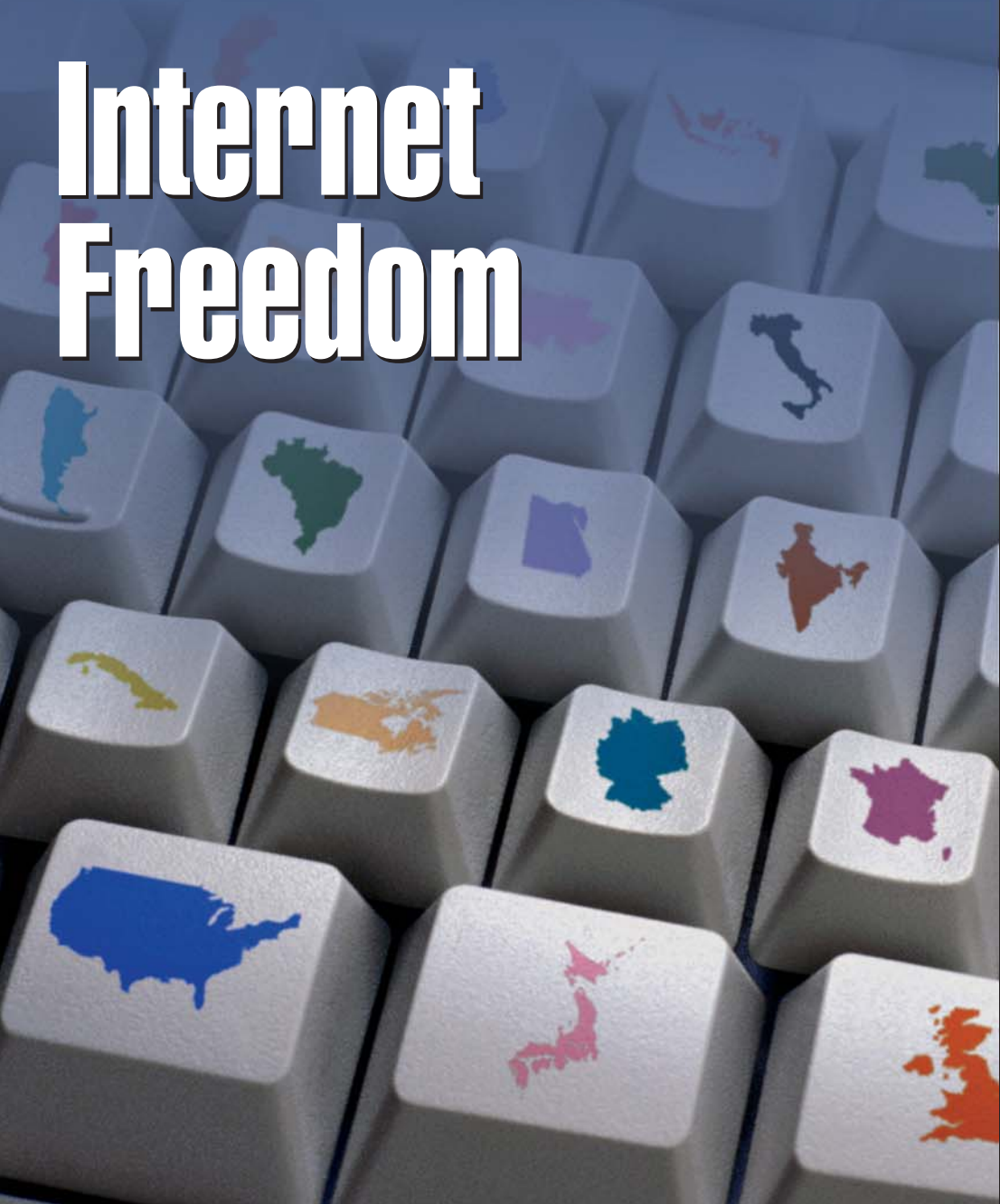


January/February 2010

ARTICLE & WEB ALERT

Digest of Articles and Websites
of Significant Interest

Internet Freedom



The American Libraries in India

The American Library

Gemini Circle, Chennai - 600 006

Library Director: Mr. M.K. Jagadish

Reference Desk: Tel. No. 91-44-28574000 ext. 4017 & 4089

Fax: 91-44-28574307, Email: chennairefdesk@state.gov

Web Address: <http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/irc.html>

The American Library

38A Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 071

Library Director: Dr. Sushanta Banerjee

Reference Desk: Tel. No. 91-33-39846398/99

Fax: 91-33-22882445, Email: kolkataamlibrary@state.gov

Web Address: <http://kolkata.usconsulate.gov/irc.html>

The American Library

4 New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400 020

Library Director: Ms. Usha Sunil

Reference Desk: Tel. No. 91-22-22624590/92 ext. 2204

Fax: 91-22-22624599, Email: libref@state.gov

Web Address: <http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov/airc.html>

