveness to immigration, our culture of innovation. In most significant ways, the U.S. remains the envy of the world. But here's the alarming problem: our governing system is old and broken and dysfunctional. Fixing it—without resorting to a constitutional convention or a coup—is the key to securing the nation's future.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/201001/american-decline>

Making Palestinian "Martyrdom Operations" / "Suicide Attacks": Interviews with Would-Be Perpetrators and Organizers

By Ariel Merari, et al.
(*Terrorism and Political Violence*, January 2010)

Suicide attacks have become the most common and effective tactic of present-day terrorism. The authors conducted a series of interviews with would-be attackers and their organizers and learned some of the motivations of the suicide bombers and the factors that influenced their decisions. Of the 2,937 suicide bombers across the world during the period of 1981-2008, only a few acted alone. The vast majority were sent by organized terrorist groups, meaning that individual initiative is extremely rare. The decision to carry out a suicide attack was practically always made at the organization's local level as they chose with little input from central leadership. Some suicide bombers volunteered on their own initiative, but most were solicited by a recruiter.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Mind Over Martyr

By Jessica Stern
(*Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010)

"Is it possible to deradicalize terrorists? The success of a rehabilitation program for extremists in Saudi Arabia suggests that it is -- so long as the motivations that drive terrorists to violence are clearly understood and squarely addressed."

[Full text available upon request](#)

New Non-State Players and Implications for Regional Security: The Case of the Shiite Religious Establishment of Iraq

By Reidar Visser
(*SAIS Review of International Affairs*, Summer/Fall 2009)

The author, research fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, writes that the Shiite clergy in Iraq have been commonly mischaracterized as being uninterested in politics, or, alternately, spearheading a political awakening in the "Shiite Crescent" throughout the Middle East. Visser notes that Shiism has traditionally shunned direct governance, believing that its ecumenical, pan-Islamic legitimacy would be compromised by association with regimes of individual countries. However, despite their arms-length relations with state politics, the Shiite clergy in Iraq seems unwilling to abdicate all authority over political matters, and in this they have emerged as an important non-state actor in the region. The author follows the changing stance of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani as a reflection of how the Shiite clergy has related to power and politics.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Purifying the World: What the New Radical Ideology Stands For

By Ernest Sternberg
(*Orbis*, Winter 2010)

"The hope with which we entered the twenty-first century was that, whatever new specters we would have to confront, totalitarian ideologies would not be among them. Fascism, communism, and their variants would moulder in their political graveyards. Could it be that we hoped in vain? Could it be that that, from their putrefied bodies, another world transforming ideology has emerged?"

[Full text available upon request](#)

Radical Islam in Europe

By Leslie S. Lebl
(*Orbis*, Winter 2010)

"Europe now faces three related but different challenges: how to respond, in a time when 'native' European populations are shrinking, to the growing presence of Muslim minorities; how to avoid having its relationships with its Muslim communities controlled by Islamists who seek to replace Western civilization with Islamic government based on sharia law; and what to do generally about this Islamist threat. Thus far, the European responses to these challenges have been shaped by four factors: accumulated civilizational exhaustion; the inability to grasp the challenge posed to European national identities by the allure of the global Caliphate; weakness arising from degraded security capabilities, including the impact of the continued drive to 'build Europe' by adopting the Treaty of Lisbon; and the preference for appeasement of Islamist demands."

[Full text available upon request](#)

Resetting U.S.-Russian Relations: It Takes Two

By David J. Kramer
(*The Washington Quarterly*, December 2009)

"President Barack Obama deserves credit for his initial efforts to reverse the deterioration in relations between the United States and Russia. The downward spiral in bilateral ties accelerated by Russia's invasion of Georgia last year has ended for now, but relations are not likely to improve appreciably because of fundamental differences in values, interests, and outlook between the two countries' leaderships. In fact, Russian leaders' actions and rhetoric continue to raise serious doubts about their interest in really resetting relations. The Obama administration, much like the Bush administration before it, is likely to find Moscow the source of endless frustrations and headaches and few solutions."

For full text follow the link: http://www.twq.com/10january/docs/10jan_Kramer.pdf

Sanctioning Iran: If Only It Were So Simple

By Suzanne Maloney
(*The Washington Quarterly*, December 2009)

"For U.S. policymakers, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to pose a dilemma because of the unpredictability of the problem on one hand, and the invariability of available U.S. policy instruments on the other. While the Iranian threat has been perennial, Tehran's internal political dynamics and its external conduct have evolved considerably, and unexpectedly. Although Iran's challenge has grown more complicated over the years, the landscape of U.S. policy options has remained consistent and frustratingly limited for most of the past three decades. The Obama administration came into office determined to chart a new course on Iran, only to find itself quickly confronted with this same old quandary when the ground shifted suddenly and dramatically."

For full text follow the link: http://www.twq.com/10january/docs/10jan_Maloney.pdf

The Sorcerer's Apprentice: Islamist Militancy in South Asia

By Sumit Ganguly and S. Paul Kapur
(*Washington Quarterly*, January 2010)

The authors, professors at Indiana University (Bloomington) and the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School respectively, note that Pakistan has a history of using non-state actors in asymmetric conflict with stronger adversaries such as India and the former Soviet Union. Now, they write, the extremist organizations "have taken on a life of their own, like the magic brooms in Goethe's tale", conducting attacks and assassinations, and the Pakistani government is no longer in control of them; India's efforts at coercing Pakistan into reeling them in has also been counterproductive. The authors write that, for India and Pakistan to tame the "sorcerer's apprentice", both countries need to adopt policies outside their normal "comfort zone."

