

# IRC ALERT

**April—May 2005**

## FOCUS: Environment



Since the human species first became fully conscious of the natural world, nature has usually seemed unassailable, and abundant with plant and animal life, from mountains, to oceans, to continental prairies. Over the course of the 20th century, however, this view has changed. Man's power over nature, assisted by machines, has grown, and human population has increased exponentially. For centuries, nature has been in retreat in the face of human settlement, but in the last 50 years, destruction of the natural world has picked up speed. On April 22, 1970, 20 million people across America celebrated the first Earth Day. It was a time when cities were buried under their own smog and polluted rivers caught fire. Now 35 years later, Earth Day is being celebrated around the globe. Through the combined efforts of the U.S. government, grassroots organizations, and citizens like you, what started as a day of national environmental recognition has evolved into a world-wide campaign to protect our global environment.

Earth Day is a time to celebrate gains we have made and create new visions to accelerate environmental progress. Earth Day is a time to unite around new actions. Earth Day and every day is a time to act to protect our planet. Today, the federal government is cleaning the air, promoting land conservation, and improving water quality. The nation's air is much cleaner today than it was 30 years ago. Remarkably, this progress has occurred even while, during the same 30 year period, the U.S. Gross Domestic Product increased 161 percent, energy consumption increased 42 percent, and vehicle miles traveled increased 149 percent. Over the last 30 years, total emissions of six principal air pollutants have decreased by nearly 25 percent, resulting in lower concentrations of these pollutants in ambient air. Rates of annual wetland losses have decreased from almost 500,000 acres a year three decades ago to a loss of less than 100,000 acres averaged annually since 1986. An increasing number of people are served by community water systems that meet all health-based drinking water standards. In 2002, states reported that 94 percent of the population served by community water systems were served by systems that met all health-based standards, up from 79 percent in 1993.

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**3-1/FOC****HOW DID HUMANS FIRST ALTER GLOBAL CLIMATE?**

By William R. Ruddiman

Scientific American, Vol. 292, No. 3, March 2005, pp. 46-53.

Conventional wisdom has it that the start of the industrial era set global warming in motion. Ruddiman, marine geologist and professor emeritus of environmental sciences, University of Virginia, offers his provocative and controversial hypothesis that human-induced global warming began thousands of years earlier. He provides evidence that deforestation and development of agriculture began to increase carbon dioxide and methane (the "greenhouse gases") more than 8,000 years ago. The increased concentrations of these gases offset in part the decline expected from the natural cycle of gas concentrations recorded over millions of years, slowed earth's cooling, and delayed onset of the next ice age. He expects the rapid warming of the industrial era to continue until fossil fuels become scarce in about 200 years, but he states that it is impossible to predict whether the planet will remain warm enough to avoid another ice age.

**3-2/FOC****EARTH DAY!**

By Denis Hayes

Mother Earth News, No. 209, April/May 2005, pp. 24-30.

The world is facing some truly awe-inspiring environmental challenges: Humans are changing the world's climate. Most of the major ocean fisheries have either collapsed or are in a state of near collapse. Deserts are spreading around the planet. Pulitzer Prize winner E.O. Wilson and most of his peers in ecology contend humankind is currently causing the largest extinction in 25 million years. Pulitzer winner Jared Diamond makes a compelling case in his book *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* that America is on the verge of slipping down the same path that has led so many earlier societies into ecological collapse. America has the intellectual

resources, the money, the technology and the institutional agility to lead the world through this perilous time. But that will only happen when the environment again enjoys bipartisan support - with both parties vying to see who can produce the most creative, effective approaches.

**3-3/FOC\*****MAKING CLIMATE HOT**

By Susanne C Moser and Lisa Dilling

Environment, Vol. 46, No. 10, December 2004, pp. 32-47.

Moser and Dilling describe the limits of fear and guilt as motivations for actions and then suggest seven strategies for communicating urgency for action on climate change. These include abiding by addressing the emotional and temporal components of "urgency," increasing the persuasiveness of the message, using trusted messengers, and tapping into individual and cultural strengths and values.

**3-4/FOC\*****MERCURY RISING**

By Noelle Eckley Selin

Environment, Vol. 47, No. 1, January/February 2005, pp. 22-36.

The problem of mercury in the environment involves numerous aspects, ranging from its emissions and transport through the biosphere all the way to its accumulation in, and toxicity to living organisms. In this context, Selin addresses the urgent question of a needed global action to protect human health and environment against mercury pollution. Herein, he remarks that a satisfactory solution to the mercury problem will require concerted efforts on the part of all nations and will have to go beyond first steps that build upon co-benefits, thus requiring a combination of resources and political will.

**3-5/FOC****SEEING THE FOREST: Conservation on a Continental Scale**

By Eugene Linden and Others

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 83, No. 4, July-August 2004, pp. 8-13.

Despite efforts by national governments and multinational organizations over the last decade,

ambitious, large-scale environmental initiatives have had limited success. At present, only five percent of the world's tropical forests have effective protection, and environmental degradation has actually accelerated in some regions. The authors propose a novel "market plan" approach in which vast areas of vulnerable forest would be divided into contiguous blocks of equal size. The blocks would be matched with a broad spectrum of bidders, such as NGOs, corporations, or aid organizations, which would pledge to funnel resources into their discrete block. The authors believe that this approach holds the potential to expand the donor base, increase cooperation, and generate effective models for saving forest ecosystems.

