



INFOALERT MAY 2010

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

IA11 Simon, Joel. **Repression Goes Digital.** Columbia Journalism Review
March/April 2010

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

IA12 Wulschleger, Stan; Strahl, Maya. **Climate Change: A Controlled Experiment.** Scientific American *vol. 302, no. 3, March 2010*

Scientists have carefully manipulated grasslands and forests to see how precipitation, carbon dioxide and temperature changes affect the biosphere, allowing them to forecast the future. Researchers are altering temperature, carbon dioxide and precipitation levels across plots of forests, grasses and crops to see how plant life responds. Warmer temperatures and higher CO₂ concentrations generally result in more leaf growth or crop yield, but these factors can also raise insect infestation and weaken plants' ability to ward off pests and disease. Future field experiments that can manipulate all three conditions at once will lead to better models of how long-term climate changes will affect ecosystems worldwide.

IA13 Fraser, Caroline. **A Pioneering Biologist Discusses The Keys To Forest Conservation** Yale Environment *360 March 23, 2010*

Also available online at <http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2253>

In a half century of studying the rainforests of Central America, biologist Daniel Janzen became alarmed at their rapid disappearance. In this interview, Janzen believes that the best hope for saving the remaining tropical forests is to preserve them in large blocks to enable optimal biodiversity; because of fragmentation, smaller areas become isolated and are more susceptible to perturbation. To preserve large blocks of intact rainforest, alliances of conservation groups and national governments are required to raise the large amounts of money needed to keep them off-limits to development and agriculture. He says that most of humanity is "blind" to the amount of biodiversity in nature, but he has hopes that a DNA "barcoding" device can bring the extent of

species diversity to the general public via the online world; otherwise, he fears, we “will never willingly give the planet back to the wild world.”

IA14 Emerging Leaders: How the Developing World is Starting a New Era of Climate Change Leadership. [World Wildlife Fund]. 2010. Also available on http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_emerging_leaders_paper_web.pdf

Climate change is one of the greatest environmental, social and economic threats facing humankind. More than a century of large-scale fossil fuel consumption and deforestation have altered the Earth’s climate system as the build-up of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere have led to higher surface temperatures, shifting climate patterns and an overall destabilization of the global climatic system. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations are higher today than at any point in history, with most of the emissions coming from industrialized countries. Since the year 1800, the nations representing just 25 % of the global population have emitted 83 % of the world’s cumulative fossil fuel-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. As recently as the 1990s, industrialized countries accounted for more than half of the 6.3 Giga tons of carbon released annually into the atmosphere, primarily from fossil fuel combustion. But today, as developing nations experience increasingly rapid economic and population growth, they are on track to quickly become the major emitters of the future.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

IA15 Whitford, David. Can You Learn To Be An Entrepreneur? *Fortune March 11, 2010* Also available online at: http://money.cnn.com/2010/03/10/smallbusiness/entrepreneur_b_school.fortune/index.htm

Can you learn to be an entrepreneur? Yes, says Gregg Fairbrothers, a former academic who is now the founding director of Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network. Entrepreneurs, he said, possess an identifiable set of traits (such as willingness to take risks), but entrepreneurs are defined more by how they do things than what they do. Entrepreneurship, he says is more about learning through experience. One thing this article makes clear is that courses in entrepreneurship have become very popular across the United States -- two-thirds of U.S. colleges and universities now are teaching entrepreneurship courses.

IA16 Caryl, Christian. Crisis? What Crisis? *Foreign Policy April 5, 2010*
Currently available online at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/05/crisis_what_crisis?page=0,1

Caryl, contributing editor to *Foreign Policy*, writes that when the financial crisis hit in 2008, there were dire predictions that millions of people in developing countries would fall back into poverty as a result of the collapse. However, that has not been the case; many of the emerging economies that have embraced globalization, learned the lessons of the financial crisis of the late 1990s, and have built healthy balance sheets, and have invested in health care and education instead of trying to artificially prop up the economy. Global trade is now more evenly spread around the world, with China a bigger market for Asian exporters than the U.S. Many developing countries’ financial systems were less exposed to the complex edifice of derivatives that derailed Western banking systems. Caryl notes that the world is still a long way from conquering poverty, but concludes, “how remarkable it would be if we could one day look back on the 2008-2009 crisis as the beginning of a more equitable global economy.”