For full text follow the link: http://www.twq.com/10january/docs/10jan_GangulyKapur.pdf

Structuring Middle East Security

By Peter Jones
(*Survival*, December 2009/January 2010)

"The lack of an inclusive mechanism for the promotion of regional cooperation and security in the Middle East is striking. How could the first steps be taken towards such a goal, given the Middle East's many rivalries and conflicts? There are different conceptions of the basic notions of security in play; the question of the proper relationship between regional and sub-regional approaches requires much deliberation; the role of outside powers remains vexing; and the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict is seen, at least by some, as rendering progress impossible for the time being. One way forward may be to accept that no single system is going to emerge. Rather, it might be best to conceive of the road ahead as involving discussion of a 'system of systems'."

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Terror Fringe

By Thomas Rid and Marc Hecker
(*Policy Review*, December 2009/January 2010)

"The Afghan-Pakistan border region is widely identified as a haven for jihadi extremists. But the joint between local insurgencies and global terrorism has been dislocated. A combination of new technologies and new ideologies has changed the role of popular support: In local insurgencies the population may still be the 'terrain' on which resistance is thriving — and counterinsurgency, by creating security for the people, may still succeed locally. But Islamic violent extremism in its global and ambitious form is attractive only for groups at the outer edge, the flat end of a popular support curve. Jihad failed to muster mass support, but it is stable at the margin of society. Neither the West nor its enemies can win — or lose — a war on terror. Western anti-terror policy rests on the assumption that the threat of violent extremism has to be treated at the root — in Afghanistan. A stable Afghan-Pakistan border region, the theory goes, would stop exporting terrorism to the rest of the world."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/71912517.html>

Russia's Iran Policy: A Curveball for Obama

(The Heritage Foundation, January 15, 2010)

Russia considers Iran a partner and de facto ally in its plans to reshape the power balance in the Middle East and dilute U.S. influence in the region...the U.S. needs to develop a broader policy that convincingly argues that Iran will lose—even if it obtains nuclear weapons and that clearly demonstrates to the Russians that the risks of betting on Iran outweigh the potential rewards.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Iran/bg2359.cfm>

An Israeli Preventive Attack on Iran's Nuclear Sites: Implications for the U.S.

(The Heritage Foundation, January 15, 2010)

Heritage Foundation Middle East expert James Phillips maps out the likely results of an Israeli attack, outlines Iran's probable reaction, and explains why it is now crucial that the Obama Administration take action to mitigate and defend against Iran's response to an Israeli strike.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/MiddleEast/bg2361.cfm>

Ukraine's Orange Revolution Referendum
(Council on Foreign Relations, January 19, 2010)

The elections have in many ways played out as a referendum on the Orange Revolution...For most Ukrainians, the promises of a better life that sparked the revolution have not been fulfilled, and a backlash has long been building. For full text follow the link: http://www.cfr.org/publication/21227/ukraines_orange_revolution_referendum.html

Ukrainian Elections – It's Yuliya vs Victor
(Brookings, January 19, 2010)

Yanukovich polled 35.4 percent to Tymoshenko's 25 percent, with the rest of the vote scattered among 16 other candidates. Under Ukraine's election laws, a candidate must take 50 percent to win outright. For full text follow the link: http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0119_ukraine_elections_pifer.aspx

II. ECONOMIC ISSUES

Alternative Explanations of the Operation of a Capitalist Economy

By Paul Davidson
(*Challenge*, November/December 2009)

"As the United States and the world rush to re-regulate the financial community - too little attention has been paid to the underlying theoretical errors that underpinned deregulation and crisis. Paul Davidson returns to John Maynard Keynes for an explanation of the failure of financial markets - and indeed the failure of accepted economic theory today - to warn the nation, no less to prevent its occurring." Paul Davidson is an American macroeconomist who has been one of the leading spokesmen of the American branch of the Post Keynesian school in economics.
[Full text available upon request](#)

The Better Half: Helping Women Help the World

By Isobel Coleman
(*Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010)

The author, Senior Fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations, writes that efforts to help women gain more economic and political power is more than a worthy moral crusade – it is probably the most effective means to promote development and stability around the world. During a tour of Africa in August 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton underscored women's rights as a crucial foreign-policy issue by spending a great deal of time meeting with a variety of women's groups. In a review of Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's new book, *Half the Sky*, Coleman remarks that it is now well-known among the international-development community that aid provided to women generates much greater benefits, because women are more likely to use it to improve their families' circumstances. For full text follow the link: <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65728/isobel-coleman/the-better-half>

China in the Global Financial Crisis: Rising Influence, Rising Challenges

By William H. Overholt
(*Washington Quarterly*, January 2010)

"Western politicians have sought to blame the Chinese currency regime for global imbalances—a position that is untenable on the evidence. Chinese politicians have consistently denied that China contributed to the crisis while distinguished Chinese scholars have even claimed that U.S. management of the dollar has been responsible not just for the current financial crisis but also for the earlier Mexican (1994), Russian (1998), and Asian (1997—1998) crises—a position that is even more untenable." William H. Overholt is senior research fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.
[Full text available upon request](#)

The Global Middle Class Is Here: Now What?