### 3-6/FOC

#### **SHARED OCEANS SHARED FUTURE**

**An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, Vol. 9, No. 1, April 2004.**

Technological and financial resources devoted to research have not been adequate to accomplish all that scientists want to learn about our oceans, but attempts are being made in many quarters in the United States to address the situation. We examine many of them in this edition of Global Issues. The U. S. government's top policy maker in ocean-related programs provides an overview of the initiatives being taken to better understand and preserve the seas. A U.S. State Department official describes the many ways the United States works with the international community on matters relating to the oceans. We offer a preview of a comprehensive report about reshaping U.S. oceans policy. And a prominent U.S. oceanographer shares his sense of wonder and curiosity about all that we have yet to learn.

### 3-7/FOC

#### **WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**United Nations Environment Program.**

This publication makes the often hidden links between women and the environment visible, with an explicit focus on the gender-related aspects of land, water and biodiversity conservation and management. UNEP hopes that Women and the Environment will inspire the environmental and sustainable development community to better understand the

importance of gender, and to integrate a gender perspective across all of its work.

## **ENVIRONMENT — 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 May 10, 2005.*

### **Center for International Law**

<http://www.ciel.org>

### **Earth Day.Gov**

<http://www.earthday.gov>

### **Earth Watch Institute**

<http://www.earthwatch.org>

### **Healthy Forests.gov**

<http://www.healthyforests.gov>

### **International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources**

<http://www.iucn.org>

### **International Rivers Network**

<http://www.irn.org/index.html>

### **United Nations Environment Programme**

<http://www.unep.org>

### **U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy**

<http://www.oceancommission.gov>

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

<http://www.epa.gov>

### **USINFO: Environment**

[http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/environment.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment.html)

### **WHITE HOUSE: Environment**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/environment>

### **WWF- The Global Conservation Organization**

<http://www.panda.org>

**3-8/IS\*****AFGHANISTAN IN 2004: Electoral Progress and an Opium Boom****By Larry P. Goodson****Asian Survey, Vol. 45, No. 1, January/February 2005, pp. 105-111.**

Afghanistan began and ended 2004 on high notes, with a moderate Constitution passed on January 4 and successful presidential elections held in October that created a new cabinet dominated by technocrats in late December. In between, slow progress on reconstruction and state-building was threatened by continuing insecurity and the presence of a booming opium crop.

**3-9/IS****AFTER ARAFAT****By Glenn E. Robinson****Current History, Vol. No. 678, January 2005, pp. 19-24.**

Arafat's death provides that rare historical opportunity for enormous and generally beneficial change to take place in Palestine. . [But] Palestine's comparative weakness, its political economy, and the occupation are not upended so easily. Neither are its fundamental requirements for a comprehensive peace with Israel." Whether one viewed Arafat with contempt or with admiration, or, like most Palestinians, with decidedly mixed emotions, there is no question that Arafat was the principal Palestinian actor for the past four decades. In the absence of the "old man," the landscape of politics in Palestine will change, and mostly for the better. In recent years Arafat had become a drag on Palestinian politics, blocking calls for badly needed internal reform, greater democracy, and less corruption in the Palestinian Authority.

**3-10/IS****AMERICA AND PAKISTAN: Is the Worst Case Avoidable?****By Stephen P. Cohen****Current History, Vol. No. 104, No. 680, March 2005, pp. 131- 136.**

The attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center

in 2001 transformed the US-Pakistan relationship. The country whose leader presidential candidate George W. Bush could not name the year before immediately became a vital strategic partner of the United States with the decision to remove Al Qaeda and its Taliban sponsors from power in Afghanistan. Three and a half years later, Pakistan remains situated at the crossroads of many American concerns. These include terrorism, nuclear proliferation, democratization, and relations with the Islamic world and other important Asian states.

**3-11/IS****BOMBS, CARROTS, AND STICKS: The Use of Incentives and Sanctions****By David Cortright and George A. Lopez****Arms Control Today, March 2005, pp. 19-47.**

Policymakers have three primary tools: sanctions, targeted incentives, and war to encourage compliance with norms against the spread of unconventional weapons and related delivery systems. The Bush administration has emphasized the use of force and the imposition of coercive sanctions. Earlier administrations, while also imposing sanctions, made more use of positive incentives. Policymakers frequently turn to sanctions as a middle option between diplomacy and military action, as a means of advancing nonproliferation goals without incurring the risks of combat.

**3-12/IS****FIRST STEPS: The Afghan Elections****By Thomas J. Barfield****Current History, Vol. No. 104, No. 680, March 2005, pp. 125-130.**

Although the presidential election represented a positive step forward, Afghanistan is still a difficult place to run. Karzai certainly does not need to be reminded of this fact, but the international community does. The election results are all to the good, but they are a means to an end, not an end in themselves.

**3-13/IS****NEW APPROACHES TO DETERRENCE IN BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND THE UNITED STATES****By David S. Yost**

**International Affairs, Vol. 81, No. 1, January 2005, pp. 83-114**

Yost, a professor at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and a former Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace, provides an overview of the recent evolution of post-Cold War nuclear deterrence thinking in Britain, France, and the United States. Each nation has reduced their arsenal significantly in the last decade and made major changes to existing nuclear strategy, such as President Bush's Nuclear Posture Review in 2001, French President Jacques Chirac's speech in June 2001 and Britain's Strategic Defence Review of 1998 and 2002. These formulations recognize the need to readdress concerns about the viability of limited strikes, the role of missile defenses, and the newly emergent post-9/11 doctrines of pre-emption and preventive war, all in the backdrop of Alliance relations and as separate amendments or reiterations of existing national deterrence policies.

