

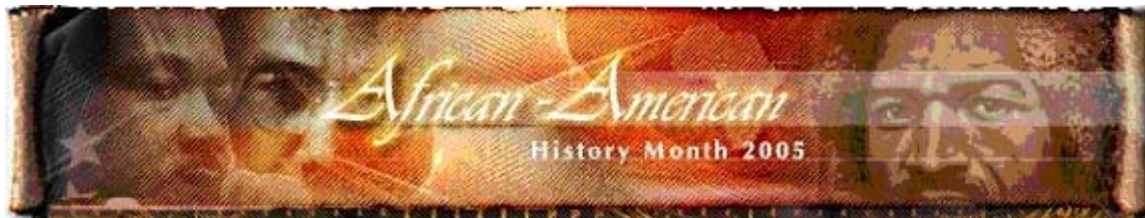
IRC ALERT

February/March 2005

FOCUS: Contributions of Blacks in American History

Vol. 6, No. 2

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*National African American History Month , 2005
A proclamation by The President of the United States*

Throughout our Nation's history, the contributions of African Americans have stirred our Nation's conscience and helped shape our character. During National African American History Month, we honor the determination and commitment of generations of African Americans in pursuing the promises of America.

The theme of National African American History Month this year, "The Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn, 1905-2005," honors the grassroots movement of 1905 to 1910 that was organized to fight racial discrimination in America. Led by W.E.B. DuBois, the movement called for voting rights for African Americans, opposed school segregation, and worked to elect officials committed to fighting racial prejudice. Americans today carry on this movement as our Nation strives to live up to our founding principle that all of God's children are created equal.

It is important to teach our children about the heroes of the civil rights movement who, with courage and dignity, forced America to confront the central defect of our founding. Every American should know about the men and women whose determination and persistent eloquence forced people of all races to examine their hearts and revise our Nation's Constitution and laws. As we celebrate African American History Month, we remember how great the struggle for racial justice has been. And we renew our efforts to fight for equal rights for all Americans. We have made great progress, but our work is not done.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2005 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that honor the

history, accomplishments, and contributions of African Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth. GEORGE W. BUSH

CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACKS IN AMERICAN HISTORY — Articles & Reports

2-1/FOC

AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCES:

Window to the Past

By Linda C. Joseph

MultiMedia & Internet @ Schools, Vol. 12, No. 1, Jan/Feb 2005, pp. 16-18.

Joseph presents how to embark on a journey back in time using eyewitness accounts, diaries, newspaper articles, broadsides, engravings, and songs to help understand the cultural landscape of a particular period. African American experiences during slavery are identified in the National History Standards under US History, Era 2: Standard 3C, which states, "The student understands African life under slavery."

2-2/FOC

AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN HISTORY

Institute for African American Studies, University of Georgia.

African Americans have played a vital role in the history and culture of their country since it's founding. An important part of the curriculum at the Institute for African American Studies is devoted to creative research on the lives and work of prominent African Americans and to placing them within their cultural context. On this page you will find brief biographical sketches of several key figures in African American history.

2-3/FOC

ASSIMILATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE DYNAMICS IN AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

By Carlene Young

Western Journal of Black Studies, Vol. 27, No. 3, September 2003, pp. 164-175.

The assimilation of African Americans and African national immigrants in Western societies have significantly impacted traditional value systems, family dynamics and structure, gender relationships, group identity and overall coping skills. The long-term significance and pervasive influences of these social change processes are analyzed from a socio-psychological and historical perspective.

2-4/FOC

BLACK STUDIES: Historical Background, Modern Origins and Development Priorities for the Early Twenty First Century

By Alan Colon

Western Journal of Black Studies, Vol. 27, No. 3, Fall 2003, pp. 145-156.

Launched in the mid-1960s, Black Studies is an extension of a centuries-old liberation activist-intellectual tradition in African American culture. This article examines the historical background, modern origins and significance of Black Studies. It explores pivotal issues in and prospects for the development of Black Studies in the 21st century.

2-5/FOC*

CHARLESTON: Ghosts, Gullah and Tea

BY Gayle Keck

The Washington Post, January 30, 2005, p. 6

Settling into English, [Brown] told us we'd be covering a big swath of Charleston, from the historic district to the business district to places where few tourists are likely to set foot -- with every destination significant to Charleston's rich African American history. Before the Civil War, he explained, there were 10,000 free blacks living in Charleston. Some owned slaves themselves. There was a "very strong caste system among blacks" at the time: Mulattoes (mixed-race people) looked down on dark-skinned Africans, who in turn looked down on the mulattos because they weren't "pure Africans."

2-6/FOC

DUKE ELLINGTON AND BLACK, BROWN AND BEIGE: The Composer as Historian at Carnegie Hall

By Harvey G. Cohen

American Quarterly, Vol. 56, No. 4, December 2004, pp. 1003-1039.

On January 23, 1943, the Duke Ellington orchestra appeared in its first concert at Carnegie Hall, amid an interracial audience featuring many celebrities and the biggest media build-up yet assembled on Ellington's behalf. The highlight of the evening was the premiere of his longest extended work, the forty-plus-minute *Black, Brown and Beige: A Tone Parallel to the History of the American Negro*, an ambitious multipart work that programmatically illustrated black history from the African continent to the African American contribution in World War II. Here, Cohen comments on the composer as historian.