By Jennifer Wheary
(*World Policy Journal*, Winter 2009/2010)

The author, senior fellow at the public-policy organization Demos, writes that the global middle class has been growing exponentially, with some 1.2 billion people joining its ranks since the early 1990s. This new group has massive new

expectations — part consumer group, part social force, they are in a position to pressure for more infrastructure, better governance, social stability or even political change. The author notes that a growing middle class does not guarantee a move to democracy, the elimination of corruption or enactment of property-ownership laws, but is an indication that change is afoot. She notes that the downside of a growing middle class is growing material consumption, resulting in more pollution and carbon emissions. The major challenge is to inculcate in this emerging class the virtues of sustainability, while ensuring that the goods and services they want to obtain are environmentally sound.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/wopj.2010.26.4.75>

How Would Adam Smith Fix the Financial Crisis?

By David Bholat

(*Challenge*, November/December 2009)

"The works of Adam Smith are habitually over simplified. But in this essay, the author takes a deeper journey into the meaning of Smith to draw interesting lessons about the current economic crisis and future reforms. David Bholat is currently a visiting Fulbright scholar at the London School of Economics.

[Full text available upon request](#)

A Never-Ending Economic Crisis?

By David M. Smick

(*Commentary*, January 2010)

In 2008, the global economy experienced a brutal financial retraction not seen since the 1930s. The value of virtually every asset in the world was reappraised downward, led by housing in the United States. The situation was like an unstoppable force of nature. In response, most of the world's central banks, including the Federal Reserve in the United States, slashed short-term interest rates to near zero percent and flooded the financial system with liquidity.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Rescuing American Capitalism

By Maurice R. Greenberg

(*National Interest*, January/February 2010)

"The current crisis in the financial system was well over a decade in the making. A combination of new incentives to increase home ownership, long-term low interest rates, the taking on of increased leverage by banks, and the creation of financial products that were not properly overseen or managed led to a catastrophic economic meltdown. The question now is can we learn from this and also prevent what ended up being a disastrous handling of the crisis itself from happening again." The former head of AIG takes on the people who destroyed his company, the bankers who accepted too many bonuses and the bureaucrats trying to fix the financial system. Maurice R. Greenberg is chairman and CEO of C. V. Starr and Company.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Rocking the Currency Boat

By David Andrews

(*Milken Institute Review*, Fourth Quarter 2009)

The author, a professor of international relations at Scripps College, California, discusses what China really wants from its financial dominance and what is it most likely to get. U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, during his confirmation hearings, went out of his way to criticize China's exchange-rate policy, suggesting that Beijing was manipulating its currency. Under U.S. law, formal designation of a country as a currency manipulator triggers a mandatory response. In the current environment, the Europeans are no more sensitive to movements in the dollar than are Americans, and Asians are capable of blocking undesired movements of their currencies against the dollar altogether. It took years for France and Germany to agree on a joint float, and, once agreed upon, the arrangement proved extremely difficult to maintain.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Root of the Financial Crisis

By Arnold Kling

(*Policy Review*, December 2009/January 2010)

"In a compelling fictional narrative, there are villains, victims, and heroes. One can give a compelling account of the financial crisis of 2008 that contains such characters, but it would be fictional: A true villain has to be aware of his villainous deeds. Instead, the primary candidates for the role of villain in the 2008 emergency — the executives of banks, Wall Street firms, and insurance companies — made out too poorly in the end to suggest willfulness. If these companies

had done nothing but deliberately foist risks on others, they themselves would have survived. The fact that Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers, and other companies took such large losses is indicative of self-deception. Executives had too much confidence in their risk management strategies. Regulators, too, had excessive confidence in the measures that they had in place to ensure safety and soundness of banks and other regulated institutions."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/72903637.html>

Should, or Can, Central Banks Target Asset Prices?

(International Economy, Fall 2009)

Over the past year, with the collapse of the U.S. subprime mortgage market, central banks have enacted a host of emergency measures. However, identifying overinflated asset markets in advance and avoiding moral hazard is very difficult. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan made his famous remark about the stock market being "irrationally exuberant" at a time when the stock market was a third lower than it is today; Americans' "irrational exuberance" over housing prices turned out to be a bubble, after all. Twenty experts offer their views in this symposium on the degree to which central banks should attempt to influence asset prices, or whether it is even possible.

For full text follow the link: http://www.international-economy.com/TIE_F09_AssetPriceSymp.pdf

The 2010 Index of Economic Freedom

(The Heritage Foundation)

Covers 183 countries around the world, ranking 179 of them with an economic freedom score based on 10 measures of economic openness, regulatory efficiency, the rule of law, and competitiveness.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.heritage.org/index/>

The Status Report: Obama and Energy Security

(Brookings, January 05, 2010)

In the second of a series of policy assessments of the Obama administration's first year, Charles Ebinger and William Antholis give Obama a "B+" overall for energy security. But Ebinger awards Congress a dismal "D" for work on energy security and climate change. (video and text)

For full text follow the link: http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0105_energy_security.aspx

III. DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Arctic Climate Threat - Methane from Thawing Permafrost

By Katey Walter Anthony

(Scientific American, December 2009)

Arctic permafrost is already thawing, creating lakes that emit methane. The heat-trapping gas could dramatically accelerate global warming. How big is the threat and what can be done? Methane bubbling up into the atmosphere from thawing permafrost that underlies many Arctic lakes seems to be hastening global warming. New estimates indicate that by 2100 thawing permafrost could boost emissions of the potent greenhouse gas 20 percent to 40 percent beyond what would be produced by all natural and human sources. The only realistic way to slow the thaw is for humankind to limit climate warming by reducing our carbon dioxide emissions.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Are Next-Generation Journalists the Future of a Profession in Transition?

