



What's New – March 2007

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ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Castaneda, Jorge; Navia, Patricio THE YEAR OF THE BALLOT (Current History, vol. 106, no. 697, February 2007, pp. 51-57)

Between 2005 and 2006, eleven Latin American countries held presidential elections. Castaneda, former Mexican foreign minister, and Navia, instructor at New York University, as is Castaneda, argue that many who have studied Latin American affairs are overjoyed to see the debate over political developments in the region in 2006 centered around ballots rather than bullets. They assert that it's a tremendous accomplishment for the region to see elections as the only legitimate "game in town". They note that elections are the easy part of the democratic process; democratic consolidation and stability take much more effort. The will of newly elected Latin American governments will be put to the test as they implement their policies and attempt to expand economic growth, reduce poverty, and tackle the deep inequalities that persist in their nations. If governments and the international community learn from and act on the lessons of 2006, the hope of a stable, developed, and flourishing region will be much closer to becoming a reality in these Latin American countries.

Cho, Chung-Lae; Wright, Deil S. PERCEPTIONS OF FEDERAL AID IMPACTS ON STATE AGENCIES: PATTERNS, TRENDS, AND VARIATIONS ACROSS THE 20TH CENTURY (Publius, vol. 37, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 103-130)

The authors examine views of state government executives on federal aid with a focus on the relationship between the federal government and the states. The period of the study's coverage ranges from the 1920s to 2004, during which federal aid to the states grew tremendously, encompassing some 3,000 state agencies in all fifty states. Although some state officials expressed concern about the intrusiveness of the federal government that can accompany this

assistance, their views tend to fluctuate through the years, with some seeing a centralized national trend as a positive development. Overall, however, the states have managed to maintain autonomy, even with constant changes in the federal-state relationship, and no doubt it will continue to evolve.

Cohen, Richard E. WHAT'S NEXT? (National Journal, vol. 39, no. 4, January 27, 2007, pp. 20-21)

"When Republicans were in control, it was all about stopping bad things from happening," tells one policy director to author Richard Cohen. Republicans controlled Capitol Hill with a Republican president and a Republican Congress for most of the past 12 years, and liberal-minded interest groups have been used to frustration and setbacks rather than success. Now that congressional Democrats are back on top and after a flurry of congressional action on the so-called first 100-hours legislation, including raising the minimum wage and lowering student-loan interest rates, Democratic leaders are beginning to focus on a long-term agenda. Long-stalled issues on interest group wish lists include the needs of low-income people, increasing energy independence, the environment -- especially global warming -- and labor issues, among others. Yet Democratic leaders must balance the demands for sweeping initiatives against other political and even practical considerations, Cohen writes, because Bush is still the president and because front and center is dealing with the war in Iraq.

Holmes, Kim R. ENSURING A LEGACY: SOLIDIFYING THE BUSH DOCTRINE (The National Interest, No. 87, January/February 2007, pp. 21-27)

The author, vice president of Foreign and Defense Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation, outlines President Bush's overhaul of foreign policy following the 9/11 attacks and questions if these strategies known as the 'Bush Doctrine' will become institutionalized, or if these will evaporate once the president leaves office. Holmes argues that in order for President Bush's foreign policy to soldier on, he must do something to stabilize the situation in Iraq and create the foundation for future strategies for confronting Iran and North Korea. Holmes also recommends revisiting the balance between fighting terrorism and establishing democracy. She even suggests that the president abandon his commitment to democracy in Iraq, something she argues may not be realistic right now. Most importantly, Holmes says that the president should develop new policies and remain committed to his plans, rather than try to defend past actions -- this is a pattern outgoing leaders often make in the last years of their terms and would only hurt President Bush's legacy.