The American Library

24 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110 001

Library Director: Ms. Kala Anjan Dutta

Reference Desk: Tel. No. 91-11-23472115/16

Fax: 91-11-23329499, Email: libdel@state.gov

Web Address: <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/americanlibrary.html>

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Articles listed in *Article & Web Alert* are available at The American Library nearest to you. Should you wish to receive photocopy of any of the articles, please fill in the attached reply-paid card with your request and mail it to us. We shall mail you the requested articles. For your convenience, addresses of the four American Libraries in India are given on the inside front cover.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send your feedback to Mr. Steven P. Kerchoff, Information Resource Officer, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, The American Center, 24 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110001.

Note: Internet sites included in this publication, other than those of the U.S. government, should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein.

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Internet Freedom

In a groundbreaking foreign policy speech delivered on January 21, 2010 at Washington's Newseum, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton pronounced that the spread of information networks is forming a new nervous system of our planet. She linked the freedom to use the Internet without government obstruction to basic human rights such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. She observed that Internet freedom is essential to upholding human rights and encouraging economic prosperity, and that the United States plans to aggressively promote Internet access for all people. She also advocated a single Internet where all of humanity has equal access to knowledge and ideas.

The United States believes that certain core principles, such as the freedom of expression as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, apply to everyone around the world and Internet freedom is a logical offshoot of the same. It primarily focuses at protecting rights of consumers in accessing lawful content, running lawful applications, and using lawful services of their choice on the Internet. It also seeks to promote consumer choices and competition among providers of lawful content, applications, and services. The whole idea is to ensure that the Internet remains an indispensable platform for innovation and global leadership in online commerce and technological progress.

On the other hand, Internet censorship and surveillance are also on the rise. Some countries have chosen to erect electronic barriers to prevent their people from accessing portions of the world's networks. They have expunged words, names, and phrases from search engine results and have thus violated the privacy of citizens who engage in non-violent political speech. Secretary Clinton compares such efforts of local governments to the construction of the Berlin Wall. Such actions contravene the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Obama administration is aware that the Internet comes with potential downsides, such as its use to spread pornography and facilitate the ability of terrorist groups to organize. We need to mitigate these risks while maximizing the free flow of information.

Today, Internet freedom has expanded to be synonymous with information freedom. It supports peace and security and thus lays a foundation for a global progress. While asymmetrical access to

information has been at the core of interstate conflicts, it is important that people on both sides of any conflict have equal access to the same set of facts and information.

Recently, during the fourth annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meeting held in November 2009, it was stressed that the crucial development role of the Internet should be recognized globally, and that the global community should ensure that barriers to participation by developing countries should be removed. Sir Tim Berners-Lee, creator of the World Wide Web and Director of World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) emphasized the importance of a single Web that could be shared and used by all. Mr. Jerry Yang, Co-Founder and Chief Yahoo!, identified the power of the Internet in its ability to connect communities. He highlighted the network's impact in creating social and economic opportunities from healthcare to education and in fostering a next generation of entrepreneurs.

President Obama believes that the free flow of information on the Internet builds a stronger society, encourages creativity and helps people around the world participate in the political process and hold their governments accountable. Free flow of information will encourage people around the world to think for themselves and generate new ideas. It will encourage creativity in politics and government as well as business. Uncensored Internet use also "helps to draw the world together," Obama said, mentioning that it gives his 11- and 8-year-old daughters "enormous power" to explore and learn about the world from their own rooms. That type of power also promotes understanding between peoples throughout the world, he said.

The articles included in this section encourage further exploration of the benefits and limitations of free and accessible Internet for the global citizens of a contemporary digital world.

For additional information, a weblibliography is presented here for your use. The inclusion of Internet sites other than those of the U.S. government should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein. The websites are current as of publication date and are subject to change at any time.

21st Century Statecraft – Diplomacy in the Age of Facebook and Twitter

<http://fpc.state.gov/135434.htm>

A Bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure net neutrality

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:s215is.txt.pdf

A Bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a national broadband policy, safeguard consumer rights, spur investment and innovation, and for related purposes

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h3458ih.txt.pdf

A Bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from further regulating the Internet

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:s1836is.txt.pdf

Can Google Beat China?