By Christopher Connell

(Carnegie Reporter, Fall 2009)

The author, an independent journalist, focuses on News21, a multi-million-dollar experiment by Carnegie Corporation of New York and the James S. and John L. Knight Foundation, to determine if a new crop of journalists can awaken interest in news where older and more experienced journalists have failed. Connell believes that to do this, they first need to study important issues, such as liberty and security, the role of religion in American life, the country's dramatically changing demographics, and then produce stories with all the multimedia tools that the digital age has to offer. Connell notes that this effort is taking place in a news environment in which entertainment dominates, and during recession that has seen the demise of several major newspapers and layoffs of reporters and editors.

For full text follow the link: <http://carnegie.org/publications/carnegie-reporter/single/view/article/item/229/>

Learning from the Foreshocks of the Haiti Disaster

By David Rothkopf

(*Foreign Policy* online, January 13, 2010)

The author, visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, writes that the disaster in Haiti did not just occur with the earthquake, but with "two centuries of misfortune that have plagued the country." As a former official in the Clinton administration, Rothkopf notes that fifteen years ago, there was a major effort by the U.S. and the international community to turn Haiti around. But he acknowledges that serious errors were made, the primary one being that the U.S. misread then-Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide; the turmoil that ensued during his tenure left many uneasy about dispersing aid. With the war on terror and economic crises, the U.S. lost the political will to assist Haiti; the real tragedy, says Rothkopf, is the missed opportunity of the 1990s. The real cause of the disaster is "the callous neglect of neighbors who were content to live with one of the world's poorest countries at the doorstep of the world's richest." Says Rothkopf, "Haiti today well illustrates that we can almost always do more to prevent or manage the foreshocks of crises than their aftershocks."

For full text follow the link:

http://rothkopf.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/13/learning_from_the_foreshocks_of_the_haiti_disaster

The Myth of Green Europe

By Andrea Lenschow and Carina Sprungk

(*Journal of Common Market Studies*, January 2010)

"Unlike most nation-states, the EU faces the challenge of actively creating and sustaining myths about its polity. In this article we explore if and under what conditions the story of a 'Green Europe' represents a successful new myth on the European project, which is appealing to present and future generations and capable of generating legitimacy for EU politics. Exploring the narratives of policy leaders (storytellers) we trace the functional role of environmental policy for the EU polity as a whole, establish the legitimating role of environmental policy for the EU and search the extent to which the environmental narrative is constructed as an identity-building story. We argue that, while the actual performance of the EU in environmental policy might raise some doubts about the credibility and hence sustainability of the Green Europe myth, 'green' has become a brand attribute of the EU to the European public and carries a high level of legitimacy and potential for identification."

[Full text available upon request](#)

Myths of Mexico: The U.S. Media's Simplistic Depiction of the 'Drug War'

By Michelle Garcia

(*Columbia Journalism Review*, November/December 2009)

The author critiques most U.S. journalism about Mexico as narrow and simplistic, focusing on, and even romanticizing, the drug cartels while ignoring their political context. Garcia notes that it is demand for drugs in the United States that is fueling the drug war in Mexico; much of the weaponry and money also originates in the U.S., factors frequently glossed over in the press. Garcia argues that the public would be better served by examination of the causes of the rise of the cartels and less superficial sensationalism.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The New Energy Order

By David G. Victor and Linda Yueh

(*Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010)

"Growing demand for energy in developing countries and calls for greener energy worldwide are putting unprecedented pressure on the global energy system. Existing energy institutions are struggling to remain relevant. A new mechanism for cooperation is needed."

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Secrets of Stability: Why Terrorism and Economic Turmoil Won't Keep the World Down for Long

By Fareed Zakaria

(*Newsweek*, December 12, 2009)

The author notes that, despite hard times, there has not been a global collapse in the last year because the current global economic system is inherently more resilient than commonly thought. Among the reasons are that peace among major powers has minimized bloody military conflicts and instability; inflation, which can be more socially and politically disruptive than a recession, is under control; and technological connectivity and the diffusion of knowledge allow for

greater opportunities for wealth creation at every level of society. "Clear-thinking citizens around the world," Zakaria writes, "are determined not to lose these gains by falling for some ideological chimera, or searching for a worker's utopia. They are even cautious about the appeals of hypernationalism and war. Most have been there, done that. And they know the price."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/226425>

Still Bowling Alone? The Post-9/11 Split

By Thomas H. Sander and Robert D. Puttnam
(*The Journal of Democracy*, January 2010)

"The crisis of the 9/11 terrorist attacks has sparked a surge of increased civic engagement by young people in the United States, but there is also evidence of a growing divide along class lines."

[Full text available upon request](#)

A Thousand Points of Hate

By Christopher Dickey
(*Newsweek*, January 11, 2010)

The surge in efforts to attack the U.S. over the last few months -- including the recent incident involving Detroit-bound Northwest Flight 253 -- is a measure of U.S. success at combating terrorism, Dickey says. But although this has put organized extremist groups under mounting pressure, it has also encouraged more individual amateurs, like the 23-year-old Nigerian involved in the Detroit incident. Moreover, al-Qaeda affiliates in Somalia and Yemen have started attracting and cultivating would-be jihadis from the U.S. itself. The media attention for even failed terrorist attempts is a boon to recruitment for any aspiring extremist group. Dickey advises the Obama administration to stay the course in maintaining an aggressive but low-profile defense while discrediting al-Qaeda's ideology. Obama "needs to keep the focus on the small groups and individuals who present a real threat while engaging in the battle of ideas from the high ground of traditional American values," Dickey says.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/229078>

Truth Commissions. Can Countries Heal After Atrocities?