Vaida, Bara JUDGING POLITICS (National Journal, Vol. 39, No. 5, Feb. 3, 2007, pp. 36-41)

Americans are losing faith in the partiality of judges, something legal scholars and lawyers blame on corporate lobbying and conservative activists. More money is being pumped into state judicial races, with at least \$40 million spent on state Supreme Court races in 2006. The increase in spending has led to politicized campaigning, including TV attack ads. Also, in 2002 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that judges have the right to announce their political views, something that business groups and think tanks have jumped on, pushing judges to publicly declare their views on politicized issues like abortion and gay marriage. The conservative group Focus on Family even sent out questionnaires to judges, asking about political views and judicial philosophy. This shift has caused backlash from voters and in 2006 four states voted on initiatives to limit the power of the judiciary. The American Bar Association is trying to fight the backlash, advocating for the public financing of judicial races and developing universal standards to evaluate judges.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Forman, Marcy M. COMBATING TERRORIST FINANCING AND OTHER FINANCIAL CRIMES THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS (Journal of Money Laundering Control, vol. 9, no. 1, 2006, pp. 112-118)

Forman, an official at the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Investigations, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), endorses sharing identified vulnerabilities and information with trusted private sector partners as a first line of defense against financial crimes. She says partnerships between the public and private sector represent one of the strongest means to combat money-laundering schemes by terrorists and other criminal organizations and to block the material support needed to fuel their operations. Two case studies are presented which demonstrate how ICE's outreach and partnership program -- known as "Cornerstone" -- has successfully partnered with US financial, trade, manufacturing and transportation sectors to eliminate systemic vulnerabilities that could be exploited by terrorist and other criminal organizations. All nations must recognize that any criminal act, whether driven by profit or ideology, threatens national economic security and integrity, and produces consequences that transcend all borders, she writes. Therefore, she concludes, law enforcement must initiate private/public partnerships to leverage defenses and maximize effectiveness.

Gupta, Sanjeev; Yang, Yongzheng UNBLOCKING TRADE (Finance & Development, vol. 43, no. 4, December 2006, pp. 22-25)

Gupta and Yang, both with the International Monetary Fund, say sub-Saharan Africa needs to adopt a comprehensive approach to boosting trade. Africa's share of world trade has fallen from four percent in the 1970s to 2 percent today, they note. Some of the trade problems discussed include lack of diversification, domination of primary commodities, unfavorable business environments, and high indirect costs. For sub-Saharan African countries wishing to improve trade, their recommendations include: taking measures to maintain macroeconomic stability, increase liberalization, simplify customs procedures, and reduce costs of doing business. For the international community, they recommend increasing "aid for trade" in the form of technical assistance, project finance and adjustment support for trade reforms. This article is available online at: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2006/12/gupta.htm>

Jones, Rhys THE MONEY CHANGERS (Middle East, Issue 374, January 2007, pp. 38-40)

Jones discusses the status of hawala, an informal money-transfer system used primarily in the Middle East and Africa, that operates outside official financial channels; this article reports on an investigation of a complex hawala-based drug-money laundering operation. Although hawala is primarily used by workers for the purpose of remittances to their home countries, says Jones, the informal, undocumented nature of the hawala system makes it a perfect tool for money launderers and other financial criminals. Arab states insist they are taking measures to crack down on illicit use of hawala, and some have created "financial intelligence units" to track down laundered money, Jones writes. The hawala industry's hub is widely regarded to be Dubai where the absence of laws expressly prohibiting the practice of hawala makes it very difficult to track and arrest offenders. Furthermore, Jones adds, since hawala does not affect the Dubai economy, it is not a priority for local law enforcement.

Kerr, William A.; Hobbs, Jill E. BILATERALISM – A RADICAL SHIFT IN U.S. TRADE POLICY: WHAT WILL IT MEAN FOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE? (Journal of World Trade, vol. 40, no. 6, 2006, pp. 1049-1058)

The authors say that the shift in U.S. trade policy away from an exclusive reliance on multilateral institutions to a multifaceted approach that includes multilateral, regional and bilateral initiatives has the potential to produce greater liberalization. However, they caution, these types of arrangements may also be a way to strategically use the economic advantages that come from

being a large economic power. Agricultural trade, with its history of selective protectionism, has long been an area of contention in multilateral negotiations. And, they write, since the U.S. is generally a proponent of agricultural trade liberalization, the U.S. may simply see bilateral/regional arrangements as an avenue for overcoming the frustrations of its market access ambitions at the multilateral level. But, given that moving away from the multilateral rules could lead to abuse of economic power and geopolitical pressures, they suggest the role of bilateral and regional agreements in the multilateral system should be revisited.