http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=11141

Clinton unveils U.S. policy on Internet freedom

http://news.cnet.com/8301-30684_3-10438686-265.html

Computer & Communications Industry Association

<http://www.ccianet.org>

Council on Foreign Relations - Casting a Wider Internet

http://www.cfr.org/publication/21259/casting_a_wider_internet.html

Democracy & Human Rights: Citizens with a Voice

<http://www.america.gov/global/democracy.html>

eJournal USA: Media Making Change

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/1207.html>

Fairness 2.0: Media Content Regulation in the 21st Century

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa651.pdf>

Freedom on the Net: A Global Assessment of Internet and Digital Media

http://www.freedomhouse.org/uploads/specialreports/NetFreedom2009/FreedomOnTheNet_FullReport.pdf

The Generative Internet

<http://www.harvardlawreview.org/issues/119/may06/zit-train.pdf>

The Geopolitics of Asian Cyberspace
<http://www.feer.com/articles1/2006/0612/free/p022.html>

Global Internet Freedom Consortium
<http://www.internetfreedom.org>

Global Internet Freedom: Corporate Responsibility and the Rule of Law
http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_senate_hearings&docid=f:45688.wais.pdf

Google, China, and Dueling Internets?
http://www.cfr.org/publication/21203/google_china_and_dueling_internets.html?breadcrumb=%2Fissue%2F114%2Fhealth_science_and_technology

ICANN and the Internet Ecosystem
<http://csis.org/event/icann-and-internet-ecosystem>

IFLA/UNESCO Internet Manifesto Guidelines
<http://archive.ifla.org/faife/policy/iflastat/Internet-ManifestoGuidelines.pdf>

Improving Broadband Innovation and Investment
http://www.brookings.edu/events/2009/1109_broadband_innovation.aspx

Internet Free Speech
<http://www.citizen.org/litigation/briefs/IntFreeSpch/>

Internet Freedom – Free Expression in the Digital Age
<http://www.america.gov/internet-freedom.html>

Internet Freedom – U.S. Department of State Blog
http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/internet_freedom

Internet Freedom in the 21st Century: Integrating New Technologies into Diplomacy and Development
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/136912.pdf>

Internet Freedom: Where the United States Stands
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/01/21/internet-freedom-where-united-states-stands>

Internet Governance Forum
<http://www.intgovforum.org>

Internet, broadband, and cell phone statistics
http://www.pewinternet.org/%7E/media//Files/Reports/2010/PIP_December09_stats.pdf

Social Networking Experiment Shows Effects of Mass Mobilization
<http://www.america.gov/st/scitech-english/2010/January/20100120140653esnamfuak0.4658777.html>

Social Networking in Government: Opportunities & Challenges
http://www.hci.org/files/field_content_file/SNGovt_Summary_FINAL.pdf

Software Piracy on the Internet: A Threat to Your Security
<http://global.bsa.org/internetreport2009/2009internetpiracyreport.pdf>

Twitter and Status Updating, Fall 2009
http://pewinternet.org/~media//Files/Reports/2009/PIP_Twitter_Fall_2009web.pdf

U.S. Department of State: Internet Freedom
<http://www.state.gov/c/ceb/cip/c17156.htm>

The White House – Open Government Initiative
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/open>

1. DELICATE BALANCES; PUT DATA – AND FREEDOM – IN THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE

By Peter Coffee. eWeek, v. 22, no. 18, p. 53.

In this article, Peter Coffee provides some practical advice on how to share and what to share on the Internet. He reveals that people often overpackage and underprotect content. Stressing the digital rights management, the author advocates locking down content with passwords or restricting users' changes to defined fill-in fields. He also urges broader use of Adobe's PDF technology, which offers effective control of most issues in content security management.

2. FREE SPEECH ON THE WEB

By Jeffrey Rosen. New York Times Upfront, v. 141, no. 9, January 12, 2009, pp. 22-23.

The Internet has an incredible capability to reach out to a global audience but is difficult to manage. In this article, Rosen takes a look at how information traffic on this seamless media is actually regulated. In a race to reach out to a global audience, the question of who gets heard and who doesn't depends to a large extent on the Internet service providers, search engines, and other Internet companies like Google, Yahoo, AOL, Facebook, and eBay. Indeed with 63 percent share of global Internet searches and ownership of YouTube, the world's largest videosharing site, the California-based Internet gatekeeper Google has enormous influence over what million of people see on the web. But with increasing spread of the open culture on the Web, the Internet companies at times remain in sync with the local laws, customs, and attitudes.

3. GLOBAL INTERNET FREEDOM: CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AND THE RULE OF LAW

Center for Democracy & Technology, May 20, 2008, 8 p.
<http://www.cdt.org/files/pdfs/20080520harris.pdf>

In this testimony presented before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, Leslie Harris advocates an open, innovative and free Internet placing it as a powerful tool for human rights and democracy. The Internet is a unique network that places power in the hands of users rather than with the gatekeepers in the middle.

It offers freedom of speech and advocates for political freedom and collaboration with others. Even after six decades of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Internet offers a unique promise to fulfill that vision.