2-7/FOC

A GENERATION OF WOMEN ACTIVISTS: African-American Female Educators in the Harlem 1930-1950

By Laura Johnson

The Journal of African-American History, Vol. 89, No. 3, Summer 2004, pp. 223- 240.

Johnson examines the political activism and educational innovations of three African American educators who worked in the New York City NY public school system. Lucile Spence, Gertrude Elise McDougald Ayer, and Layle Lane made important, but little noted contributions to the advancement of African American education in Harlem over several decades. Johnson argues that their teaching was an inseparable part of each woman's larger project of labor rights, economic development, and community development that was seamlessly incorporated into their work as educators.

2-8/FOC

LEGACIES OF ENGAGEMENT: Scholarship Informed by Political Commitment

By Allen Isaacman

African Studies Review, April 2003, 41 p.

Scholar-activists, by virtue of their critical engagement in the central issues of the day and their role in the production and dissemination of knowledge, have a unique opportunity to challenge the inherited orthodoxies in the academy and in the larger world in which we live. Within the field of African studies they

have served as powerful critics and have broken new substantive, conceptual, methodological, and epistemological ground. To sustain this thesis, this essay explores three interrelated issues. First, it critically assesses the concept of value-free research—a notion, which is commonly used to dismiss engaged scholarship as inherently flawed. Second, it documents how a number of African American scholars, passionately committed to social justice and to an end to racial oppression, produced pioneering work on Africa well before the field of African studies gained academic legitimacy in the post-World War II era. Finally, it highlights some of the critically important contributions that activist scholars have made to the study of Africa. The intellectual biographies of six prominent Africanists—Claude Aké, Basil Davidson, Francis Deng, Susan Geiger, Joseph Harris, and Walter Rodney—illuminate how political commitment can fuel theoretical and methodological innovation.

2-9/FOC

MADAME C.J. WALKER: Breaking New Ground

By Derek T. Dingle

Black Enterprise, Vo. 37, No. 7, February 2005, 21 p.

The multibillion-dollar black hair care market wouldn't have even existed were it not for the bold vision of Madame C J Walker. At the turn of the 20th century, Walker believed enhancing the appearance of black women would lead, in part, to their economic and social ascent. With that mission and unyielding determination, Walker created a range of haircare and cosmetic products and, in the process, built the nation's largest black-owned company of her time. By 1917, Madame C J Walker Co generated revenues of roughly \$500,000.

2-10/FOC

THE NURTURANCE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC TALENT

By Beatrice L Bridglall; Edmund W Gordon

The Journal of African American History, Vol. 89, No. 4, Fall 2004, pp. 331-347.

Throughout its history, the myriad infrastructures and systems in the US have conspired to negate the scientific contributions of US African Americans and

undermine their status as equal citizens. As an intrinsic part of this phenomenon, African American inventors who were enslaved had the added complication of being denied meaningful recognition for their significant contributions to society. As Bridglall and Gordon discuss, the underdevelopment and neglect of African American intellectual and creative talent can be traced to the long experience of enslavement, the racist values that were constructed to justify it, and the accommodationist political stances taken by some leaders in the African American community.

2-11/FOC

W.E.B. DU BOIS AND THE SOCIO-POLITICAL STRUCTURES OF EDUCATION

Robert W Williams

Negro Educational Review, Vol. 55, No. 1, Jan 2004, pp. 9-26.

Williams provides an overview of W. E. B. DuBois' educational philosophy with a particular emphasis upon DuBois' ideas about what constitutes an effective education. The former focuses on understanding a way to ground the role of family involvement for African Americans today.

2-12/FOC

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.: "I Have A Dream"

Martin Luther King, Jr.: "I Have a Dream", Speech delivered 28 August 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington DC.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACKS IN AMERICAN HISTORY — Websites

Please note that the U.S. Embassy assumes no responsibility for the content and availability of the resources listed below. Internet resources were active as of March 15, 2005.

The Organization of Black Designers

<http://www.core77.com/OBD/welcome.html>

National Society of Black Engineers

<http://www.nsbe.org/>

National Black MBA Association

<http://www.nbmbaa.org/>

Black Enterprise Magazine

<http://www.blackenterprise.com/>

Black Issues In Higher Education

<http://www.blackIssues.com/>

Music History 102

<http://www.ipl.org/div/mushist/>

Celebrate Black History Month

<http://www.historychannel.com/blackhistory/>

African-American Icons

<http://www.historychannel.com/blackhistory/?page=icons>

Great Speeches

<http://www.historychannel.com/blackhistory/?page=speeches>

History of the Civil Right's Movement

<http://www.historychannel.com/blackhistory/?page=history>

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

2-13/IS

CYCLING OUT OF CONTROL: The Nuclear Conundrum

By Lawrence Scheinman and William Potter

Harvard International Review, Vol. 26, No. 4, Winter 2005, pp. 24-27.