Lister, Tom REPEALING MURPHY'S LAW: USING RESEARCH TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (Searcher, vol. 15, no. 1, January 2007, pp. 14-27)

Lister, an expert in international trade research, says research is essential to reducing the risks of international business. Companies embarking on international trade need detailed information on everything from transportation and customs requirements to international product marketability and credit ratings for customers worldwide. Lister provides overviews of many government and commercial key resources for trade data, country research and market research. He also provides a nice explanation of the "Harmonized System" for classification of trade goods. He particularly stresses the importance of seeking out local language information from the researched market, and says in many cases that may be the only way to find the necessary answers. International company research is very complex, notes Lister, and he recommends some resources for those wishing to go more in-depth.

Smith, Jeremy N. THE PERILS OF PREDICTION: HOW THE FATHER OF GLOBALIZATION GOT IT (PARTLY) WRONG (World Trade, January 2007, pp. 40-44)

Smith says Theodore Leavitt, an economist famous for predicting the future of globalization, got some things right, despite some glaring miscalculations about how global businesses should be managed. Leavitt made bold predictions that globalization would lead to such a degree of standardization that companies would not need to adjust their practices to succeed in other countries. However, companies that have taken this advice too literally have invited failure, notes Smith. Wal-Mart Germany, for instance, did not adjust its operations to suit the local culture, local attitudes about organized labor dealings, or local shopping habits. Consequently, Wal-Mart lost hundreds of millions of dollars, and ultimately shut down its German operations. Pankaj Ghemawat, another economist, takes a much more nuanced approach to a globalized business world, and asserts four dimensions of market "distance" will continue to matter: cultural, administrative, geographic and economic. Despite the shortfalls of Leavitt's predictions, he is still widely read and studied because he did successfully demonstrate how managers ought to begin to think about global markets, writes Smith.

Sundberg, Mark; Gelb, Alan MAKING AID WORK (Finance & Development, vol. 43, no. 4, December 2006, pp. 14-17)

Sundberg and Gelb, both with the World Bank, say the end of the Cold War and progress towards a new aid architecture should make aid more effective. In the past, they note, aid was often guided by geopolitical considerations rather than by development objectives. Consequently, they explain, aid effectiveness suffered and was often seen as a reward for corrupt governments. However, changes since the 1990s hold clear promise for improving aid quality and effectiveness in achieving development objectives, they write. These changes include harmonization of aid efforts and improved aid allocation selectivity on the basis of need and policy quality. This article is available online at: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2006/12/sundberg.htm>

GLOBAL ISSUES / INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Booth, William HOUSE PROUD (Smithsonian, January 2007, pp.74-76)

American architect Michelle Kaufmann has designed a factory-made modular home, considered a breakthrough due to its use of energy-efficient elements and renewable materials. The "Glidehouse" was born in 2003 when Kaufmann was looking for a place to live in the expensive San Francisco Bay area. She built her own prototype with a floor plan comprised of connecting rectangles, one side made of glass doors, a simple shed-like roof and solar panels. Friends admired it so much, they asked Kaufmann to help them build identical homes. After many months, Kaufmann bought her own factory near Seattle, Washington from a retiring builder. The three-bedroom, two-bath home uses recycled glass and paper and cost USD 292,500 to build. The manufacturing process generates little waste and the home can be constructed in about four months. Kaufmann hopes to build 10,000 prefabricated homes in the next ten years.