**3-14/IS**

**NUCLEAR ASIA'S CHALLENGES**

**By Dinshaw Mistry.**

**Current History, Vol. 104, No. 681, April 2005, pp. 176-182.**

The middle-term challenges of averting arms race in Asia are closely linked to the more immediate concern of reversing proliferation in North Korea. Here, Mistry discusses the impact of North Korea's nuclear exporting, as a challenge to the US and Asia's nuclear powers. Asia's nuclear powers and the United States and its Asian allies therefore have largely common interests in nuclear stability. South Korea, Japan, China, and the United States share the goals of reversing North Korea's nuclear decision. Seoul and Tokyo could nudge Washington, and Beijing could prod Pyongyang, to make concessions necessary to reverse nuclear proliferation in North Korea. This, in turn, would allow Washington to restrain its NMD programs, and it could then credibly call on the Chinese (and, consequently, India and Pakistan) to essentially freeze their nuclear arsenals under the CTBT and FMCT. In short, shared interests among the United States, its Asian allies, and Asia's nuclear powers provide a useful foundation from which to address nuclear challenges in Asia—beginning with the critical task of reversing North Korea's nuclear

weapons ambitions.

**3-15/IS\***

**PAKISTAN IN 2004: Running Very Fast to Stay in the Same Place**

**By Charles H. Kennedy**

**Asian Survey, Vol. 45, No. 1, January/February 2005, pp. 105-111.**

During 2004, Pakistan's civilianizing military regime continued its attempts to balance two seemingly irreconcilable goals: to democratize and stabilize Pakistan's deeply divided political system and to maintain official support, despite nearly unanimous domestic opposition, for U.S. foreign policy in Afghanistan and Iraq. This delicate balancing act was further complicated by the A. Q. Khan nuclear weapons affair.

**3-16/IS**

**THE SEVEN MYTHS OF NUCLEAR TERRORISM**

**By Matthew Bunn and Anthony Wier**

**Current History, Vol. 104, No. 681, April 2005, pp. 153-162.**

If world leaders were convinced that the risk of a terrorist nuclear attack on a major city is substantial, and that there are actions they could take that would dramatically reduce that risk, they presumably would act, and act swiftly, to diminish this deadly threat. Here, Bunn and Wier discuss the seven myths of nuclear terrorism, which are crucial to building momentum for an effective response.

**3-17/IS**

**TERRORISM AND THE NEW SECURITY DILEMMA**

**By Philip G. Cerny**

**Naval War College Review, Vol. 58, No. 1, Winter 2005, pp. 11-33.**

States have always placed a premium on security; as the global security environment has changed over time, so have their security strategies. Cerny, professor of global political economy at Rutgers University, writes that the primary challenge of transnational terrorism to national governments is "how to deal with the increasingly diffuse character of threats with the means available to state actors, in

what is still to a large extent an interstate system." Cerny notes that the terrorism threat represents "networks and patterns of violence that do not resemble the kind of 'international' warfare among states that has dominated the international system since the seventeenth century." He argues that terrorism is just one facet of a new phenomenon known as neomedievalism -- a "plurality of overlapping, competing and intersecting power structures ... above, below, and cutting across states and the states system." Cerny believes that instead of a "war on terror," what is needed is to "transform security itself -- pursuing a civilianization of politics and society, stressing social development ... and good governance."

**3-18/IS\***

**U.S. STRATEGY: Assisting Pakistan's Transformation**

**By Ashley J Tellis**

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

Pakistan today is clearly both part of the problem and the solution to the threat of terrorism facing the United States. Although it did not set out to do so, the landmark report issued by the 9/11 Commission ended up highlighting Pakistan's deep involvement with international terrorism. For more than two decades, beginning with the Sikh insurgency in the Indian Punjab in the early 1980s, Islamabad consciously nurtured and supported terrorist groups as a means to secure its geopolitical goals vis-à-vis Afghanistan and India. Although in the immediate aftermath of the September 11 attacks Islamabad made the difficult decisions to stand aside as the United States destroyed the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and to assist Washington in hunting down the remnants of Al Qaeda, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's regime has regrettably still not irrevocably eschewed supporting terrorism as a matter of state policy. Unfortunately, the 9/11 Commission's report glossed over this fact.

## DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**3-19/DHR**

**THE CLASH BETWEEN SECURITY AND LIBERTY IN THE U.S. RESPONSE TO TERROR**

**By Carol W. Lewis**

**Public Administration Review, Vol. 65, No. 1, January/February 2005, pp. 18-30.**

Lewis, a professor of political science and public administration at the University of Connecticut, studied US public opinions on civil liberties and security in response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Public opinion is a critical element in the political and administrative decision-making process. Lewis analyzes shifts in public attitudes and concludes that the public is not readily disposed to restrict civil liberties as the price of security.

**3-20/DHR**

**FINDING FAITH IN THE CENTER**

**By John Cochran**

**CQ Weekly Report, Vol. 63, No. 10, March 7, 2005, pp. 563-569.**

Cochran, a journalist, writes that the Democrats have allowed the Republicans to use religious and moral issues to portray them as a liberal secular elite out of touch with mainstream values. He cites Pew polls on religion and politics, John White, author of "The Values Divide" and left-leaning Jim Wallis, an evangelical activist, to further his argument that the Republicans have been effective in negatively defining the Democrats. Cochran argues that the Democrats might be wise to recast issues with a values vocabulary to connect with the religious voter.