The authors, both professors at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, note that the world is still trying to deal with the challenge of developing peaceful uses of atomic energy while preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. The Nonproliferation Treaty has been the single biggest achievement toward this goal, however Scheinman and Potter write that much has changed from the Cold War environment in which the NPT was signed. They note that key changes are strengthening International Atomic Energy Agency inspections and endeavors such as the

Proliferation Security Initiative, in which coalitions of nations work together to interdict the illicit trade of nuclear weapons. They note that there are no simple solutions to controlling the spread of nuclear technologies, and "no government or international entity can afford to ignore the dilemma," as energy demand continues to grow and nuclear power will be called on to meet that demand.

2-14/IS

FOUNDER AND FATHER

By Alexander Rabinowitch

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Vol. 61, No. 1, January/February 2005, pp. 30-37.

Rabinowitch presents information on his father, Eugene Rabinowitch, who founded the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Rabinowitch worked on the Manhattan Project, a job which compelled him to become a voice of conscience to the nuclear world through his publication. "Eugene Rabinowitch was a man of many facets: a scientist and a teacher, a classics scholar and a modern philosopher; a poet and a man of letters; a journalist and an editor; a sociologist and a politician," Rotblat said. "But his main characteristic was simply as a human being, with a warm heart, filled with love and tenderness, not only for his family and friends, but for the whole of mankind. This love of humanity, and his profound belief in the potential of science to ensure a happy life for all, were the guidelines throughout his whole life, the philosophy on which all of his activities were based."

2-15/IS*

IRAN LOOKS EAST

By Vivienne Walt

Fortune, Vol. 151, No. 4, February 21, 2005, pp. 88-95.

Iran is signing a long-term natural gas deal with China worth USD 70 billion, and an oil deal worth possibly USD 100 billion more -- the biggest deal Iran has concluded in over a decade, and one which will provide Tehran with the greatest international security since the Islamic Republic was founded in 1979. China is also undertaking major construction projects in the country, such as a subway system in Tehran, at cheaper bids than European companies could offer. Chinese development of Iran's oil fields will be a

major boon in the face of U.S.-imposed sanctions that threaten penalties on companies that invest more than USD 20 million a year in Iran's oil industry. Iran's growing strategic relationship with China poses a dilemma for the Bush administration, which has been considering military action against Iran if they are found to be pursuing nuclear weapons. China, which has a seat on the U.N. Security Council, has said it will not support any U.S. proposal to attack Iran.

2-16/IS

POLITICAL ISLAM: Image and Reality

By Mohammed Ayooob

World Policy Journal, Vol. 21, No. 3, Fall 2004, pp. 1-14.

Ayooob, professor of international relations at Michigan State University, notes that several misconceptions about Islam are widespread -- that political Islam is monolithic, that it is inherently violent, and that the intermingling of religion and politics is unique to Islam. He points out that, far from being monolithic, there is great variety in the Islamic world -- what works in one country will not work in the next -- Muslim society developed quite differently in South and Southeast Asia than in the Middle East. Political Islam, Ayooob notes, is a modern phenomenon, with roots in the sociopolitical conditions of Muslim countries in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Though the violent jihadist groups are the most visible of Islamic groups, the majority of Islamists "have by and large played according to the rules established by regimes normally unsympathetic to the Islamist cause." Finally, he disputes the assertion that there is no separation between the religious and political spheres in Islam, noting that this phenomenon is not unique to Islam, citing, for example, Zionism, the Christian right in Europe during colonization, or even President Bush's references to Jesus Christ as the primary source of his political wisdom.

2-17/IS

THE LIMIT OF SHOCK AND AWE: The America in the Middle East

By Augustus R. Norton and Farhad Kazemi

Current History, January 2005, pp. 3-9.

Norton and Kazemi examine the policies of the US in the Middle East. Never before has a country

committed itself to so fundamental and dramatic a transformation of a major region of the world as the US has in the Middle East since 2001.

2-18/IS

ROLE OF ISLAM IN PAKISTAN'S FUTURE

By Hussain Haqqani

Washington Quarterly, Vol. 28, No. 1, Winter 2004-2005, pp. 97-116.

Pakistan has become a major center of radical Islamist ideas and groups. Unless Islamabad's objectives are redefined to focus on economic prosperity and popular participation in governance, the state will continue to turn to Islam as a national unifier. The influence of Islamists in Pakistan can perhaps be best contained through democracy. In elections, a majority of Pakistanis has repeatedly demonstrated that the populace does not share the Islamist vision for the country. The strength of the Islamists, however, lies in their ability to mobilize financial and human resources. Islamists run schools, operate charities, and publish newspapers; moreover, they are able to put their organized cadres on the streets. Thus, in the absence of democratic decisionmaking, the Islamists can dominate the political discourse. Pakistan's secular civil society is either apolitical or insufficiently organized, and secular political parties have consistently been dismembered by successive military governments. Strengthening civil society and building secular political parties as a countervailing force in Pakistan can contain the demands for Islamization made by the religious parties and radical Islamist groups.

2-19/IS

U.S. STRATEGY: Assisting Pakistan's Transformation

By Ashley J. Tellis

Washington Quarterly, Vol. 28, No. 1, Winter 2004-2005, pp. 97-116.