Folger, Tim CAN COAL COME CLEAN? (Discover, vol. 27, no. 12, December 2006, pp. 42-47)

The author notes that with fossil fuel prices rising, and nuclear power in a political stalemate, global appetite for coal is soaring. Over 150 coal-fired power plants will be built in the U.S. over the next two decades, and China is expected to construct over 550 plants in the next eight years. Although abundant, coal is the filthiest fuel, both in its extraction and combustion. Integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) plants, of which there are only four worldwide, will probably be the "means by which we survive our coal-fueled future," notes Folger. In the IGCC process, the coal is converted into gas; all impurities are extracted before the combustion process, and the carbon dioxide is sequestered. The only drawback is economic — the plants are more expensive to build and there is currently no incentive for capturing carbon in the U.S., India or China, the three biggest consumers of coal. The author notes, however, that the "mounting evidence of climate change will spook the world into action"; several observers expect mandatory economy-wide changes to be in place in the next few years, including measures by China and India, which both have large populations at risk from rising sea levels.

Silberman, Steve THE INVISIBLE ENEMY (Wired, February 2007, pp. 132-139, 148-150)

The imperative to save the lives of U.S. soldiers wounded in Iraq has led the Department of Defense to create "the most heroic and efficient means of saving lives in the history of warfare," writes Silberman. This emergency care system has also unwittingly created an environment where a potentially dangerous bacteria has been able to evolve rapidly to a point where it is now resistant to most anti-bacterial drugs. The microbe ACINETOBACTER BAUMANII is not a danger to a healthy person, but can be deadly to a wounded or immuno-suppressed person. Wounded soldiers have also carried the bacteria through medical facilities in the evacuation route, exposing other civilian patients who are likewise vulnerable. Upon recognition of the problems being caused by the highly-resistant bacteria, military doctors and infectious disease specialists conducted an investigation in 2004. They found that diminished attention to infection control in combat support hospitals operating in emergency conditions had provided a perfect breeding ground for ACINETOBACTER to evolve and develop the drug-resistant capabilities of other bacteria. A higher level of vigilance is now being maintained in the war zone, but Silberman reports that medical experts are still worried about the evolution of super-bugs and the dwindling effectiveness of the antibiotic arsenal available to them. Available online at www.wired.com

Simmons, Mike SEEING STARS IN IRAQ (Scientific American, vol. 296, no. 1, January 2007, pp. 23-25)

Started in 1973, the Iraqi National Astronomical Observatory, located on Mt. Korek in Iraqi Kurdistan, near the Iranian border, would have been the only major observatory in the Middle East once completed, but it became a military target in the 1980s and 1990s. The author writes that there are proposals to rehabilitate the damaged and neglected facility, and refit it with a state-

of-the-art telescope. A renovated observatory could lure Iraqi astronomers back from abroad, and become the centerpiece of a scientific research facility that would help revitalize the scientific community in Iraq.

Sterner, Thomas, et al. QUICK FIXES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: PART OF THE SOLUTION OF PART OF THE PROBLEM? (Environment, Vol. 48, No. 10, December 2006, pp. 20-27)
Political leaders too often deal with environmental problems only when crisis is upon them, the authors note. Too often, governments implement “quick fixes” to address problems rather than looking at environmental issues in their larger contexts. Whether these choices are made from ignorance, lack of political will or resources, these short-term solutions can often exacerbate a problem in the long run. The authors have tracked this pattern in cases around the world, citing the U.S. Gulf Coast damage from Hurricane Katrina as one of many examples. In that case and others like it, their research shows that political leaders will frequently address flooding issues with levee construction rather than enact the environmentally sound choice of allowing the river to return to its natural course. In the case of climate change, the authors point to abatement of carbon emissions as the long-term solution to the problem, and proposals to sequester emissions in the deep ocean as a short-term fix.

Stix, Gary SPICE HEALER (Scientific American, vol. 296, no. 2, February 2007, pp. 66-69)
Turmeric, a spice from an Asian plant, has been used for thousands of years in the Ayurvedic system of medicine for wound healing, blood cleansing and stomach ailments. The biologically active components of turmeric — curcumin and curcuminoids — have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antiviral, antibacterial and antifungal properties and are being investigated for activity against cancer, diabetes, arthritis, Alzheimer’s disease and other chronic illnesses. Some investigators suggest the compounds, which offer many possible benefits with apparent low toxicity, could be used as effective treatments and low-cost preventive medications. Studies on cancerous or damaged cells have produced conflicting results, however; in some, curcumin interfered with the cell’s defensive mechanism and allowed the cells to continue growing. Most studies involving other diseases are in test-tube or small-animal trials. Well-controlled, large-scale clinical trials are still needed to determine curcumin’s effectiveness against these illnesses.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Albright, Madeleine RELIGION, CULTURE AND 21ST-CENTURY FOREIGN POLICY (New Perspectives Quarterly, vol. 23, no. 3, Summer 2006, pp. 27-31)
In this interview, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright discusses the relationship of religion and culture to foreign policy. The global spread of information ties religion, culture and international relations together. Foreign policy decision makers today must not be self-righteous, but should appreciate different beliefs and motivations even if they conflict with American perspectives. This article is currently available on the Internet at:
http://www.digitalnpq.org/archive/2006_summer/06_albright.html