4. GOOGLE AND INDIA TEST THE LIMITS OF LIBERTY

By Amol Sharma and Jessica E. Vascellaro. Wall Street Journal (Eastern ed.), January 2, 2010, p. A1.

Sharma and Vascellaro investigate the challenges faced by Google Inc. especially the issues of freedom of speech in a linguistically and culturally diverse population. In principle, India is a democratic country that supports freedom of speech except when this liberty is likely to ignite sectarian instability. On several occasions Google has appropriately responded when their platform was exploited for creating potentially threatening circumstances. At times it removed the inappropriate materials and also the entire user group that posed a threat for the country.

5. THE INTENSIFYING BATTLE OVER INTERNET FREEDOM

By Joanne Leedom-Ackerman. The Christian Science Monitor, February, 24, 2009, p. 9

The author examines how the Internet is reshaping contemporary society and free flow of information worldwide. The question at the core of the discussion is whether the writers can maintain their freedom in cyberspace. Since the Internet operates outside the structures of government, it challenges hierarchies of power and empowers the individual voice as never before. The Internet has caused an explosion of free speech, which has resulted in Internet filtering and censorship by about 40 countries.

6. INTERNET FREEDOM: HOW NATIONAL POLICIES HAVE FAILED TO PROTECT IT AND WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW TO BUILD IT

Computer & Communications Industry Association, January 2010, 6 p.

<http://www.cciianet.org/CCLIA/files/ccLibraryFiles/Filename/00000000315/InternetFreedomwh.pdf>

This report advocates a global consensus in managing the Internet, evaluating the extent to which its traffic can be monitored, directed or controlled. Full access to the Internet and the ability to use it fully for communication and exchanging

information must be seen as a human rights issue around the world. Internet freedom in the current century represents freedom of expression. Hence, safeguarding the open flow of information and ideas over the Internet should figure amongst top U.S. diplomatic agendas.

7. MINORS AND INTERNET INTERACTIVITY: AN INTERPRETATION OF THE LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom, v. 58, no. 5, September 2009, pp. 184-185.

Emerging Web technologies have opened a host of possibilities for young people. The contemporary digital environment facilitates the accessing, creating, and sharing of information. Interactive Web tools allow schoolchildren to create documents and share them online; upload pictures, videos, and graphic material; revise public documents; and add tags to online content to classify and organize information. Although there are instances of inappropriate uses of such academic tools, these should be addressed as individual behavior issues. Further, they should not be used as a justification for restricting or banning access to interactive technology.

8. NET NEUTRALITY: BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

By Angele A. Gilroy. CRS Report for Congress, updated September 16, 2008, 6 p.

The term net neutrality refers to the move to place restrictions on the owners of the networks that compose and provide access to the Internet, to ensure equal access and non-discriminatory treatment. Although there is no universally accepted definition of net neutrality, it is generally believed that owners of the networks should not control how consumers lawfully use that network. Furthermore, they should not be able to discriminate against content provider access to that network. Policymakers remain divided over various issues and the regulatory guidelines necessary to protect the marketplace from potential abuses which could threaten the net neutrality concept.

9. NOT YOUR FATHER'S CENSORSHIP

By Harry Lewis. The Chronicle of Higher Education, v. 55, no. 19, January 16, 2009, pp. B9-B10.

Harry Lewis reveals how the new communication technologies, meant to offer seamless free communication, have ironically led

to a global proliferation of censorship agents, methods, and rationales. Governments both love and fear the Internet. While it's a cheap agent of economic growth, it also delivers disturbing and subversive ideas at a very low cost. Lewis illustrates how governments around the world have targeted Internet in their thought control measures.

10. REMARKS ON INTERNET FREEDOM

By Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, January 21, 2010.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/01/135519.htm>

Speaking on Internet freedom at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., Secretary Clinton observed how information networks are critical to the challenges of the 21st century. She underlined that in many respects, information has never been so free. Never have there been more ways to spread more ideas to more people. Even in authoritarian countries, information networks are helping people discover new facts and are making governments more accountable. While calling Internet freedom "the final freedom," she mentioned that the freedom to connect is like the freedom of assembly in cyberspace, allowing individuals to get online, come together, and cooperate. In addition to being important to individuals, this freedom also has the potential to transform societies.

11. THE RIGHT TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

By George H. Pike. Information Today, v. 25, no. 4, April 2008, p. 15.

The right to remain anonymous is often seen as a crucial element of the right to freedom of speech. Anonymity allows the speech to take place without fear of retaliation or ostracism. However, the right of free speech comes with certain limitations. For example, it does not allow engaging in illegal or defamatory activities. An Internet user can be traced based on his or her computer's IP (Internet protocol) address and username. But since the user's free speech and privacy rights are entitled to protection, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) often do not release a subscriber's identifying information without a court order. However, it leaves behind trailing questions about defamation and anonymity rights of the user.