If Pakistan is to become a moderate, peaceful Muslim state, its political process must be reformed indigenously. Washington should concentrate its assistance on safeguarding Pakistan's nuclear estate and restoring democracy as part of a grand bargain with Islamabad. A stable U.S.-Pakistani relationship would serve the long-term interests of both countries as well as larger U.S. objectives in South Asia, which

include minimizing the risks of another Indo-Pakistani war and transforming the U.S.-Indian relationship in order to preserve a stable, lasting balance of power in Asia.

2-20/IS

WILL IRAN BE NEXT?

By James Fallows

Atlantic Monthly, Vol. 294, No. 5, December 2004, pp. 99-110.

The author analyzes a war game scenario where Iran moves closer to a showdown with the U.S. over its nuclear plans. Themes that emerged from the simulated situation include lessons learned from Iraq as well as insight into the ways that government decisions are made. All participants agreed that Iran is trying to develop nuclear weapons. Disagreements encountered during this exercise concerned what the U.S. President should do to prevent Iran from succeeding in nuclear weapons proliferation.

2-21/IS

WINNING THE WAR OF THE FLEA

By Robert M. Cassidy

Military Review, Vol. 84, No. 5, September/October 2004, pp. 41-46

In order to win the Global War on Terrorism, the U. S. Army should incorporate some of the lessons learned from past, successful counterinsurgency operations. The author includes lessons from historical conflicts, such as those in the Philippines, Vietnam, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the Indian Wars. If these lessons are not incorporated into American military culture, our soldiers will end up having to relearn them each time there is a new, small war.

2-22/DHR**CONSTITUTIONAL MEDICINE****By Andrew Reynolds****Journal of Democracy, Vol. 16, No. 1, January 2005, pp. 54-68.**

Reynolds, a political science professor at the University of North Carolina, uses the methodology of medical diagnosis and treatment to describe the progress of nations struggling to move toward democratization. Reynolds asserts that constitutional design is at the heart of efforts to bring peace and self-government to some of the world's most troubled lands. The constitutional expert looks at an ailing society and tries to map a path to long-term health (robust levels of peace, prosperity and self-government). Reynolds suggests that the medical model with five steps could be adapted to create a meaningful diagnosis when based on sound case-by-case judgments.

2-23/DHR**DEMOCRACY'S SOBERING STATE****By Thomas Carothers****Current History, Vol. 103, No. 677, December 2004, pp. 412-416.**

The state of democracy in the world is "sobering," writes Carothers. Despite progress in some countries, the high hopes for the "third wave" of democratization of the last decades have remained largely unrealized. Carothers attributes the global slowdown in the advance of democracy to several factors: the rebound of authoritarian forces when democratic change was unable to penetrate authoritarian institutions; citizens' disenchantment with democracy when democratic systems cannot provide economic or social well-being; the high economic performance of some authoritarian countries; and the use of the war on terrorism by some governments to crack down on political opponents. Ongoing engagement and partnerships with democratizing countries are essential to stimulate and support the state of global democracy, writes Carothers.

2-24/DHR**GRADING THE STATES: A Management Report Card****Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene****Governing, Vol. 18, No. 5, February 2005, pp. 24-95.**

Governing magazine's annual report card evaluates the 50 states on four areas of management: money, people, infrastructure and information. Barrett and Greene, editors for the evaluation project, explain in this article the criteria used to grade the states, noting that the updated criteria for 2005 make this year's grades incomparable to previous marks. The evaluation team -- comprising Governing journalists and academics -- found positive initiatives in many states, particularly the improved and increased use of technology. However, budget and structural issues continued to pose a challenge. Overall, the average grade for all states was a B- in each of the four categories. The article also gives a detailed grading breakdown and analysis for each state.

2-25/DHR**THE HUDUD ORDINANCES OF PAKISTAN****By Farhat Moazam****Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Vol. 28, No. 1, Fall 2004, pp. 34-53.**

Muslims view Islamic Law as flowing directly from the concept of Shari'a which is believed to be divinely ordained path for all human conduct. According to some Muslim scholars, while professing that the Quran is the primary source of guidance for a moral life and a just society, have often failed to treat its teachings as a "coherent whole". The message of Quran and Shari'a is not merely legal but also ethical and moral in nature, and it is after that is often disregarded.

2-26/DHR**INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM REFORM****Congressional Digest, Vol. 83, No. 10, December 2004, pp. 289-320.**

The December issue of Congressional Digest is devoted to the sweeping reform of the intelligence agencies being considered by Congress. It includes an overview of the history of intelligence legislation, brief

descriptions of the various agencies and their missions, a summary of the 9/11 Commission recommendations, the impact of a national intelligence director, the differences between the House and Senate versions of intelligence reform proposals, and pro-and-con arguments by members of Congress.

2-27/DHR

MUD AND MONEY

By Terry Carter

ABA Journal, Vol. 91, February 2005, pp. 40-45.