(*CQ Global Researcher*, January 2010)

After war and unspeakable violence, countries around the world face the challenge of moving forward while dealing with the past. But what should justice look like? From Bosnia to Burundi, from Argentina to Timor-Leste, millions of people around the world have been brutalized by genocide, torture, kidnappings and disappearances of loved ones — often at the hands of their own governments and countrymen. Today countries have a variety of legal options, known as transitional justice, including truth commissions — official panels that investigate atrocities and create authoritative records of past abuses. Truth-telling can foster social healing and reconciliation, supporters say, but early research suggests that results have been mixed. Other countries seek justice through international trials or tribunals. In the end, justice — however it is sought — seeks to expose the truth, protect human rights and pave a path to democracy.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Why Are There No Arab Democracies?

By Larry Diamond
(*The Journal of Democracy*, January 2010)

"Democracy has held its own or gained ground in just about every part of the world except for the Arab Middle East. Why has this crucial region remained such infertile soil for democracy?"

[Full text available upon request](#)

Why the World May Turn to Nuclear Power

By Richard Stieglitz with Rick Docksai
(*The Futurist*, November/December 2009)

"Demand for fossil fuels may decline, but demand for electric power will soar. Nuclear power, resisted by many, may provide a long-term solution, and it has come a long way since Three Mile Island and Chernobyl."

[Full text available upon request](#)

67% Say News Media Have Too Much Influence Over Government Decisions

(Rasmussen Reports, January 14, 2010)

Voters are even more convinced now that the news media have too much influence on the actions of government and try to help political candidates they want to win.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_politics/january_2010/67_say_news_media_have_too_much_influence_over_government_decisions

IV. U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

Majority of Americans Optimistic About U.S. in the Future

(Gallup, January 4, 2010)

Sixty-three percent of Americans describe their outlook for the United States during the next 20 years as "very optimistic" or "optimistic."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/124910/Majority-Americans-Optimistic-Future.aspx>

New Economics of Marriage: The Rise of Wives

(Pew Research Center Publications, January 19, 2010)

...A larger share of men in 2007, compared with their 1970 counterparts, are married to women whose education and income exceed their own, according to a Pew Research Center analysis...

For full text follow the link: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1466/economics-marriage-rise-of-wives>

Michelle Obama's Strong Personal Image

(Pew Research Center Publications, January 21, 2010)

In a November survey by the Pew Research Center, 71% expressed a favorable opinion of Michelle Obama while just 16% expressed an unfavorable view.

For full text follow the link: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1470/michelle-obama-personal-image-remains-very-favorable>

The Carter Syndrome

By Walter Russell Mead

(*Foreign Policy*, January/February 2010)

Neither a cold-blooded realist nor a bleeding-heart idealist, Barack Obama has a split personality when it comes to foreign policy. So do most U.S. presidents, of course, and the ideas that inspire this one have a long history at the core of the American political tradition. In the past, such ideas have served the country well. But the conflicting impulses influencing how this young leader thinks about the world threaten to tear his presidency apart -- and, in the worst scenario, turn him into a new Jimmy Carter.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Globe-Trotting Academics Find New Career Paths

By Robin Wilson

(*Chronicle of Higher Education*, December 11, 2009)

At a time when American college leaders talk frequently about internationalizing their campuses, only 9 percent of U.S. faculty have ever held a job at a foreign university for at least one year, according to a new survey by the Chronicle. Those American academics who have pursued careers at foreign universities have often done so for reasons other than the tight U.S. job market. In interviews with more than two dozen American academics teaching at universities around the world, Wilson found that some wanted new challenges after long, successful careers in U.S. education; some wanted to pursue research centered in the country in which they teach; some welcome the opportunity to play leadership roles in institutions that are just getting started; some are attracted by the chance to do things that they could not do in the United States until much later in their careers; and some are "adventure junkies." Many foreign universities are trying to attract American academics by offering big salaries and substantial perks.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Government and Religion. Was the United States Founded as a "Christian Nation?"

(*CQ Researcher*, January 15, 2010)

A decades-long culture war over the relationship between government and religion and the role of faith in civil society shows no sign of abating. New cases are coming before the Supreme Court, and fresh conflicts are arising over the placement of religious displays on public property and the use of government money to support faith-based social-service programs. At the heart of the battle lies the question of whether the United States was formed as a "Christian nation" — as many conservatives contend — or whether the Founding Fathers meant to build a high wall of separation between church and state. President Obama outraged conservatives when he declared, "we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation or a Jewish nation or Muslim nation" but a "nation of citizens who are bound by ideals and a set of values." Still, the share of Americans who profess to be Christians has been shrinking, while the percentage who claim no religious preference has nearly doubled since 1990.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Immigration Benefits America

By Steven J. Gold

(*Society*, September/October 2009)