12. TWEETING THEIR WAY TO FREEDOM?

By Brad Stone and Noam Cohen. New York Times Upfront, v. 142, no. 3, October 5, 2009, pp. 14-15.

The authors consider how YouTube, Twitter and cellphones are assisting people who would challenge repressive governments around the world. They look into how Web and cellphones have expanded their reach to most corners of the world and how instrumental they have become in offering people myriad ways to evade government control. On the other hand, authoritarian governments are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their control over information and over their citizens in the 21ST century.

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

13. THE GLOBAL MIDDLE CLASS IS HERE: NOW WHAT?

By Jennifer Wheary. World Policy Journal, v. 26, no. 4, Winter 2009/2010, pp. 75-83.

Wheary 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 and part social force, they are in a position to apply 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.

14. HOW CHINA WON AND RUSSIA LOST: TWO DISSIMILAR ECONOMIC PATHS

*By Paul Gregory and Kate Zhou. Policy Review, December 2009/January 2010.
<http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/72997307.html>*

The economic reforms that took place in China and Russia in the 1980s have resulted in very different outcomes, note the authors. The Chinese Communist Party under Deng Xiaoping opened up

the economy but resisted grassroots reform. However, China has a tradition of small private agriculture and trading, and the rural population began bringing food and goods to the major urban centers on their own, braving official harassment and reprisal. China's was a bottom-up spontaneous reform that had broad popular support, and spread to such an extent that the leadership eventually had to concede its success. In Russia's case, Gorbachev's reforms were initiated on a top-down basis with no meaningful constituency, as all Russians worked for the state. Gorbachev also had to contend with the intractable problems of large state enterprises and state-run collective farms, and foreign firms were reluctant to invest in Russia because of the lack of contract and property-rights law. The authors note that Russia's experience in foreign investment stands in stark contrast to China's, which was helped by the large Chinese émigré business community's knowledge of local contacts throughout Asia and North America.

15. SHOULD, OR CAN CENTRAL BANKS TARGET ASSET PRICES?

The International Economy, v. 23, no. 4, Fall 2009, pp 8-19.

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. In this symposium, twenty experts offer their views on the degree to which central banks should attempt to influence asset prices, or whether it is even possible.

16. WHY A DEFAULT ON U.S. TREASURIES IS LIKELY

By Jeffrey Rogers Hummel. *Library of Economics & Liberty*, August 3, 2009.

<http://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/y2009/Hummeltbills.html#>

Hummel notes that federal government spending is skyrocketing and the government is unlikely to be able to raise taxes or rein in entitlement spending. This leads many to believe that Washington will inflate its way out of the shortfall through monetary expansion. Hummel believes, however, that a Treasury default on interest payments and part of the principal is more likely. The trend is now toward less and less cash, as bank debit cards and electronic transfers become more common, hence the government printing of money would not have the same effect as in a poor country. Faced with the prospect of both the dollar and the debt becoming worthless, or defaulting on the debt and saving the dollar, Hummel's guess is that Washington will choose the latter. He notes that the markets are starting to take into account this possibility. He cites the case of

Russia in 1998 as a recent example of a government choosing partial debt repudiation over collapse of the currency.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

17. AL QAEDA THREAT ESCALATES

Elizabeth Williamson, Charles Levinson and Yochi Dreazen. Wall Street Journal (Eastern ed.), January 4, 2010, p. A1.

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. There is a risk, however, that the money will be used not for counterterrorism efforts but to fund an ongoing civil war that destitute country. 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.

18. THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE: ISLAMIST MILITANCY IN SOUTH ASIA

Sumit Ganguly and S. Paul Kapur. Washington Quarterly, v. 33, no. 1, January 2010, pp. 47-59.

The authors note that Pakistan has a history of using non-state actors as a strategy of asymmetric warfare against stronger adversaries such as India and the former Soviet Union. Pakistan's strategy has given rise to what the authors call a "sorcerer's apprentice" problem. The same extremist organizations have now taken on a life of their own and are conducting attacks and assassinations beyond the control of the Pakistani government. Although Pakistan is largely to blame for creating and nurturing them, they are no longer wholly in its control. Even India's efforts at coercing Pakistan into controlling them have 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."