Carter, a senior writer for the ABA journal, discusses the influence of special interest groups and television ads on judicial elections. Last year, according to the author, attack or support ads for judicial candidates appeared in all 15 states where state supreme court seats were in play, up from only four states in 2000. Carter explores whether the ads, which include attacks on decisions made by incumbent judges on issues ranging from criminal matters to abortion, are damaging the public's confidence in the judiciary. The article also discusses efforts to reform judicial election law, including North Carolina's establishment of publicly financed judicial campaigns.

2-28/DHR

THE TRUTH ABOUT ELECTIONS

By Tom Chaffin

Time, Vol. 165, No. 5, January 31, 2005, p.78.

The author, a visiting scholar at Emory University, notes that elections such as those recently held in Iraq don't necessarily lead to peace, but are only part of what a society needs to ensure stability and security. Chaffin notes that, "however discordant things might often seem in our own electoral house," what has held this country together for over two centuries is the U. S. Constitution. Little known to most Americans is that the Founding Fathers drew most of their inspiration for framing the Constitution from a French nobleman, Baron de Montesquieu, whose 1748 work *THE SPIRIT OF THE LAWS* laid out the foundation for the separation of powers. While the Declaration of Independence mirrors the lofty, revolutionary spirit of Voltaire and Locke, writes Chaffin, the Constitution was fashioned after the work of Montesquieu, who understood that good governance required attention to details.

Montesquieu's dense writing style has unfortunately contributed to his obscurity, notes Chaffin, because he "still offers powerful guidance for our age".

2-29/DHR

VOICES WITHIN ISLAM: Four Perspectives on Tolerance and Diversity

By Bahman Baktiari and Augustus R. Norton

Current History, January 2005, pp. 37- 44.

Several views on tolerance and diversity within Islam are presented. While discussions about democracy are important among Islamic thinkers, many of the debates between leading Muslim intellectuals are concerned with how Muslims should understand and interpret their religion.

2-30/DHR

VOTE RATINGS

By Richard E. Cohen

National Journal, Vol. 37, No. 7, February 12, 2005, pp. 420-425.

The author explores the voting record of seven Republican and six Democratic U.S. Senators who are considered potential candidates in the 2008 U.S. presidential election. His analysis of the detailed voting patterns of many Senators revealed that some are more conservative or liberal than the popular media presents. Cohen notes, for example, that Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, widely believed to be one of the most liberal U.S. Senators, voted with conservative members of the Senate on several key issues such as the economy and foreign policy. The article also includes many insightful charts that outline, among other things, the most liberal and conservative members of the Senate.

2-31/DHR

WORRISOME SIGNS, MODEST SHIFTS

By Arch Puddington and Aili Piano

Journal of Democracy, Vol. 16, No. 1, January 2005, pp. 103-108.

Freedom House researchers Puddington and Piano say the 2004 Freedom House Survey showed the "general state" of world freedom last year as not significantly different from 2003. Three countries changed their status. Russia was the most significant, shifting from "Partly Free" to "Not Free" because of

worsening political rights, a culmination of the government's trend toward centralization, media restrictions, and law enforcement politicization, the authors say. Antigua and Barbuda moved up to a "Free" rating, while Liberia improved to "Partly Free." The Survey rated 89 countries as "Free," 54 "Partly Free," and 49 "Not Free," with 119 qualifying as electoral democracies.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

2-32/ES

COMBATING CORRUPTION: Look Before You Leap

By Anwar Shah and Mark Schacter

Finance & Development, Vol. 41, No. 4, December 2004, pp. 40-43.

The authors say that, despite the anticorruption measures of many governments and development agencies, there is not yet any evidence that corruption has declined perceptibly, especially in highly corrupt countries. They argue that the lack of significant progress can be attributed to the fact that many anticorruption programs are simply folk remedies or one-size-fits-all approaches that fail to address the roots of corruption. In many cases -- particularly in highly corrupt governments -- the key to successfully addressing corruption lies in focusing on more indirect approaches aimed at reforming the environment in which corruption thrives, say the authors.

2-33/ES

DEMYSTIFYING OUTSOURCING

Mary Amiti and Shang-Jin Wei

Finance & Development, Vol. 41, No. 4, December 2004, pp. 36-39.

Amity and Wei, both at the International Monetary Fund, say that all the media hype about job losses in the United States due to outsourcing services to developing countries is simply not true. In addition to outsourcing services, they note, the U.S. is an even larger exporter of services -- with a net surplus in all services, in contrast with its deficit in goods trade. Service outsourcing is growing rapidly, but it is still a small fraction of industrial countries' GDP; and it is

not dominated by lopsided one-way outsourcing from developed to developing countries, they explain. Furthermore, their studies suggest that job losses in one industry are often offset by jobs created in other growing industries.

2-34/ES*

FAILED ECONOMIC TAKE-OFFS AND TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN: Conceptualizing a Proper Role for U.S. Assistance

By Robert Looney

Asian Survey, Vol. 45, No. 6, November/December 2004, 771-193

What are the causes of terrorism? Of the various theories put forth, the analysis below suggests that failed economic take-offs, in addition to the usual factors suggested, are an important element. This finding has a number of implications for Pakistan's economic reform programs. In addition, foreign aid programs to the country will have to be modified if their effectiveness in reducing the attractiveness of terrorism is to be increased.