"The previous article suggests that because contemporary immigrants are non-European, uneducated, poor, and uninterested in joining the moral community of American society, their presence threatens national unity, obscures citizens' obligations to one another and will shortly change the US into a minority-majority society. Drawing from historical accounts and statistical evidence, this article asserts that immigrants provide American society with social, economic and demographic benefits. Moreover, while pundits have long predicted that immigrants with national origins distinct from those of natives will transform American life to its detriment, the record reveals the US has been able to incorporate diverse nationalities to the benefit of immigrants and the native-born alike." Steven J. Gold is Professor, Associate Chair and Graduate Program Director in the Department of Sociology at Michigan State College.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Is the World Our Campus? International Students and U.S. Global Power in the Long Twentieth Century

By Paul A. Kramer

(*Diplomatic History*, November 2009)

The author, Associate Professor of History at Vanderbilt University, builds on the movement to broaden the history of U.S. foreign relations beyond just official relations between governments, drawing attention to international students as foreign-relations actors. By implication, classrooms, campuses and college towns all function as international-relations nodes. He writes that there is much to be gained from approaching the topic through the lens of U.S. global power. From pre-Fulbright days, there has been a tendency on the part of American educators and officials to view study-in-the-U.S. programs, including military training courses, as a means of enhancing the nation's position in the world. The author explores whether we should regard education only in terms of national interests or also in terms of potentially transnational group interests -- do we miss something if we focus on U.S. global power rather than the creation of a global elite?

[Full text available upon request](#)

A New Page: Can the Kindle Really Improve on the Book?

By Nicholson Baker

(*New Yorker*, August 3, 2009)

More than 350,000 titles are available for reading on an Amazon Kindle, and despite a \$359 price tag, the wireless reading device was the top-selling item on Amazon this Christmas. Author Nicholson Baker tried out a Kindle and reports in this August 2009 article that he isn't especially impressed. He doesn't like the gray screen with gray typeface; the fact that many books, ranging from potboilers ("The Bourne Identity") to literature (Nabokov), are unavailable; the absence of page numbers; the poor resolution of photos and graphs; the impossibility of reading Kindle books on any other device except the iPod Touch and iPhone; and the fact that Kindle users are "tied ... to Amazon forever." Although it makes claims of earth-friendliness, since no trees are cut down, a Kindle requires electricity to operate, is difficult to recycle, and "will probably take a last boat ride to a Nigerian landfill in five years." But Baker isn't against the concept of electronic books in general.

For full text follow the link: http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/08/03/090803fa_fact_baker

The New Population Bomb. The Four Megatrends That Will Change the World

By Jack A. Goldstone

(*Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010)

"A series of looming demographic trends will greatly affect international security in the twenty-first century. How policymakers adjust to these changes now will determine the course of global political and economic stability for years to come."

[Full text available upon request](#)

President Obama. One Year On

(*The American Interest*, January/February 2010)

At the first anniversary of Barack Obama's inauguration, the magazine takes stock: Francis Fukuyama, Jessica Tuchman Mathews, Walter Russell Mead, Richard Perle, Ronald Steel, Joseph S. Nye, Robert Kagan, G. John Ikenberry, Josef Joffe, Leslie H. Gelb, William A. Galston, Michael Barone, Anne Applebaum, Will Marshall, Steve Clemons and Stephen D. Krasner.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Rewriting History. Can Nations Come to Terms with Their Own Legacies?

(*CQ Global Researcher*, December 2009)

Every nation argues about its own history, seeking to find glory and a sense of identity by celebrating its heroes while downplaying the dark side of the past. Nations also argue with each other about the past, with one side's glorious victory still ranking as the other's ignominious defeat. And, frequently, a neighboring country that has been harmed by another's actions complains that the guilty nation is whitewashing the worst incidents. Currently, an attempt to normalize relations between Turkey and Armenia is proving a tough sell due to arguments about a mass slaughter that occurred more than 90 years ago. And Russia and its neighbors are engaged in heated debates about revealing the crimes of the Stalinist era. Like individuals, nations need to confront their own ghosts, but finding the balance between acknowledging past wrongdoing and learning to get along in the present can be a difficult feat. Such conflicts raise a fundamental philosophical question: Is historical accountability a human right?

[Full text available upon request](#)

Thomas Jefferson: Founding Father of Indian Removal

By Mark Hirsch

(*American Indian*, Summer 2009)

The author notes that Thomas Jefferson was a true "Renaissance man," and was greatly interested in the Native American Indians, collecting artifacts, studying their customs and native languages. Jefferson believed that the only thing the Indians needed was the "civilizing influence of agriculture", notwithstanding the widespread Native farming that did not use European implements. Jefferson's belief that democracy rested on yeoman agriculture and an unlimited supply of land collided with the fact that America's "vacant lands" were populated with thousands of American Indians who were not inclined to give up their traditional ways. Jefferson realized that removing Indians from the land was necessary for American expansion, and about the time of the Lewis and Clark expedition, began formulating a policy to acquire lands from Indians living east of the Mississippi river. Private letters Jefferson wrote as early as 1803 document his doubts about the feasibility of assimilating Indians into American life.

[Full text available upon request](#)

What Makes a Great Teacher?

By Amanda Ripley

(*The Atlantic*, January/February 2010)

For years, the secrets to great teaching have seemed more like alchemy than science, a mix of motivational mumbo jumbo and misty-eyed tales of inspiration and dedication. But for more than a decade, one organization has been tracking hundreds of thousands of kids, and looking at why some teachers can move them three grade levels ahead in a year and others can't. Now, as the Obama administration offers states more than \$4 billion to identify and cultivate effective teachers, Teach for America is ready to release its data.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Which American Dream Do You Mean?