19. THE TAJIK SOLUTION: A MODEL FOR FIXING AFGHANISTAN

By George Gavrilis. *Foreign Affairs*, v. 88, no. 6, November/December 2009.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65659/george-gavrilis/the-tajik-solution>

The West should forget about making Afghanistan a model of democracy and development. Instead, it should aim for creating stability in the country just as a small UN group, along with Russia and Iran, did in 1990s' war-torn Tajikistan. "Today, Tajikistan is still corrupt and authoritarian, but it is also tolerably stable—stable enough for the international community to forget about it, which is a striking mark of success," Gavrilis says. He argues that the West should prod Afghan President Karzai to include political opponents in key government positions, and NATO forces should move troops from the Afghan interior to its borders to thwart incoming insurgents and drug smugglers. Gavrilis believes the West should also give freer rein to warlords as long as they do not attack the government or international forces, and that the U.S. should engage on Afghanistan with Russia and Iran, which have insights from their Tajik experience.

20. TRANSFORMATIVE CHOICES: LEADERS AND THE ORIGINS OF INTERVENTION STRATEGY

By Elizabeth N. Saunders. *International Security*, v. 34, no. 2, Fall 2009, pp. 119-161.

Saunders deliberates when and why great powers seek to transform foreign institutions and societies through military interventions. She also examines the role that executive leadership plays in influencing the choice of intervention strategy, and the degree to which intervention interferes in the domestic institutions of the targeted state. Saunders develops a profile of political leaders that reflects how states intervene over time. A comparison of the beliefs of President John F. Kennedy and President Lyndon B. Johnson, and their decision-making during the Vietnam War illustrates how her theory operates.

21. WHAT'S IN A LINE: IS PARTITION A SOLUTION TO CIVIL WAR?

By Nicholas Sambanis and Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl. *International Security*, v. 34, no. 2, Fall 2009, pp. 82-118.

The authors consider how territorial partitions of countries engaged in civil war might help to end these wars and to reduce the risk of recurrence. Researchers have proposed territorial partition with or without formal recognition of sovereignty as a solution to civil wars and a way to create self-enforcing peace. Quantitative studies of the

effect of partition on the risk of renewed civil war often have several shortcomings. However, a new data set and empirical analysis find that partition is unlikely to reduce the risk of a return to civil war and in some cases may even increase that risk.

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

22. THE HOSTAGE BUSINESS

By Nicholas Schmidle. New York Times Magazine, December 6, 2009, pp. 44-48.

Schmidle notes that kidnapping for ransom around the world has grown, despite the advent of the global economic crisis. The article focuses on a recent spate of kidnappings in the oil-producing Niger River Delta region of Nigeria. The author writes that Nigeria has become a hot spot for kidnappings, and the perpetrators are expanding their range of targets. A new global industry of insurers and consultants has sprung up in response.

23. A HUMAN RIGHTS BREAKTHROUGH IN GUATEMALA

By Julian Smith. Smithsonian magazine, October 2009

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Digs-Paper-Trail.html>

A chance discovery of some 80 million pages of police documents in Guatemala City may reveal the fate of an estimated 200,000 people who disappeared in that country's civil war, which lasted from 1960 to 1996. Helping sort through the paper evidence is Biotech, a California-based nonprofit organization, which has developed database software and statistical analysis techniques that have assisted human rights activists from Sierra Leone to Sri Lanka. Working with an annual budget of \$2 million donated by European countries, researchers and technicians have digitized the documents found in Guatemala. The evidence collected so far implicates Guatemala's National Police in disappearances and assassinations. But uncovering such evidence remains dangerous. In March 2009, Sergio Morales, the Guatemalan government's human rights ombudsman, released the first official report on the police archives project; shortly after this, his wife was kidnapped and tortured. The question about what to do with future findings remains open, but work at the archive is expected to continue. The databases have been made available to Guatemalan citizens and human rights groups everywhere.

24. THE RECONSTRUCTION OF AMERICAN JOURNALISM

By Leonard Downie Jr. and Michael Schudson. Columbia Journalism Review, v. 48, no. 4, November/December 2009, pp. 28-51.

The authors of this in-depth report ask hard questions about the function of the press and the future of "accountability" journalism as a public service at a time of crisis in news media. They make six recommendations for the support of credible, independent and original news reporting. These include new approaches to public and private financing of news organizations serving the public good, incorporation of new dissemination vehicles while retaining downsized traditional formats, and utilizing volunteer news gatherers alongside professionals. Downie, vice president and former executive editor of the Washington Post and Schudson, a Columbia University journalism professor, call for more leaders across the board "to seize this moment of challenging changes and new beginnings."

25. THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

By Mark Bowden. The Atlantic Monthly, v. 304, no. 3, October 2009, pp. 46-54.