2-35/ES

LIFTING ALL BOATS

By Homi Kharas

Foreign Policy, No. 146, January/February 2005, pp. 54-56.

Kharas, chief economist for East Asia and the Pacific region at the World Bank, says China's economic success will help, not hurt, most developing countries. Forty-five percent of China's \$400 billion in annual imports comes from developing countries, he notes. And, Kharas adds, Chinese demand for basic commodities -- primarily produced in poorer countries -- is so strong that it has pushed up prices, reversing decades of price slumps. The economic impact of China's trade has become a showcase of what open markets can achieve, and is reinvigorating the debate on how trade can reduce global poverty, he says. Some poor countries, he acknowledges, will be hurt by China's growing trade and a more liberal and fairer global trading system -- particularly those that rely on commodity imports or work in the textile markets. But, overall, he concludes, the benefits outweigh the costs.

2-36/ES*

THE LONG-RUN CONSEQUENCES OF TRADE AND OUTSOURCING

By David Colander

Challenge, Vol. 48, No. 1, January/February 2005, pp. 94-103.

Colander, distinguished professor of economics at Middlebury College, says that the United States is, or will be in the next decade, entering into a period of long-run relative structural decline, which will be marked by economic malaise and a continued loss of good jobs. The law of comparative advantage, frequently cited to defend more trade, states that economic benefits will accrue to those with comparative advantage and has historically held true -- but it assumes highly limited capital, social/institutional, and technological transferability, he explains. Technology has opened up many more prospects for new and greater mobility of all aspects of production and services, he states, which will give new precedence to the central economic rule called the "law of one price" -- equal goods and equal factors will eventually receive equal pay. The U.S. still has strong comparative advantages, but increasing mobility of production and competition from global markets will mean that the law of one price will continue to chip away at the U.S. economy, writes Colander.

2-37/ES

THE QUEST FOR DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

By L. Enrique Garcia

Foreign Policy, No. 146, January/February 2005, pp. S16-S20.

Economic performance in Latin America improved significantly in 2004, but a renewed growth agenda is still needed to restore economic growth and improve living conditions in the region, says Garcia. He makes several recommendations to policymakers such as: use a more comprehensive approach to macroeconomic stability by including microeconomic and social issues; create opportunities for the poor by improving access to microfinance and credit to small and medium enterprises and social safety nets; increase competitiveness and market access by focusing on diversification of exports, intra-regional trade, and investment in human capital and technology; and

strengthen the regulatory system and investment climate by improving property rights and contract enforceability and reducing corruption. The author also profiles Corporacion Andina de Fomento, a multilateral financial institution that supports sustainable development in the Andean Region.

GLOBAL ISSUES AND COMMUNICATION

2-38/GIC

MISSION TO SUMATRA

By Dan Baum

New Yorker, Vol. 80, No. 45, February 7, 2005, pp. 36-41.

The author describes the deployment of the U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard, an amphibious aircraft carrier patrolling international waters, to provide food, desalinators, generators and bulldozers to Indonesia following the devastating December 2004 tsunami. The author recounts the diplomatic, logistical, and security challenges the ship and crew encountered in Banda Aceh, the area closest to the earthquake epicenter and site of fierce conflict by rebels fighting to gain independence from Indonesia. At the same time, the presence of the ship, and the hands-on work of the soldiers in the life-saving operation, provided an opportunity to demonstrate positive aspects of the U.S. military in a Muslim region. The speed and capacity of these ships point to their possible future role in emergency humanitarian efforts.

2-39/GIC

PHOTOJOURNALISM AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By David D. Perlmutter

Orbis, Vol. 49, No. 1, Winter 2005. pp. 105-109.

News pictures can be problems for modern statesmen. As Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld lamented to Congress in May 2004, "We're functioning with peacetime restraints, with legal requirements, in a wartime situation in the information age, where people are running around with digital cameras and taking these unbelievable photographs and then passing them off, against the law, to the media, to our surprise, when they have not even arrived in the Pentagon." These are ancient

concerns. Today, modern technology allows anyone with a digital camera and a Web connection to upload a picture for global consumption. The “live from ground zero,” 24/7 nature of news compresses the old news cycle, in which editors usually had at least a day to consider what was “fit to print” or air. Pictures do not “drive” foreign affairs unless policymakers let them. Time and again, decisive leadership has been the best response to any outrage an iconic image may cause: the modern media world, however, may have redefined what we mean by “visionary” leadership.

2-40/GIC

WORRYING ABOUT KILLER FLU

By Wendy Orent

Discover, Vol. 26, No. 2, February 2005, pp. 44-49.

Is it likely that avian flu, which rampaged through poultry flocks in Asia in 2004 and killed 32 people, could cause a widespread epidemic in humans? Epidemiologists studying the H5N1 flu strains that caused the deaths found that those strains did not infect most humans who had contact with infected birds, nor did the flu spread easily among humans. They warn, however, that future mutations in the virus could make it more virulent in humans. Controlling the disease in poultry would provide the best protection for humans because there is no vaccine for humans against avian flu. The article also examines how the 2003 outbreak of SARS, another virus that moved from animals in an Asian market to humans and killed at least 800 people worldwide, differed from the avian flu outbreak.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

2-41/SV*

AMERICA NEEDS A NEW SYSTEM FOR SUPPORTING THE ARTS

By Bill Ivey

Chronicle of Higher Education, Section B, February 4, 2005, pp B6-B9.