**3-21/DHR**

**THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF THE RULE OF LAW IN THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER**

**By Steven G. Calabres**

**Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy, Fall 2004, Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 273-280.**

A culture which favors the rule of law is one of which millions of individuals chooses to behave in such a

way that their behavior is governed by law. There are many cultures around the world and not all of them place a premium on people behaving in a way that is law-abiding. Here, Calabresi discusses the historical foundations of the rule of law in the American constitutional order. "our rule-of-law-securing Constitution of 1787 gestated over an eleven year period from 1776 to 1787 and emerged as a compromise between the English colonial regime and the decentralized regime of the Articles of Confederation. The critical balance between order and freedom which was struck in our Constitution was driven by two nightmares that have haunted Americans ever since. The first nightmare, associated with 1776, is the nightmare of the distant imperial tyranny with an all powerful executive. The second nightmare, associated with 1787, is the nightmare of the local or village tyrant and of the all powerful rights-invading democratic legislature. Our Constitution of 1787 sought to secure and promote the rule of law by protecting against both of the nightmares. That the Framers succeeded so brilliantly suggests that the eleven year gestation period of our Constitution may have been crucial to striking the right balance between order and freedom."

**3-22/DHR\***

### **HOW TO CONSTRUCT STABLE DEMOCRACIES**

**By Jack A Goldstone and Jay Ulfelder**

The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 28, No. 1, Winter 2004/2005, pp. 9-20.

Liberal democracy is a powerful means of enhancing a country's political stability; the complex process of democracy building thus deserves further study and support. The next step is to learn more about how some emerging democracies manage to foster free and open competition without descending into factionalism and to better understand why some leaders are more willing to accept meaningful constraints on their authority. In sum, to ensure that democracies flourish and endure, the focus must be shifted from arguments over which societies are ready for democracy and toward how to build the specific institutions that reduce the risk of violent instability in countries where democracy is being established.

**3-23/DHR**

### **INSIDE THE COMMITTEE THAT RUNS**

## **THE WORLD**

**By David J. Rothkopf**

Foreign Policy, Vol. 147, March/April, pp. 30- 40.

The inner circles of the U.S. national security community represent what is probably the most powerful committee in the history of the world, one with more resources, more power, more license to act, and more ability to project force further and swifter than any other convened by king, emperor, or president. For the first time in nearly eight decades, the Republican Party has won control of the White House, Senate, and House of Representatives in two consecutive elections. Yet, despite this political monopoly, the elites who exert the most influence on this little-understood, shadowy committee are being buffeted and pulled apart by forces from within. Beyond the ideological turf wars between traditionalists and transformationalists, divisions within the inner circles of the National Security Council are also a consequence of the personalities and management styles of the key players. The question is whether the next four years will see a continued ebb and flow between these opposing viewpoints or whether we really have entered a new era in which the nature of the threats we face warrants the approaches that the transformationalists propose.

**3-24/DHR**

### **THE METAPHORICAL WALL**

**By Edward F. Harrington**

America, Vol. 192, No. 2, January 17-24, 2005, pp. 10-13.

Harrington, senior federal district court judge in Massachusetts, argues that the metaphorical wall separating church and state, was created to limit governmental powers, not restrict religion's influence in public debates. Harrington discusses the historical roots of religious liberty and posits that the Bill of Rights defines and secures the individual's right to freedom of religion. Harrington says that "the public square needs to hear the voices of a religiously based morality, so that public affairs may be nourished by their ideals of justice and equity."

**3-25/DHR**

### **PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCES:**

**The Importance and Evolution of an Enduring Forum**

**By Martha Joynt Kumar**  
**Presidential Studies Quarterly, Vol. 35, No.1,**  
**March, 2005, pp. 166-192.**

Kumar, professor of political science at Towson University, writes that press conferences are a unique event, during which the president must think on his feet, the public can see the president on his own, and where the president can explain his conduct and policies. Press conferences started with President Woodrow Wilson, 92 years ago. Kumar describes the evolution of the press conference and the impact of television. Presidents in current years have preferred to develop safer ways of dealing with reporters than regularly scheduled press conferences but Kumar believes that press conferences will not disappear entirely. The adversarial nature of a press conference, watching the president stand up to tough questioning, could effectively persuade the viewing public to support difficult decisions.

**3-26/DHR\***  
**THE ROLE OF ISLAM IN PAKISTAN'S**  
**FUTURE**

**By Husain Haqqani**  
**The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 28, No. 1, Winter**  
**2004/2005, pp. 85-96.**  
[http://www.twq.com/05winter/docs/05winter\\_haqqani.pdf](http://www.twq.com/05winter/docs/05winter_haqqani.pdf)

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. Although listed among the U.S. allies in the war on terrorism, Pakistan cannot easily be characterized as either friend or foe. Indeed, Pakistan has become a major center of radical Islamist ideas and groups, largely because of its past policies toward India and Afghanistan. Pakistan supported Islamist militants fighting Indian rule in the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir and backed the Taliban in its pursuit of a client regime in Afghanistan. Since the September 11 attacks, however, the selective cooperation of Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, in sharing intelligence with the United States and apprehending Al Qaeda members has led to the assumption that Pakistan might be ready to give up its long-standing ties with radical Islam.

**3-27/DHR**  
**SHOW AND TELL**

**By Jim McKay**  
**Government Technology, Vol. 18, No. 1, January**  
**2005, pp. 16-24.**

McKay, Justice editor for Government Technology, describes a computer system that can speed up court trials. With a computer-assisted litigation system, attorneys are able to show exhibits to the judge and jury at the same time. Instead of spending ten minutes passing an exhibit around the jury box, jurors will be able to view the exhibit on a computer screen and listen to the attorney's description simultaneously. In cases where there are many exhibits, the trial time could be cut in half. Currently, the cost of such a system is very high, but a manufacturer of this technology believes that there will be money five years from now to catch up with case backlogs. Many law schools are now offering courses in computer-assisted litigation.