Unbiased journalism is being replaced by the work of "political hit men," Bowden says, citing the televised treatment of Judge Sonia Sotomayor after she was nominated by Obama for the U.S. Supreme Court. The information on Sotomayor—specifically the "make policy" and "Latina woman" comments—wasn't uncovered by journalists, but simply reprocessed by television news rooms from conservative web sites. The conservative Judicial Confirmation Network had gathered an "attack dossier" on each of the prospective Supreme Court nominees and had fed them all to the networks in advance, Bowden says. He decries the demise of the disinterested newspaper reporter. "What gave newspapers their value was the mission and promise of journalism—the hope that someone was getting paid to wade into the daily tide of manure, sort through its deliberate lies and cunning half-truths, and tell a story straight."

26. TAKE A STAND: HOW JOURNALISM CAN REGAIN ITS RELEVANCE

By Brent Cunningham. Columbia Journalism Review, September/October 2009, pp. 32-39.

Journalism in America has been damaged by its abdication of an adversarial role in public discourse. Instead, it "mostly amplifies the agendas of others—the prominent and powerful," maintains the

author. He examines the changing dynamic of the news media and questions whether they have the ability to moderate public conversation and introduce new angles and ideas on national issues. Calling press objectivity "a trap" that lessens journalism's beneficial impact, he says the press needs to be on the side of the people and become a platform for establishing a public agenda.

GLOBAL ISSUES

27. THE DAMMING OF THE MEKONG: MAJOR BLOW TO AN EPIC RIVER

By Fred Pearce. Yale Environment 360, posted on June 16, 2009.

<http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2162>

The Mekong River in Southeast Asia sustains one of the world's largest fisheries and has been a mainstay of the region for millennia. Some 60 million people depend on the river for their sustenance. The annual flood of the Mekong pours into the Tonle Sap in Cambodia, a river that flows backward once a year and creates a huge inland lake, where billions of fishes are raised. The author notes that this remarkable ecosystem is threatened by a series of hydroelectric dams that China is building along the upper reaches of the Mekong, that could cut its flood-season flow by a quarter. Pearce notes that China never joined the Mekong River Commission, formed by the four downstream nations on the river, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, nor has it even discussed its dam plans with the commission. Pearce notes that an international law is urgently needed to protect downstream nations and to protect the ecological integrity of the world's great rivers.

28. THE OTHER INCONVENIENT TRUTH: THE CRISIS IN GLOBAL LAND USE

By Jonathan Foley. Yale Environment 360, posted on October 5, 2009.

<http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2196>

Foley, director of the Institute on the Environment at the University of the Minnesota, writes that the environmental impact of our current agricultural practices rivals that of climate change. Already, humanity has converted over a third of the world's ice-free land surface to agriculture, which has been more disruptive to the earth's ecosystems than anything else since the last ice age. Given the world's growing population, we may have to double or even triple agricultural output over the next 30-40 years. Foley further says, "the future of our civilization and our planet requires that we

simultaneously address the grand challenges of climate change and land use ... anything less will be a complete catastrophe." He believes that we need to have a larger international conversation to acknowledge the scope of the problem. He suggests investing in new agricultural solutions and bridging the divide that has grown between production agriculture and environmental conservation.

U.S. SOCIETY, VALUES & POLITICS

29. BEYOND BOOKS AND BULLETS

By George J. Fowler. American Libraries, v. 40, no. 12, December 2009, pp. 44-47.

The author, a librarian at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, recounts his experience in learning new leadership skills during a deployment in Iraq with the Arkansas Army National Guard in 2007-2008. While librarianship and leading 31 soldiers through a year-long deployment may seem to have nothing in common, he "considers them both service professions," even if the means they use to serve the public differ greatly. The responsibilities of librarianship and military service, along with most professions, can be summarized in the seven Army Values taught to all soldiers—loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage (LDRSHIP). Fowler notes that these values have guided him since his return and he now considers any challenges that come his way with an entirely different perspective.

30. CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN THE LIBERAL ARTS AND CAREER SERVICES

By Katharine Brooks. Chronicle of Higher Education, v. 56, no. 11, November 6, 2009, p. A12

The economic downturn has forced many colleges to streamline their academic offerings, often at the expense of liberal arts programs. Brooks notes that few colleges have provided career guidance to liberal arts students, and this has contributed to the decline in enrollments in liberal arts programs. Brooks recommends that professors, academic deans and career-center staff work together to discern what is distinct about the curriculum, and to find common ground between what happens in the classroom and in the workplace. Academic departments should evaluate their career-development efforts to see that students can articulate the value of their major, and should support faculty members who participate in career-development efforts.

31. GLOBE-TROTTING ACADEMICS FIND NEW CAREER PATHS

By Robin Wilson. Chronicle of Higher Education, v. 56, no. 16, December 11, 2009, pp. A1, A19-A21.