Ivey, Director of the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and Public Policy at Vanderbilt University and former Chairman of the National Endowment of the Arts, believes that the U.S. needs to revamp the ways it

supports the arts for the next half century. He says that it is no longer viable to treat non-profit and for-profit organizations as distinct entities, with for-profit organizations always producing lower-quality art. Non-profits also need to become more involved in legislative and regulatory affairs. He cites the example of the Federal Communications Commission's deregulation of radio station ownership -- this led to more stations being concentrated in fewer hands and using the same material, so fewer performing artists could get past the "gateway" and make themselves known. Ivey says that the nearly 50-year-old model by which corporate foundations match grants from the public sector has proven so successful that there are insufficient funds for the plethora of art organizations and artists that the funding helped develop. He argues that a better understanding of the arts is needed to ensure that we have a strong support system for the future.

2-42/SV

America's Foundations, Foundationalisms, and Fundamentalisms

By J. G. A. Pocock

Orbis, Vol. 49, No. 1, Winter 2005, pp. 53-60.

The creation of the American republic occurred at a hinge moment, when the understanding of republics in ancient and neoclassical terms was increasingly in competition with a new, modern understanding that was both commercial and individualistic. In our own time, the notion of representative government is in some measure in crisis, because it is harder and harder to believe that those we elect to govern us do in any sense represent us.

2-43/SV

THE MEDIA AND MEDIEVALISM

By Robert D. Kaplan

Policy Review, No. 128, December 2004/January 2005, pp. 47-57.

Kaplan argues that the global media now possesses the influence to undermine political authority -- unlike democratic political figures, media is not held accountable for its mistakes, it is ultimately a force for irresponsibility. Media criticism and exposure forces national leaders to shun risk and to accommodate the media's preference for favoring "victims"; in Kaplan's view, this does not necessarily produce trustworthy

analysis, and the weaker party to a dispute does not necessarily possess a just or even moral cause. He believes that contemporary investigative journalism has assumed the role once claimed by the Old Left -- to demand peace and justice ("such general and self-evident principles that it is enough merely to invoke them"); as an increasingly globalized enterprise, the media has less stake in any particular country.

2-44/SV

"WE NEED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO BOYS"

By Lyric Winik

Parade, January 16, 2005, pp. 4-6.

Laura Bush has adopted an agenda for the next four years that is difficult and unprecedented for a First Lady. Among the issues are global illiteracy and women's rights. In an interview with the author, Mrs. Bush noted that she will devote her time to an issue that has not attracted the attention it deserves: that boys are falling behind. She says that as a society, we have paid a lot of attention to girls in recent decades, and "we have this idea in the United States that boys can take care of themselves ... [however] we actually have neglected boys." Boys attend college at lower rates than girls, do more poorly in school and drop out, get in trouble with the law and use drugs and alcohol, she notes. Mrs. Bush wants to work with athletic coaches and programs such as Boys & Girls Clubs, to better mentor boys.

DOCUMENT ALERT

2-45/DOC

COUNTERTERROR COALITIONS: What Role will Pakistan and India Play?

The Rand Corporation, 2004.

http://www.rand.org/publications/RB/RB136/RAND_RB136.pdf

After September 11, 2001, Pakistan and India played critical, albeit different, roles in U.S. counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Pakistan provided access to bases, ports, and air space and permitted the United States to use special forces and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to track down al Qaeda and Taliban fugitives inside Pakistan.

India provided intelligence, naval escorts through the Strait of Malacca, and diplomatic and political support to the United States. Although both countries can continue to make positive contributions to U.S. counterterrorism efforts, policy decisions by each state have the potential to seriously interfere with U.S. operations in Afghanistan and the war on terrorism generally. This is especially true in light of the ongoing dispute between Pakistan and India over Kashmir and its potential to erupt into conflict.

2-46/DOC

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THE 2005 NPT CONFERENCE

By Robert C. Monroe

Center for Security Policy, February 2005.

http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/A_Different_Approach.pdf

This paper develops an "outside the box" approach to the 2005 Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference. It first examines the current degraded state of the U.S. nuclear weapons enterprise, a condition which results largely from the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing. It then discusses the increasing importance of preventing proliferation and summarizes the ineffective nature of most international nonproliferation efforts. The paper concludes by outlining a U.S. approach to the 2005 NPT RevCon which will enable our nuclear arsenal to perform its essential deterrence function and will significantly strengthen proliferation prevention.

2-47/DOC

ESCALATION CONTROL AND THE NUCLEAR OPTION IN SOUTH ASIA:

Limited War

By Michael Krepon and others

The Henry L. Stimson Center, November 2004.