IA17 Ghemawat, Pankhaj Finding Your Strategy In The New Landscape.
Harvard Business Review, *March 2010*

In the wake of the recent recession and financial crisis, global firms must change their strategic approach, says Ghemawat, a professor at IESE Business School in Barcelona. He outlines different aspects and elements of that approach -- target markets and competition, products, operations, innovation, organizational structures, workers and reputation. Corporations must adapt their visions to a world where national differences are more pronounced than before and managing those differences is the primary challenge. Thus, companies need to put new emphasis on differentiation of their products and services and look anew at opportunities in underserved segments of the market. Supply chains will have to become shorter, simpler, and more robust, and offshoring, while remaining a valid option, will require a second look in light of rising protectionism. The trend to shift the locus of R&D from the developed world to emerging markets will continue and the use of Web-based collaborative tools in management will pick up.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

IA18 Fighting The Jihad Of The Pen: Countering Revolutionary Islam's Ideology Terrorism & Political Violence *vol. 22, no. 2, April 2010*, pp. 292-314

Terrorist organizations require five interworking components to remain effective and lethal -- a command and communications structure, an effective source of ready funding, a source for arms and munitions, a source for new ready recruits, and effective strategic communications. As one or more components become weakened or fractured, the organization suffers and can become ineffective in carrying out its stated goals and objectives. Naval Postgraduate School Professor Heather Gregg presents a compelling case for how the U.S. government could deaden al-Qaeda's grip on ideology. She argues that U.S. efforts should focus on indirectly fostering "a marketplace of ideas" -- the space and culture of questioning and debating -- to challenge the grievances and solutions that have been proposed by al-Qaeda. Gregg also makes the observation that comparatively little effort -- in money, manpower, and strategy -- has been devoted to countering the al-Qaeda ideology. It is, she notes, that the inspiration for al-Qaeda's actions stem from its ideology.

IA19 Mead, Walter Russell. The Carter Syndrome. Foreign Policy
January/February 2010, pp. 58-64 Currently available online at
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/12/18/the_carter_syndrome

Throughout U.S. history, American presidents have adhered to four different philosophies in foreign policy, according to this analysis by a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. President Obama "has a split personality when it comes to foreign policy," Meade writes, basing his beliefs on those of former presidents Thomas Jefferson and Woodrow Wilson. Jefferson believed in limited overseas entanglements, while Wilson wanted to spread democratic values in the interest of international stability. Meade reports that Jimmy Carter also wanted to believe that these two philosophies were compatible, but his presidency ended with "incoherence and reversals" in his foreign policy record. In his inaugural address, Obama said "the choice between our safety and our ideals" is a false choice. But one year in, Meade said Obama has made decisions that are rooted in such a tradeoff. Meade gives Obama credit for his aspirations to devise a new grand strategic

course for U.S. foreign policy in the decades to come, but foresees a "difficult and uncertain journey" ahead for the 44th president.

US SOCIETY AND VALUES

IA20 Good, Chris. **American Dream In Decline?** Atlantic Monthly posted online *March 15, 2010* Also available online at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/03/american-dream-in-decline/37472/>

Most Americans think attaining the "American Dream" -- opportunity, home ownership, financial success -- is getting harder, according to a poll conducted in February by Xavier University. A more disturbing finding of the poll is that 58 percent of the more than 1200 respondents felt that America itself is in decline. African Americans and Hispanics are the most hopeful in attaining the "American Dream," the study found.

IA21 Storey, Tom. **The Ripple Effect: Widening The Library's Circle Of Influence** Next Space *no. 14, January 2010*, pp. 4-10 Currently available online

at <http://www.oclc.org/nextspace/014/1.htm>

Libraries, out of necessity, have had to extend their reach beyond traditional boundaries in order to better reach users in new and compelling ways. Connecting with users is essential to the mission of libraries but building civic, commercial and governmental support is key to their survival. The ripple effect, as it were, needs to come full circle, touching everyone who is involved in the success of libraries and helping to show the links between support and service. To achieve this, there are four essential components of such advocacy: Passion, Planning, Partnerships, and Promotion.

IA22 Kivisto, Peter. **Citizenship Today: Vicissitudes And Promise** Choice. *vol. 47, no. 6, February 2010*, pp. 1015-1023

In this review essay, the author discusses the rapidly expanding body of literature on citizenship studies and divides it into four distinct categories: inclusion, withdrawal, erosion, and expansion. In the United States, government exists to serve its citizens. Americans expect their government to protect their basic constitutional rights, including freedom of speech and religion, the right to equal protection under the law, and the opportunity to organize and participate fully in the political, economic, and cultural life of society. U.S. citizens also recognize that they have a responsibility to their society if they are to enjoy the protection of their rights. Americans willingly, for the most part, live within the law, serve on juries when called upon, pay their fair share of taxes, and exercise their right to vote responsibly. Civic participation in the United States also means that citizens respect the rights of others, accept the authority of the elected government, and make an effort to be informed, involved, and invested in their communities and their nation.