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. 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 the 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. The Chronicle survey revealed one reason there aren't more American academics taking jobs internationally—most American academics would be most tempted by a job in Europe, while the regions in which institutions are trying hardest to recruit U.S. faculty are located in the Middle East and East Asia, the regions least tempting to the participants in the survey.

32. IS THE WORLD OUR CAMPUS? INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND U.S. GLOBAL POWER IN THE LONG TWENTIETH CENTURY

By Paul A. Kramer. Diplomatic History, v. 33, no. 5, November 2009, pp. 775-806.

Kramer argues that the history of U.S. foreign relations extends beyond official relations between governments. He highlights the role of 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 education should be regarded only in terms of national interests or also in terms of potentially transnational group interests. He further suggests framing the issue of international education in terms of world history, class formation, capitalism, democracy, or globalization.

33. STANDARDS FOR A NEW CENTURY

By Karen Theroux. *Carnegie Reporter*, v. 5, no. 3, Fall 2009, pp. 28-34, 36.

Theroux writes that the Obama administration is focused on education reform, particularly on the upgrading of standards. The United States is preparing to switch from mostly local control of education to nationally aligned Common Core State Standards—evidence-based, internationally benchmarked guidelines that are expected to transform teaching and learning across the country, allowing uniform access to higher education and greater opportunity. Assessments and standards are inseparable, and innovation in testing and accountability is critical to transforming the education system.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

34. CATCHING A WAVE

By Elizabeth Rusch. *Smithsonian*, v. 40, no. 4, July 2009, pp. 66-71.

In this article, Rusch profiles electrical engineer Annette von Jouanne, head of the Wallace Energy Systems and Renewables Facility at Oregon State University, and one of the driving forces in the development of wave energy. According to an estimate, tapping the energy of the tides could meet 6.5 percent of the U.S. electric power needs. Many researchers over the years have attempted to build devices to transform the energy of waves into electricity, but von Jouanne advocates simplicity in design to achieve the most dependable energy flow. Her design is shaped like a flying saucer with a generating coil and a sliding magnet assembly capable of generating a few kilowatts of electricity in a gentle wave. However, the challenge ahead is to find a means to keep the device anchored and consistently function in the tides.

35. DECODING AN ANCIENT COMPUTER

By Tony Freeth. *Scientific American*, v. 301, no. 6, December 2009, pp. 76-83.

New explorations have revealed how the Antikythera mechanism—a unique mechanical calculator from second-century-B.C. Greece—modeled lunar motion and predicted eclipses, among other feats. Upon its discovery in 1901, it surprised the archaeologists by its sophistication, but no one had anticipated its true power. Imaging tools have now helped researchers reconstruct how the device predicted lunar and solar eclipses and the motion of the moon in the sky.

36. A PATH TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BY 2030

By Mark Z. Jacobson and Mark A. Delucchi. Scientific American, v. 301, no. 5, November 2009, pp. 58-65.

Wind, water and solar technologies could totally replace fossil fuels and provide 100 percent of the world's energy requirement. The supplies of wind and solar energy on accessible land dwarf the energy consumed by people around the globe. The authors' plan calls for 3.8 million large wind turbines, 90,000 solar plants, and numerous geothermal, tidal and rooftop photovoltaic installations worldwide. The cost of generating and transmitting power would be less than that of fossil fuel and nuclear power. Shortages of a few specialty materials, along with a lack of political will, appear to be the most difficult challenges ahead.

37. PREVENTING THE NEXT PANDEMIC

By Nathan Wolfe. Scientific American, v. 300, no. 4, April 2009, pp. 76-81.

Monitoring the flow of viruses from animals to humans might help scientists head off global epidemics. Most human infectious diseases originated in animals. Although domestic animals have historically been the source of these diseases, wild animals have also transmitted many diseases to us, including HIV. To address the threat posed by wild animals, researchers are studying the microbes of these creatures and the people who come into frequent contact with them. These studies can enable scientists identify emerging infectious diseases early and take proper measures so that they can be controlled and prevented from becoming pandemics.

38. SEA POWER

By Mason Inman. World Watch, v. 22, no. 3, May/June 2009, pp. 11-17.

Ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) is a process of using the temperature differential between cold deep-water oceanic currents and the warmer surface water to drive a turbine which can generate electricity or desalinate water. Apart from a few pilot OTEC plants the technology has not been fully tested, but now energy and climate considerations are generating new interest. While the components to an OTEC system are simple—consisting of intake pipes, a pump and a turbine—building it is very challenging, as the system would have to withstand saltwater corrosion, ocean currents and hurricanes, and microbial scum. Additionally, the most promising areas for OTEC systems are far away from land and people. The author notes that improvements in offshore oil-rig construction have spurred

plans for several new plants, including one that the U.S. Navy has commissioned to be built near their base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

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