<http://www.stimson.org/southasia/pdf/ESCCONTROLCHAPTER7.pdf>

When nations with deep grievances acquire nuclear weapons, tensions increase and their crises become more nerve wracking. It is therefore not surprising that India and Pakistan are traversing a very dangerous passage marked by periods of intense confrontation. Offsetting nuclear capabilities on the subcontinent have made crisis avoidance and conflict resolution more imperative, but also more difficult to

achieve.

2-48/DOC

INDIA AND PAKISTAN ENGAGEMENT: Prospects For Breakthrough or Breakdown? United States Institute of Peace (USIP), January 2005.

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr129.pdf>

Over the past year, India and Pakistan have been taking tentative steps toward improving their bilateral relations. The foreign ministers of both countries met in early September 2004 to review the progress that has been made thus far. While still deeply divided over the issue of Kashmir and in agreement that the tangible outcomes have been minimal to date, both reaffirmed their commitment to the ongoing process. This opening began when India's then-prime minister Atal Vajpayee met with Pakistan's president Pervez Musharraf on the sidelines of a January 2004 regional summit. Later, in mid-February, India and Pakistan agreed on a six-month "roadmap to peace," which ostensibly would address all outstanding bilateral concerns. Despite changes in India's leadership, this process is still lumbering forward. According to the authors of the report, this emerging détente is worthy of attention for several reasons. First, South Asia is the only region in the world where two nuclear armed-neighbors are in active conflict. Their most recent crisis was in 2001-2002, when the two wavered on the brink of war for nearly a year, with more than one million troops lined up across the Indo-Pakistan border. Finding some means to resolve—rather than manage—their bilateral dispute is crucial to minimizing the likelihood of conventional conflict between the two and the possibility of either country's resorting to "the nuclear option."

2-49/DOC

IRAN IS NOT AN ISLAND: A Strategy to Mobilize the Neighbors By George Perkovich Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP), February 1, 2005.

<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/PB34.perkovich.final.web1.pdf>

This report notes that several general factors, either alone or in combination could delay Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons: Iranian technical difficulties, U.S.

military action, and European diplomacy are the main forces that could affect the probability and pace of nuclear program development. However, says the author, neither delay nor regime change would remove the causes of proliferation pressures in Iran. Rather, he says, "Iran needs to be assured that the U. S. will respect its autonomy if it ceases nuclear weapons development, while Iran's neighbors need to be reassured that Tehran will respect their interests. Arab governments are reluctant to join in a regional security dialogue in part because of Washington's double standard regarding Israel's nuclear arsenal and treatment of Palestinians. To mobilize all of the international actors opposing Iranian nuclear development, the U.S. must recognize that Iranian proliferation, Persian Gulf security, the U.S. role in the Middle East, Israel's nuclear status, and Palestinian-Israeli relations are all linked and cannot be resolved without a more balanced U.S. stance."

2-50/DOC

MISSIONS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS AFTER THE COLD WAR

By Ivan Oelrich

**Federation of American Scientists (FAS), January
28, 2005.**

<http://www.fas.org/resource/01282005175922.pdf>

This report examines currently proposed nuclear missions and finds that the United States is witnessing the end of a long process in which nuclear weapons are displaced by advanced conventional alternatives. The Administration has declared four goals for nuclear weapons: assurance, dissuasion, deterrence, and target destruction. This study evaluates nuclear weapons by how well they meet each goal for each mission. That nuclear weapons can destroy most targets proposed for them is not in question. But they must be compared to alternatives, and benefits must be weighed against costs. For most missions, recent advances in precision guidance leave little or no relative advantage for nuclear weapons. The costs of using nuclear weapons, however, are large compared to conventional weapons. Some of these costs, such as radioactive fallout, are incurred on the battlefield. Other costs, such as proliferation incentives, are incurred even if the nuclear weapons are never actually used. Changes in the strategic environment, including the end of the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet Union, dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the

rising conventional dominance of the United States, and the growing non-state threat have reduced the number of missions that might warrant weapons of such enormous power. Oelrich says that the most challenging nuclear mission is a holdover from the Cold War: to be able to carry out a disarming first strike against Russian central nuclear forces. Only if the US and Russia abandon this mission will meaningful reductions in the two largest arsenals be possible.

2-51/DOC

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENROLMENT IN

PAKISTAN: A Look At The Data

By Tahir Andrabi and others.

World Bank, February 2005.

http://econ.worldbank.org/files/41363_wps3521.pdf

Bold assertions have been made in policy reports and popular articles on the high and increasing enrollment in Pakistani religious schools, commonly known as madrassas. The authors of this paper used published data sources and a census of schooling choice to show that existing estimates are inflated by an order of magnitude. Madrassas account for less than 1 percent of all enrollment in the country and there is no evidence of a dramatic increase in recent years. The educational landscape in Pakistan has changed substantially in the past decade, but this is due to an explosion of private schools, an important fact that has been left out of the debate on Pakistani education. Moreover, when the authors look at school choice, they find that no one explanation fits the data. While most existing theories of madrassa enrollment are based on household attributes (for instance, a preference for religious schooling or the household's access to other schooling options), the data show that among households with at least one child enrolled in a madrassa, 75 percent send their second (and/or third) child to a public or private school or both. Widely promoted theories simply do not explain this substantial variation within households.