Baktiari, Bahman IRAN’S CONSERVATIVE REVIVAL (Current History, vol. 106, no. 696, January 2007, pp. 3-10)
Under the leadership of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iranian conservatives are out to make the Islamic Republic “more Islamic than a republic.” Yet at the same time, the government has become increasingly nationalistic in its bid for regional dominance since the 2003 removal of Saddam Hussein, marking what the author sees as a return to foreign policy behaviors reminiscent of the pre-revolutionary government. Ahmadinejad has yet to deliver on his populist political promises of economic growth and redistribution of energy revenue, but his image as an honest leader in a sea of corrupt politicians and his willingness to resist international pressure to abandon nuclear enrichment activities has shored up his public standing. While a wide range of opinions among Iran’s leaders preclude predictions of Tehran’s future foreign policy path, the

author argues that U.S. policy failures in the region have only helped improve Iran's position and that aggressive efforts at regime change would only further strengthen Ahmadinejad.

Benard, Cheryl TOY SOLDIERS: THE YOUTH FACTOR IN THE WAR ON TERROR (Current History, vol. 106, no. 696, January 2007, pp. 27-30)

The author points out that, beneath the War on Terror, the Iraqi insurgency, the Palestinian intifada, and other conflicts in the Middle East, lies the psychological exploitation of region's burgeoning youth population. Turning to contemporary study of adolescent psychology and neurological research, the author argues that terrorist recruiters take advantage of tendencies of not-yet-mature young men toward thrill-seeking and risk-taking, overestimation of ability, and underestimation of obstacles and consequences which make them ideal candidates to participate in terrorist attacks. While political, ideological, and cultural factors also play a role in individual's choice to become a terrorist, the author argues for consideration of these psychological considerations in any potential solution.

Hegland, Corine SILVER LINING IN SOMALIA'S CHAOS (National Journal, Vol. 39, No. 3, January 20, 2007, pp. 60-61)

The author reviews the history of the Islamic Courts Union movement in Somalia, from their short-lived rise to power, which brought a degree of peace and quiet to the country, and their subsequent decline, resulting from their imposition of strict Islamic law and the intervention of the Ethiopian army in support of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). Pointing out recent accomplishments in Somalia, such as president Ahmed's meeting with former presidents and his negotiation of a disarmament agreement with Mogadishu warlords, she also mentions some of the difficulties faced by the TFG and provides a list of conditions which would allow Somalia to become a functioning country again — if the TFG “can maintain security and build popular support, if the Ethiopians don't provoke an insurgency, if foreign peacekeepers come in, if the world find fund for reconstruction, if the warlords don't take over again, if the Islamists don't return, and if the long-feuding clans can agree on a government.” In spite of all these “ifs,” she sees “a bit of optimism.”

Karn, Alexander M. DEPOLARIZING THE PAST: THE ROLE OF HISTORICAL COMMISSIONS IN CONFLICT MEDIATION AND RECONCILIATION (Journal of International Affairs, vol. 60, no. 1, Fall 2006, pp. 31-50)

Karn, history instructor at California State University, asserts that establishing peace in the wake of large-scale historical injustices is difficult and sometimes dispiriting work. Rival groups often conjure vastly different memories of the same events, and these divergences reinforce cycles of violence and deepen feelings of resentment. He argues that if we begin to think of inter-group relations as an evolving process marked by ebb and flow in which there are intermittent opportunities for mutual understanding and cooperation, then historical commissions can undoubtedly play a role in promoting shared perspective and solidarity. Karn concludes that commissions have the ability to move historical discourse away from the accusatory framework used by partisans to support their claims of victimization and instead move toward an explanatory framework that offers a new context for misconstrued historical facts. The problem with past attempts to incorporate historical understanding into mediation practice has not been the instrumentalist view of storytelling, but rather the fact that mediators have so far made too little of this potentially powerful tool.