## **ECONOMIC SECURITY**

**3-28/ES**  
**COMMUNICATING GOOD GOVERNANCE**  
**TODAY**

**By Kelli Parsons**  
**Public Relations Strategist, Vol. 11, No. 1, Winter**  
**2005, pp. 6-9.**

Parsons, corporate practice director for public relations firm Hill & Knowlton, says that ethical leadership and honest communications protect a company's most prized possession -- its credibility. The author's firm's annual global survey of senior executives, Corporate Reputation Watch, reflects a measurable shift in the mind-set of senior management worldwide, she writes. For example, executives identified management team reputations as the single most important non-financial factor of company reputation. Seventeen percent regarded transparency and strong governance as the most important factor; most believed that issues of investor confidence and trust following a few highly publicized corporate scandals are the factors driving corporate governance reforms. Parsons emphasizes that



advertising the actions a company takes -- such as strengthening governance and stewardship, philanthropic activities, and other things that positively impact the community -- will build trust and increase stakeholder confidence.

**3-29/ES**

### **THE DEFICIT DEBACLE**

**By Gerard Baker**

**Foreign Policy, Vol. 147, March/April 2005, pp. 42-47.**

The International Monetary Fund has warned that "large U.S. deficits pose significant risks for the rest of the world", but Baker points out that any success the U.S. has in reining in its mounting budget and trade deficits will have repercussions everywhere, particularly in Europe, Japan and China. If the U.S. is to halve its fiscal deficit in the next four years, it would remove a sizeable chunk of money from the global economy that has driven global growth these last four years, he writes. A shrinking U.S. fiscal deficit would lead to growth of European deficits which would further complicate Europe's political challenges of balancing monetary policy set by the central bank with the fiscal policies of 12 separate governments, he says. Japan's fiscal deficit is already 9 percent of its national income, and if Tokyo continues its tendency to export its way out of economic woes at the expense of the rest of the region, resentment is sure to escalate. China's economy, says Baker, would perhaps have the largest and most unpredictable changes, caused by declining foreign investment and banking crises. He says the world may not be ready for the global political and fiscal ramifications of halving the U.S. deficit.

**3-30/ES**

### **THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE**

**By Jeffrey D. Sachs**

**Foreign Affairs, Vol. 84, No. 2 March/April 2005, pp. 64-77.**

As a matter of stated policy, there is no doubt that Washington is committed to supporting economic development in impoverished countries. In September 2000, it joined the UN in issuing the Millennium Declaration, in which the world pledged to cut extreme poverty in half and reduce child mortality by two-thirds within the next 15 years. In

March 2002, the US and the international community adopted the Monterrey Consensus, which laid out a multifaceted strategy to achieve these objectives by promoting the private sector in developing countries, opening trade with them, and increasing official development assistance. That year, the US National Security Strategy promised to "secure public health," "emphasize education," and "continue to aid agricultural development" in low-income countries. Most Americans believe that the US has been following through on such commitments. But other than in response to disasters, US assistance for the world's poorest countries is utterly inadequate.

**3-31/ES**

### **ENERGY: Fuel for Thought**

**By Muhammad Sahimi and Others**

**Harvard International Review, Vol. 26, No. 4, Winter 2005, pp. 42-48.**

Energy has become one of the most politicized issues of the 21st century. Demand for all forms of energy is soaring worldwide, and future political conflicts loom in the face of possible shortages of essential fuels such as oil and gas. This symposium of six articles is devoted to various aspects of the world's energy challenges. In **FORCED TO FUEL**, Sahimi discusses Iran's nuclear energy program as Tehran's professed need to provide electrical power for a burgeoning population, and preserve its oil and gas resources for export. Miguel Tinker-Salas discusses the role of oil in Venezuela in **FUELING CONCERN**. In **BUSINESS AS USUAL**, Jean-Francois Seznec discusses the strains in the relationship between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. Anthony Owen discusses the adverse effect on the environment of fossil fuel use and nuclear power, and the efforts by the industrialized nations of North America and Western Europe to adopt more sustainable technologies, in **BURNING UP**. Finally, in **THE PERFECT STORM**, Wilfrid Kohl notes that OPEC is set to regain its former dominance over the world oil market as global reserves dwindle, and the distribution network is pushed to the limit in the face of soaring global demand for oil.

**3-32/ES**

### **LET IT RIDE**

**By Kenneth Rogoff**

**Foreign Policy, Vol. 147, March/April 2005, pp.**

Rogoff, professor of economics at Harvard University, notes that the recent wild gyrations of the euro and other currencies have once again led to demands for a more stable system of international exchange rates. However, he believes that the current system -- in which monetary policy does a decent job of stabilizing inflation, and a bad job at stabilizing exchange rates -- may be the best option. Rogoff provides two main reasons for letting the market set exchange rates: first, history shows that policymakers are more likely to mismanage exchange rates than to stabilize them, primarily because currency swings are often difficult to explain or understand. Second, although there may be costs to volatile exchange rates, demonstrating that they really matter is nearly impossible. Central banks have learned that controlling the exchange rate is less important than controlling inflation, says Rogoff. Therefore, he concludes that policymakers should focus on adopting sound policies for domestic growth, and leave exchange rates to the market.

### 3-33/ES

#### A NATION OF CITIZEN INVESTORS

By James Glassman

American Enterprise, Vol. 16, No. 2, March 2005, pp. 38-39.

Glassman, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, says people who have wealth of their own, such as stocks and real estate, have a deeper commitment to their community, a more profound sense of family obligation and personal responsibility, a stronger identification with national fortunes, and a personal interest in our capitalist economy. President Bush's idea of an "Ownership Society" assumes that when families share in the growth of businesses and the economy, everyone benefits, he writes. In a nation where a record 83 percent of families own their own homes and half of the families own stocks, bonds or real estate, a society structured on ownership -- rather than class of any sort -- can comprise the entire nation, says Glassman.