By David Stoll

(*Society*, September/October 2009)

"According to the latest U.S. Census projection, the arrival of immigrants and their higher birthrates, projected forward at current rates, will turn the U.S. into a "minority-majority" society in 2042, 8 years earlier than the Census used to predict. Liberals tend to view immigration to the U.S. as a human right, but many employers prefer to hire immigrants because they can be paid less than the cost of reproducing their labor--that is, the cost of keeping an American family above the poverty line. One way of looking at the resulting debates over U.S. immigration policy is in terms of moral economy, that is, how different factions compete for moral authority in order to gain control over a desired good. In this case, the desired good is American citizenship, including access to the highest consumption rates on the planet, and national

definitions of citizenship are competing with transnational or globalist definitions of citizenship." David Stoll teaches Anthropology at Middlebury College.
[Full text available upon request](#)

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

Beyond Minarets: Europe's Growing Problem with Islam. Can One Be Both European and Muslim?

By Shada Islam

(YaleGlobal, January 14, 2010)

Switzerland's ban on building minarets is emblematic of a larger issue in Europe, according to the report. It highlights not only the increasing divide between Muslims and non-Muslims in the continent, but also the need for Europe to embrace multiculturalism. Many believe that Muslims are flooding in, taking jobs, and would like to turn Europe into a land ruled by Islamic law. Yet, Muslims only represent three percent of population. On the other hand, Muslims seem to have done little to assimilate, or at least find common ground with their fellow citizens, often making demands at odds with a liberal society such as wanting gender segregation in public spaces, according to the author.

For full text follow the link: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/beyond-minarets-europes-growing-problem>

China and Google: Searching for Trouble - Part I

By Jonathan Fenby

(YaleGlobal, January 19, 2010)

Google's recent dispute with China is not just about internet censorship; it's also about China's evolving role on the world stage, according to the report. It is unlikely Beijing will allow citizens to access banned Internet sites through Google, a condition the company demanded for staying in China. There are also concerns about Internet security in general, but the larger issue will be how multinational corporations engage with a more self-confident China. From protecting intellectual property to guarding against fuzzy legal practices, Western firms may need to reassess their China policy. But this is unlikely to shake China's growing self-confidence or provoke self-reflection.

For full text follow the link: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-and-google-searching-trouble>

China and Google: Searching for Trouble - Part II

By Jeffrey Garten

(YaleGlobal, January 21, 2010)

The China-Google tussle is about two visions of the future, according to Garten. It is about openness and globalization vs. stability and nationalism. For China, the desire is to continue to lift millions of its citizens out of poverty; if such a goal entails national stability, requiring control of the internet, so be it. To Westerners, who attach great value to the rule of law and freedom of expression this might appear backwards; but with the dented Western model, poor corporate governance, the credit crisis, and a failure at Copenhagen to adopt measures to avert climate change, they don't have much of a moral high ground to stand on of late.

For full text follow the link: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-and-google-searching-trouble-part-ii>

Combating Intolerance, Exclusion and Violence Through Holocaust Education

(U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Web posted January 27, 2010)

The publication reflects UNESCO's continuing commitment to promoting Holocaust awareness and combating all forms of Holocaust denial. It is based on the proceedings of a workshop of the same name held in May 2009. The three-day workshop, held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris brought together experts in the field of education and, in particular Holocaust education, from several continents to focus on two areas; work being carried out by educators in Europe and North American around issues relating to the Holocaust and how best to implement Holocaust education in sub-Saharan Africa.

For full text follow the link: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001866/186689M.pdf>

Counterterrorism and Human Rights: A Report Card on President Obama's First Year

(Human Rights Watch, January 2010)

Within days of taking office in January 2009, President Barack Obama issued executive orders that repudiated key elements of the Bush administration's abusive approach to fighting terrorism. By changing course in such a swift and high-profile way, President Obama appeared to signal a new and reformed counterterrorism policy, one consistent with basic US values and with international law. But in the months that followed this promising start, the administration chose to retain a number of the previous administration's most problematic policies, albeit in modified form, according to the

report.

For full text follow the link: http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/CT_US_Obama1Yr_Jan2010.pdf

Downcast Unemployment Forecast: Targeted Job Creation Policies Necessary to Offset Grim 2010 Projections

By Kai Filion

(Economic Policy Institute, January 14, 2010)

The nation's 10% unemployment rate does not capture the severity of the crisis for minority workers in many regions of the country. The Issue brief provides a breakdown of the unemployment projections into 2010 for various demographic groups in every state.

For full text follow the link: http://epi.3cdn.net/d9904b716d3cf62538_psm6bnec9.pdf

Faith and the Global Agenda: Values for the Post-Crisis Economy

(World Economic Forum, January 18, 2010)

Over two-thirds of people believe the current economic crisis is also a crisis of ethics and values. But only 50% think universal values exist. These are among the findings of the report on issues related to the role of faith in global affairs. The report contains a unique new public opinion poll on values conducted through Facebook. The poll reached over 130,000 respondents in France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey and the United States.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.weforum.org/pdf/faith/valuesreport.pdf>

Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity: A Digest of the Case Law of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

(Human Rights Watch, January 15, 2010)

The book is oriented to practitioners, nongovernmental organizations, and academics working in the field of human rights. It will also be a tool for staff at institutions established to try such crimes, such as the International Criminal Court, as well as domestic judiciaries, Human Rights Watch said.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ictr0110webwcover.pdf>

The Impact of U.S. Military Drawdown in Iraq on Displaced and Other Vulnerable Populations

By Olga Oliker, et al.