Ottaway, Marina WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IRAQ? (Current History, vol. 106, no. 696, January 2007, pp. 42-43)

The author, director of the Carnegie Endowment's Middle East program, finds today's Iraq “a broken country without central authority” straddling both internal ethnosectarian conflicts and external insecurity caused by the rise of Shiite power from Iran and its impact across the Middle East. National reconciliation has failed, says the author, who instead advocates the de facto partitioning of Iraq into autonomous regions. “The solution to a situation that has spun out of control is beyond the capacity of the United States to devise and above all to implement on its

own,” the author says, leaving little option but to engage with the Iraqi people and their neighbors rather than continuing attempts to play “the dominant force that can reshape the region to suit its goals.”

Rashid, Ahmed LETTER FROM AFGHANISTAN: ARE THE TALIBAN WINNING? (Current History, vol. 106, no. 696, January 2007, pp. 17-20)

For many Afghans, writes Rashid, a noted journalist and author, it seems the war against the Taliban has already been lost. The Karzai government is seen by many as powerless, corrupt, and no match for the continued support to militants across the border in Pakistan. NATO’s replacement of U.S.-led forces, though not unsuccessful, has been hampered by limitations placed on forces by their home governments. As a result, the Taliban continues to target Western development and reconstruction projects, further demoralizing the Afghan public and unraveling Afghanistan’s progress toward recovery since 2001. The author calls on the United States and NATO to exert greater pressure on Pakistan, step up development and reconstruction projects, and accelerate efforts to crush the militants and help strengthen the Karzai government.

Telhami, Shibley LEBANESE IDENTITY AND ISRAELI SECURITY IN THE SHADOWS OF THE 2006 WAR (Current History, vol. 106, no. 696, January 2007, pp. 21-26)

The author, a professor at the University of Maryland and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, reports on the findings of a poll he conducted in Lebanon following the August 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and Israel. The poll found growing divisions within Lebanon’s Christian, Druze, Sunni, and Shiite communities, which bode ill for the Israel’s efforts to establish an effective deterrent to future attacks. While the majority of Lebanese polled felt that Hezbollah emerged as the “winner” of the conflict, the militants gained significant popularity among the country’s Shiite community. In other findings, the poll found growing support for non-state actor Hezbollah, a divergence of views of Israel’s relative military strength, but an evenly matched opinion among all communities that brokering a comprehensive Middle East Peace would be the most significant way to improve attitudes toward the United States, far surpassing a withdrawal from Iraq or discontinuing aid to Israel.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Corbett, John FROM THE WINDY CITY TO THE UNIVERSE (Downbeat, vol. 73, No. 12, December 2006, pp. 34-39)

The author profiles the colorful musician, composer and mystic Herman Poole “Sonny” Blount, also known as Sun Ra, the father of “do-it-yourself jazz”. Sun Ra, who died in 1993, was active beginning in the 1950s, and gained international recognition in the 1960s, with the first of his big bands, the Arkestra. Sun Ra was a fan of ancient Egypt, and incorporated Egyptian and other-worldly imagery in his writings, record lyrics and clothing. The author pieces together early recording sessions in interviews with musicians Sun Ra recruited for his bands.