### 3-34/ES

#### OVER A BARREL

By Paul Roberts

Mother Jones, Vol. 29, No. 6, November/

December 2004, pp. 64-69.

Petroleum experts are warning that oil will soon become too expensive and scarce to be dependable; the world oil markets are so tight that even a minor disturbance could send prices soaring. Yet, the author notes, the U.S. still relies on a decades-old energy policy that focuses on increasing supplies and does little to curb demand. High oil prices are beginning to bring more attention to alternative energy sources -- but Roberts notes that renewable energy accounts for only a tiny percentage of domestic U.S. energy production, and most alternative energy sources are "nowhere near ready for prime time." New automotive technologies such as hybrid cars are more fuel-efficient -- but will further postpone the time when alternative fuels such as hydrogen or biodiesel will displace their hydrocarbon rivals. While our current energy predicament may "unlock the political logjam" that has hampered development of alternative energy sources, Roberts writes that the U.S. has not mustered the political will for the massive public investment needed to switch to new sources of energy. He fears that we do not have enough time, and what the U.S. will do if it "finds itself in a real energy emergency."

### 3-35/ES

#### AN OWNERSHIP SOCIETY EVOLVES

By William Tucker

American Enterprise, Vol. 16, No. 2, March 2005, pp. 30 +

Tucker says that according to complexity theory, "complex adaptive systems" take on a life of their own, responding to altered external conditions while maintaining an inner integrity that keeps them whole. The result, he explains, is a flexible, higher level of order that naturally adapts in ways that benefit its members. Bush's Social Security reform plans have this natural advantage of spontaneous, beneficial order on its side, states Tucker. The current Social Security system, which depends on new investors to make current payouts, only works as long as new investors outnumber earlier enrollees, so changes have to be made, he says. And, private accounts for old-age pensions are not an untried approach: Chile revamped its ailing social security program in the 1980s, and the resulting Pension Savings Account -- a flexible system based on private accounts -- has been

working smoothly for nearly 25 years, with an average annual return on investment of over 13 percent, notes Tucker. He reports that complexity theorists emphasize the importance of "good enough" starter solutions that leave room for continual improvement -- the adaptation mechanism will naturally evolve towards optimal solutions. Tucker recommends that reform begin sensibly and soon, rather than letting it fall into paralysis over the search of a perfect plan.

**3-36/ES**

## **SECOND GENERATION POVERTY**

### **REDUCTION STRATEGIES: New**

#### **Opportunities and Emerging Issues**

**By Ruth Driscoll and Alison Evans**

**Development Policy Review, Vol. 23, No. 1, 2005, pp. 5-25.**

Driscoll and Evans, both with the United Kingdom's Overseas Development Institute, say that there are significant challenges and opportunities confronting countries that are formulating and implementing their second-generation Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) -- a joint IMF/World Bank approach to poverty reduction through development assistance and debt relief to poor countries. The first generation of PRSs, they write, made important progress by contributing to a much stronger focus on poverty inside government, engaging civil society in poverty policy debates, and focusing attention on donor alignment and harmonization. They describe some of the challenges that remain for the second generation, such as developing stronger government focus into an institutional commitment to poverty reduction, and expanding civil society consultations and government accountability to citizens. Driscoll and Evans say the second generation of the PRS process is also highlighting some new questions such as the political nature of PRS, the relationship of PRS to competing strategies, and predictable budget support. Operationally, the complex balancing act between the political and technical dimensions -- as well as long-term vs. short-term goals -- of PRS will be a major focus for donors, they write.

**3-37/ES**

## **SINKING GLOBALIZATION**

**By Niall Ferguson**

**Foreign Affairs, Vol. 84, No. 2, March/April 2005,**

**pp. 64-77.**

Could globalization collapse? It may seem unlikely today. Yet despite many warnings, people were shocked the last time globalization crumbled, with the onslaught of World War I. Like today, that period was marked by imperial overstretch, great-power rivalry, unstable alliances, rogue regimes, and terrorist organizations. And the world is no better prepared for calamity now.

## **GLOBAL ISSUES AND COMMUNICATION**

**3-38/GIC\***

### **AIDS**

**By Tina Rosenberg**

**Foreign Policy, March/April 2005, pp. 22-27.**

For years, activists around the world have clamored for wealthy countries to offer greater financial help in the fight against AIDS. Today's spending is 15 times what it was in 1996, but it is insufficient to turn the course of AIDS today. In fact, it doesn't even tread water. The single biggest obstacle to fighting AIDS in Africa, the region most laid waste by the epidemic today, is not a shortage of cash, but of personnel - doctors, nurses, pharmacists, counselors, and trained lay workers in the community. Misuse of AIDS drugs is a serious worry, as the rise of resistant strains of AIDS makes the disease more dangerous for everyone. AIDS treatment has made governments careless. The availability of AIDS treatment is more likely to boost prevention in poor countries. The AIDS epidemic is older in many places than in southern Africa. AIDS is not naturally a poor person's disease.

**3-39/GIC**

### **FUTURE SHOCKS: Modern Science, Ancient Catastrophes, and the Endless Quest to Predict Earthquakes**

**By Kevin Krajack**

**Smithsonian, Vol. 35, No. 12, March 2005, pp. 38-46.**

The combined findings and calculations of U.S. and Japanese researchers have proven that a devastating tsunami swept ashore in what is now the Pacific

Northwest state of Washington in January 1700. The discoveries of paleoseismologists -- those who study earthquakes of the past -- are shedding new light on the risks that the region faces for future earthquakes and tsunamis, and the devastation that could come with them. Hundreds of bridges and tall buildings in the metropolitan areas of Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon could be at risk if a quake of similar magnitude were to occur again. Though scientists are finding that earthquakes defy predictability, they are learning much more about their likelihood from clues that seismic events left behind centuries ago. That information is invaluable for urban planners and engineers to better assess construction safety requirements and emergency planning.