(RAND Corporation, January 13, 2010)

As the U.S. continues to draw down its forces and prepares to eventually end its substantial military involvement in Iraq, it must recognize that this drawdown will affect vulnerable and at-risk populations, some of whom have depended on U.S. forces for their security over the last six years. How vulnerable groups are affected by the U.S. drawdown has significant implications for the evolution of Iraq and U.S. policy interests in Iraq and the Middle East more broadly. The authors assess the risks and implications of drawdown and withdrawal for some of the Iraqis in greatest danger.

For full text follow the link: http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2010/RAND_OP272.pdf

In Pursuit of Democracy and Security in the Greater Middle East

By Daniel Brumberg

(U.S. Institute of Peace, January 21, 2010)

The report examines the complex nexus between democratic change and U.S. security interests, with a principal focus on Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen. It sets out a set of general and country-specific findings and recommendations for a long-term strategy by which "political liberalization" can enhance the stability and legitimacy of governments, thus strengthening security and peacemaking in the region.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.usip.org/files/resources/Reform%20and%20Security%20WP%201.21.pdf>

Middle Class in America

(U.S. Department of Commerce, January 25, 2010)

The Commerce Department's Economics and Statistics Administration issued a report for Vice President Biden's Middle Class Task Force. The report, which identifies what it means to be middle class in America today, uses a host of measures to show that it is more difficult today to both attain and maintain a middle-class lifestyle than it was two decades ago.

For full text follow the link: http://www.commerce.gov/s/groups/public/@doc/@os/@opa/documents/content/prod01_008833.pdf

Narco-Jihad: Drug Trafficking and Security in Afghanistan and Pakistan

By Ehsan Ahrari et al.

(National Bureau of Asian Research, Web posted January 7, 2010)

In an essay on the nexus between the narcotics economy and violent conflict in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Vanda Felbab-Brown explores the factors supporting opium production in those countries. Felbab-Brown also offers options for successful counter-narcotics policies and for building an alternative legal economy throughout the struggling region.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.nbr.org/publications/specialreport/pdf/sr20.pdf>

Obama Image Unscathed by Terrorism Controversy

By Andrew Kohut

(Pew Research Center for the People & Press, January 14, 2010)

In the aftermath of the failed Christmas Day terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound airliner, the government's ratings for reducing the threat of terrorism have slipped. In addition, 33% now say that the ability of terrorists to launch a major attack on the U.S. is greater than it was at the time of 9/11; that is up only slightly from November but is the highest percentage expressing this view in surveys dating to 2002. The public also has become far more concerned that government anti-terrorism policies fail to protect the country adequately – and far less concerned that these policies restrict civil liberties.

For full text follow the link: <http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/578.pdf>

The Suburbanization of Poverty: Trends in Metropolitan America, 2000 to 2008

By Elizabeth Kneebone and Emily Garr

(Brookings Institution, January 20, 2010)

An analysis of the location of poverty in America, particularly in the nation's 95 largest metro areas in 2000, 2007, and 2008 reveals that by 2008, suburbs were home to the largest and fastest-growing poor population in the country, Midwestern cities and suburbs experienced by far the largest poverty rate increases over the decade, and others.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/0120_poverty_kneebone/0120_poverty_paper.pdf,

[Metro Area Profiles](#)

Terrorism's New Avatars Part I: Fighting Al Qaeda in Yemen Is an Important Battle of a Broader War

By Bruce Riedel

(YaleGlobal, January 7, 2010)

The foiled bombing of Northwest flight 253 brings to light the global nature of terrorist expansion. Many would have thought it unlikely that ill-governed and little-considered Yemen would be the source of an attack on the United States. The author relates that Yemen has long been a chaotic country governed weakly or by outsiders, a perfect breeding ground for terrorist activity.

For full text follow the link: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/terrorism%E2%80%99s-new-avatars-part-i>

Terrorism's New Avatars Part II: Al Qaeda Recruits Terrorists On-Line, Turning the Democratic Space on Its Head

By Gabriel Weimann

(YaleGlobal, January 12, 2010)

Amid the clamor surrounding intelligence failures and opening of new fronts in counter-terrorism effort, a new link has come to light, the open space of the Internet. Conventional wisdom holds that the war in Afghanistan weakened Al Qaeda and eroded its operational efficiency. Gabriel Weimann believes this to be far from the truth. Social networking sites, online chat rooms, streaming video and many other features have made the Internet an ideal tool not only to connect disparate terrorist cells, improving operational coordination, but also to recruit new members while bolstering cohesion among current jihadists.

For full text follow the link: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/terrorisms-new-avatars-part-ii>

World Report 2010

(Human Rights Watch, January 20, 2010)

The Human Rights Watch's 20th annual review of human rights practices around the globe, summarizes major human

rights trends in more than 90 nations and territories worldwide, reflecting the extensive investigative work. The volume's introductory essay by Executive Director Kenneth Roth argues that the ability of the human rights movement to exert pressure on behalf of victims has grown enormously in recent years, and that this development has spawned a reaction from abusive governments that grew particularly intense in 2009.

For full text follow the link: http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/wr2010_0.pdf