Katzenstein, Meter; Keohane, Robert ANTI-AMERICANISMS (Policy Review, No. 139, October/November 2006)

Katzenstein and Keohane, professors of international studies at Cornell and Princeton universities respectively, write that the negative worldwide public opinion toward the U.S. that is grouped under the label “anti-Americanism” varies considerably in degree. The liberal anti-Americanism prevalent in Western Europe is fueled by perceptions of hypocrisy, that the U.S. is not living up to its ideals — but the authors note that hypocrisy “is inherent in the situation of a superpower that professes universalistic ideals.” Other strains of anti-American sentiment center around the the U.S. market-capitalism economic model, or political institutions, or aspects of U.S. popular culture. Key to the authors’ argument is that it is vital to distinguish between opinion and bias — negative opinion is about what the U.S. does, and bias is about what the U.S. represents.

They write that opinion “does not pose serious short-term problems for American foreign policy. However, if opinion were to harden into bias, as may be occurring in the Middle East, the consequences for the United States would be much more severe.” Currently available online at <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/4823856.html>

Leffingwell, Edward LIGHT INDUSTRY (Art In America, December 2006, pp. 128-133)
Forrest Myers has been known for his innovative works using light and metal for over forty years. An exhibition currently being held at the Yellow Bird Gallery in New York shows the range of his works over the last four decades. Myers, creator of THE WALL (1973), a monumental public sculpture in Manhattan also known as the “Gateway to SoHo”, was a pioneer in kinetic sculpture, works that combine form and function, such as his legendary UNOCYCLE (1975), a one-wheeled motorcycle, and FOR MILES (1996), a memorial to the late jazz musician Miles Davis, consisting of a stainless-steel drum that functions as a horn. Myers worked with the Experiments in Art and Technology cooperative in the late 1960s to assemble a state-of-the-art interdisciplinary project at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan.

Martin, James THE SEVENTEEN GREAT CHALLENGES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY (Futurist, vol. 41, no. 1, January/February 2007, pp. 20-24)
The author, with Oxford University, believes that the present time is the best time in all of history to be a young person, because “now, more than at any other time, young people will make a spectacular difference” in the future of humankind. Martin writes that the world is facing unprecedented global environmental and political crises — and the thinking of the political and economic ruling elite is dominated by short-term benefits instead of solving long-term problems — and it will be up to today’s young people “to get humanity through the coming instability as quickly and safely as possible”. He enumerates seventeen challenges, “all interlinked and mutually reinforcing ... that constitute the twenty-first-century transition”, including eradication of poverty, steady population growth, sustainable lifestyles, protecting the biosphere, preventing all-out war, conquering disease and expanding human potential.

Pells, Richard INDIA, EUROPE, AMERICA: A GEOCULTURAL TRIANGLE (Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 53, No. 16, December 8, 2006, p. B10)
The author, professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin, notes that the negative public attitudes of Europeans toward the U.S., and the longstanding cultural “tug-of-war” relationship between America and Europe, is largely absent in India. Pells attributes this partly to the fact that Britain, not Europe, has historically dominated Indian public life, and this tradition, combined with the desire to modernize economically and widespread poverty in India “has made it a country for which the often-symbolic disputes between Americans and Europeans make little sense.” Unlike many countries, where American popular culture is reviled, Pell notes that India “is one of the few countries on the planet where American films are neither pervasive nor resented”. He observes that India has absorbed aspects of both European and American culture, while preserving a distinct Indian flavor. Pells also remarks at the extensive cultural activities initiated by the U.S. missions throughout India. He believes that India “may provide a more desirable model than the European Union of how other nations can define their identities not in opposition to, but independent of, America.”

Waldman, Amy READING, WRITING, RESURRECTION (Atlantic Monthly, vol. 299, no. 1, January/February 2007, pp. 88-103)
As part of ATLANTIC’s annual “State of the Union” series (issued around the time of the President’s State of the Union address), Waldman follows the determined educators and entrepreneurs who are rebuilding the New Orleans school system. Considered one of the worst in the nation, the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina has turned the system into a laboratory for educational reform. In the fall of 2006, only five of the fifty-three public schools were slated to be run by the Orleans Parish School Board, the Louisiana Department on Education had taken over seventeen under the recovery School District, while the rest would be charter schools — publicly financed but independently run schools that answer to their own

boards. The result was “the fastest makeover of an urban school system in American history — and a patchwork non-system of bewildering complexity and bewitching promise.” Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200701/waldman-katrina>

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