### **3-40/GIC**

#### **IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE**

#### **EDUCATION: Acclimating to a Bilingual World**

**By Mike Curtin**

**Vital Speeches of the Day, Vol. 71, No. 8, pp. 245-247.**

In a speech delivered to the Columbus Council on World Affairs at its Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on January 12, 2005, Mike Curtin, associate publisher of the Columbus Dispatch, said that he decided to devote this address to some observations on language, because one cannot know another people and they cannot know another culture without knowing the language. Unfortunately, Americans are known throughout the world for our lack of ability - and lack of interest - in learning other languages. The share of people in the world who are native English speakers has been declining since 1950. Because Americans are not having as many children as in the past, people will need more and more immigrants to fill the jobs the economy is producing. The smart money says that in an increasingly global economy, the future belongs to the multilingual. It is they who will have the competitive advantage in understanding the global community and being literate in international affairs.

### **3-41/GIC**

#### **THE IRONY OF CLIMATE**

**By Brian Halweil**

**World Watch, Vol. 18, No. 2, March/April 2005, pp. 18-23.**

While scientists debate on the pace and effects of global warming and climate change, the author notes that farmers around the world are already dealing with increasing erratic weather, previously unknown pests, desertification, more severe storms and altered growing seasons. Halweil notes that most of the agricultural crops that humanity has bred over the millennia were intended to thrive in a stable climate. To deal with these unexpected climatic changes, farmers may have to diversify their crops to ensure a sufficient food supply and engage in long-term "carbon farming," such as planting trees, to absorb the built-up carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Additionally, agriculture will have to become much more energy-efficient, and will very likely need to return to a more localized distribution system, as shipping goods over long distances becomes more expensive and precarious.

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

### **3-42/SV**

#### **AMERICA'S FOUNDATIONS, FOUNDATIONALISMS, AND FUNDAMENTALISMS**

**By J G A Pocock**

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

Pocock presents information on the ideals underlining the foundation of the US as a democratic republic. The language of the Declaration of Independence established a framework from which former British colonists could begin to think of themselves as American.

### **3-43/SV**

#### **BREAKING AWAY**

**By Joseph Lelyveld**

**New York Times Magazine, March 6, 2005, pp. 50+**

This article, adapted from the author's forthcoming book, OMAHA BLUES: A MEMORY LOOP, is an autobiography which shows the intersection of the personal and the political. In this article, the former New York Times copy boy, staff writer and foreign, managing and executive editor, intertwines scenes from his troubled family life with his assignments for

the New York Times. The assignments he covers in this article ran the gamut, from delivering the weather report to investigating the story of a former SS-guard to racial tensions in the South.

**3-44/SV**

**MYSTERIES OF THE MIND: Your Unconscious is Making Your Everyday Decisions**  
By Marianne Szegedy-Maszak  
U.S. News and World Report, February 28, 2005,  
pp 53-61

The study of the unconscious, once the purview of Freudian psychoanalysts, has been brought into the twentieth century by neuroscientists. A February article in *Neurology* imaged the brains of two minimally conscious patients and found that when family members or friends reminisced about events that were relevant to them, their brain-wave activity was similar to those who are conscious. Gerald Zaltman, Professor Emeritus from Harvard Business School and founding partner in Olson Zaltman Associates, a consulting firm that provides guidance to businesses seeking to better understand the minds of consumers, uses this kind of information to find out what excites people and what makes them comfortable. This kind of information can be used to design a whole range of items, from company logos to a children's hospital.

## DOCUMENT ALERT

**3-45/DOC**

**THE EXCEPTIONAL FIRST AMENDMENT**  
By Frederick Schauer.  
Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, February 2005.  
[http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP05-021/\\$File/rwp\\_05\\_021\\_schauer.pdf](http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP05-021/$File/rwp_05_021_schauer.pdf)

The author describes the United States as a free speech and free press “exception” or “outlier”. That is, with respect to a large range of issues – defamation, hate speech, publication of information about ongoing legal proceedings, incitement to violence or illegal conduct, and many others – the United States stands alone, not only as compared to totalitarian states, but also in comparison with other

open liberal constitutional democracies. Schauer argues that but among the explanations are the complexities of the trans-national migration of legal and constitutional ideas, differential commitments to libertarian visions as a matter of basic political theory, differences in the constitutional text, differences in political and legal history, differences in the role of various interest groups, and differences in views about constitutionalism and the role of the courts.

**3-46/DOC**

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF ACTS OF NUCLEAR TERRORISM**  
United Nations General Assembly, April 13, 2005.

[http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/unga040405\\_csant.pdf](http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/unga040405_csant.pdf)

This Convention aims to strengthen the global legal framework to counter terrorist threats. Based on a proposal by the Russian Federation in 1998, the Convention focuses on criminal offences related to nuclear terrorism and covers a broad range of possible targets, including nuclear reactors as well as nuclear material and radioactive substances. Under its provisions, alleged offenders - for example any individual or group that unlawfully and intentionally possesses or uses radioactive material with the intent to cause harm - must be either extradited or prosecuted. States are also encouraged to cooperate with each other in connection with criminal investigations and extradition proceedings. The Convention further requires that any seized nuclear or radiological material be held in accordance with IAEA safeguards, and handled in keeping with the IAEA's health, safety and physical protection standards. The Convention opens for signature in September this year.

**3-47/DOC**

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, 2005 GUIDE**  
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), 2005.  
[http://www.arts.gov/pub/2005GUIDE\\_eBook.pdf](http://www.arts.gov/pub/2005GUIDE_eBook.pdf)

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), established by Congress in 1965 as an independent federal agency, is the official arts organization of the United States government. As the largest annual

funder of the arts in the country, the NEA is dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Through its grants and programs, the NEA brings great art to all 50 states and six U.S. jurisdictions including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. The NEA awards more than \$100 million annually, investing in every state. The NEA has played a substantial role in the development of folk arts, dance, theater, literature, opera, and other arts that Americans enjoy. This guide presents an overview of all the areas in which the NEA makes a difference: grantmaking and national initiatives, partnerships and research, accessibility and arts learning. Included is information on Grants for Arts Projects, Literature Fellowships, Lifetime Honors, Leadership and National Initiatives, and Partnerships.

### **3-48/DOC**

#### **QUICKSTEP OR KADAM TAAL? The Elusive Sarch for Pace in Jmmu and Kshmir.**

**By Praveen Swami.**

**United States Institute of Peace (USIP), March 2005.**

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr133.pdf>

The inhabitants of the Asian region of Jammu and Kashmir are embroiled in a dispute between India and Pakistan for control of the entire region. Each of those two countries controls a portion of the area. Since December 2003 India and Pakistan have maintained a successful cease-fire along the “Line of Control”, along which troops from both countries patrol their respective sides. This period of relative détente has given rise to the hope that India and Pakistan can finally achieve some kind of permanent resolution to this regional dispute. The author cautions against trying to find a fast and comprehensive resolution. Rather, he argues that making a lasting peace is at best a protracted process. He argues that peacemaking would be better served by focusing on the needs of the people in the affected region -- “by turning attention away from the ‘Kashmir problem’ to the ‘problems of Kashmiris’.”

### **3-49/DOC**

#### **THE RELIGION-STATE RELATIONSHIP AND THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF: A Comparative**

#### **Textual Analysis of the Constitutions of Predominantly Muslim Countries**

**By Tad Stahnke and Robert C. Blitt.**

**United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), March 2005.**

<http://www.uscirf.gov/mediaroom/press/2005/march/03082005/Study0305.pdf>

The study, prepared by Commission staff, examines the text of Muslim constitutions from 44 nations in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. The study reveals that predominantly Muslim countries—including those where Islam is the religion of the state—encompass a variety of constitutional arrangements addressing the role of Islam, the scope of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief, and equality of rights and freedoms, including for women. Among the findings of the report are the following: \* More than half of the world’s Muslim population (estimated at over 1.3 billion) lives in countries that are neither Islamic republics nor countries that have declared Islam to be the state religion. Thus, the majority of the world’s Muslim population currently lives in countries that either proclaim the state to be secular, or that make no pronouncements concerning Islam to be the official state religion. \* Countries in which Islam is the declared state religion may provide constitutional guarantees of the right to freedom of religion or belief that compare favorably with international legal standards. \* Similarly, countries with Islam as the declared state religion may maintain constitutional provisions protecting the related rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly—or the rights of equality and nondiscrimination with regard to, among other things, religion and gender—which compare favorably with international standards. \* A number of constitutions of predominantly Muslim countries incorporate or otherwise reference international human rights instruments and legal norms.

### **3-50/DOC**

#### **STATE OF THE MEDIA 2005.**

**Project for Excellence in Journalism. March 14, 2005.**

<http://www.stateofthemedias.org/2005/index.asp>

In this second annual review of U.S. media, nine types of media are covered: network television, cable television, newspapers, magazines, the Internet, radio,

local TV, ethnic media and the alternative press. For each area, the authors have produced original research and aggregated existing data into a comprehensive look at six different issues: A sense of the editorial content; Audience trends; Economic trends; Ownership trends; Newsroom investment trends; Data on public attitudes about that sector. Some of the reports findings are sobering: "In 2005, the sense that the press's role in relation to the public is changing seems ever clearer. A generation ago, the press was effectively a lone institution communicating between the citizenry and the newsmakers, whether corporations selling goods or politicians selling agendas, who wanted to shape public opinion for their own purposes. Today, a host of new forms of communication offer a way for newsmakers to reach the public. There are talk-show hosts, cable interview shows, corporate Web sites, government Web sites, Web sites that purport to be citizen blogs but are really something else, and more. Journalism is a shrinking part of a growing world of media. And since journalists are trained to be skeptics and aspire at least, in the famous phrase, to speak truth to power, journalism is the one source those who want to manipulate the public are most prone to denounce. The atmosphere for journalism, in other words, has become, as the legendary editor John Siegenthaler recently put it, 'acidic.'" The authors warn that journalism must reclaim its position as a provider of something distinctive and valuable or risk slipping further in its impact on the public.

### **3-51/DOC**

#### **SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY: The U.S. Record 2004 – 2005: South Asia**

**United States Department of State, Bureau of  
Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. March  
28, 2005.**

[http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/shrd/2004/43112.  
htm](http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/shrd/2004/43112.htm)

This report is submitted to the Congress by the Department of State in compliance with Section 665 of P.L. 107-228, the Fiscal Year 2003 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which was signed into law on September 30, 2002. It requires the Department to report on actions taken by the U.S. Government to encourage respect for human rights. This report complements the annual Country Reports

on Human Rights Practices. However, unlike the 196 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2004-2005 highlights U.S. efforts to promote human rights and democracy in only 98 countries and entities—those with the most human rights abuses. The bulk of the report comprises country reports within the geographic divisions of Africa, East Asia and Pacific, Europe and Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and Western Hemisphere. This internet link directs the user towards section of this report on South Asia.