

Article Alerts

30th November, 2008

Journal of Economic Literature Volume: 46, Issue: 3, September 2008

Title: The Role of Cognitive Skills in Economic Development

Author: Eric A. Hanushek and Ludger Woessmann

Abstract: The role of improved schooling, a central part of most development strategies, has become controversial because expansion of school attainment has not guaranteed improved economic conditions. This paper reviews the role of cognitive skills in promoting economic well-being, with a particular focus on the role of school quality and quantity. It concludes that there is strong evidence that the cognitive skills of the population—rather than mere school attainment—are powerfully related to individual earnings, to the distribution of income, and to economic growth. New empirical results show the importance of both minimal and high level skills, the complementarity of skills and the quality of economic institutions, and the robustness of the relationship between skills and growth.

Title: The Efficacy of Information Policy

Author: Clifford Winston

Abstract: The economics of information has identified an important role for government to correct situations where competition is not sufficient to reveal valuable information to consumers. Archon Fung, Mary Graham, and David Weil's *Full Disclosure: The Perils and Promise of Transparency* provides a thorough discussion of government-mandated disclosure policies. I use their book to frame an empirical assessment of whether these—and other information policies—have significantly reduced the costs to consumers created by imperfect information. My conclusion, which calls for more research, is that government information policies have amounted to weak solutions in search of a problem.

Contemporary South Asia
Vol.16, No.2, June 2008

Title: Border practices: labour and nationalism among Brogpas of Ladakh

Author: Bhan, Mona

Abstract: Scholarly writings on Kashmir have primarily discussed state-centred initiatives that are aimed at fostering nationalism among border communities. In this paper, I use the example of Brogpas—a border community living on the contested line-of-control between India and Pakistan—to argue that national identity for Brogpas is the product of fostering their national boundaries through their everyday labour practices. A focus on khral (mandatory labour) among Brogpas illuminates how national identities are constituted in the peripheries rather than being 'imposed and built from the centre outward'.¹ Khral also underscores the centrality of border practices in creating and maintaining national consciousness.² The customary practice of khral demonstrates that citizenship to the village and the Indian nation-state are not construed as distinct processes by Brogpas. Brogpas establish and/or maintain their allegiance to a particular village by doing khral that among other things includes working for the Indian army as porters. An attention to khral highlights how national identity is instantiated among Brogpas through everyday practices of working for the Indian border rather than through mere symbolic constructions of an imagined community.

Title: Public interest litigation for labour: how the Indian Supreme Court protects the rights of India's most disadvantaged workers

Author: Dasgupta, Modhurima

Abstract: This paper argues that a distinctive form of public interest litigation has been used effectively in the Indian Supreme Court to protect the rights of exploited workers. By looking at the extreme cases of child labour and bonded labour, this study finds that the Indian Supreme Court has been labour-friendly, and has taken seriously the constitutional promise of socio-economic development. In rulings that enlist the aid of local governments and non-governmental organizations, the higher judiciary has helped to make positive changes for the most disadvantaged workers in Indian society. This paper results from a year of fieldwork in New Delhi, and relies on case rulings, archival work, and ethnographic field research.

Title: Karez versus tubewell irrigation: the comparative social acceptability and practicality of sustainable groundwater development in Balochistan, Pakistan

Author: Mustafa, Daanish; Usman Qazi, Muhammad

Abstract: This article presents the results of a field study undertaken in the province of Balochistan, Pakistan, to understand the experience and impact of an ongoing programme of transitioning from karez (an ancient mode of tapping groundwater) to tubewell irrigation on social equity, livelihoods, community cohesion and environmental quality. The article explores how changes in water management techniques and technologies are influenced by and, in turn, impact social power relations at various scales. Analyses of

the field study results and policy context of groundwater management in Balochistan reveals that the transition from karez to tubewell irrigation was neither inevitable nor necessarily more advantageous but, rather, the outcome of deliberate policy choices by the government. The diffusion of tubewells is putting traditional communal modes of power in communities under stress and, in places, replacing them with the power of large farmers. At the policy level, the differential power of the discourse of modernization, coupled with the compensatory power of large farmers, is facilitating the rapid diffusion of tubewells in Balochistan. The transition from karez to tubewell irrigation also is having negative consequences for social equity and environmental quality. The article concludes by proposing specific policy initiatives that may help save and rehabilitate the rapidly dwindling karez irrigation in Balochistan.

Title: Micro-politics of social protection: examining the effectiveness of 'employment rights' for the informal sector in rural Maharashtra

Author: Pellissery, Sony

Abstract: The analysis of public works programmes using the theory of real options argues that the effectiveness of these programmes can be studied by examining the switches the workers make between public works and other labour market activities. The wage rate between these two options is the focus of the analysis under the theory of real options. This paper critically examines the applicability of the econometric methods of the theory of real options by studying the same public works programmes through a local management perspective using a case-study approach. Local elites enjoy 'informal ownership' of public works programmes, and the rights of the poor are therefore shrouded in micro-politics. Besides, for a large number of the poorest people who are trapped in a vicious cycle of debt and seasonal migration, rights and options are foregone. The power of the local elites is discounted heavily in the approach of theory of real options. Relying on such outcome variables—which are manufactured by the local elites—can mislead policy decisions.

Contemporary Security Policy
Volume 29 Issue 1, April 2008

Title: NATO and Demilitarization of Surplus Weapons and Ammunition
Author: Peter Courtney-Green

Abstract: The NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) Trust Funds originated in September 2000 and now cover destruction of all types of weapons and conventional ammunition. Trust Fund projects originally were developed in countries of the Balkans and the Former Soviet Union, which possessed very large surplus stocks of weapons and munitions, difficult to maintain safely and securely. This article focuses on projects involving demilitarization, especially small arms and ammunition, rather than those involving wider defence reform objectives, such as retraining former military personnel.

Title: Bulgaria and Romania: Quick Start, Ambiguous Progress
Author: Sami Faltas

Abstract: In 2001-2004 Bulgaria and Romania led internationally sponsored small arms and ammunition destruction. A few years later, they all but disappeared from destruction discussions. How to explain the enigma of these two countries' initial and large-scale action and their later hesitation? Both cases reveal the importance of external actors in small arms disarmament, in this case, especially the United States. It was Washington that created the initial demand for weapons destruction, as well as later export demands through war in Afghanistan and Iraq. While host authorities in Bulgaria and Romania may want to destroy at least part of their surplus stocks, they seem unwilling to make significant investments of their own. Convincing them to take ownership of the problem and solutions must be the next major objective of donor countries.

Ocean Development & International Law
Volume 39 Issue 1, 2008

Title: Hydrocarbon Development in the Ultra-Deepwater Boundary Region of the Gulf of Mexico

Author: Richard J. McLaughlin

Abstract: Finding and exploiting oil and gas resources in the ultra-deepwater areas of the Gulf of Mexico is occurring at an accelerated pace. New discoveries have recently been made in a large geological structure known as the Lower Tertiary Wilcox Trend that is located in the U.S.-Mexico Maritime Boundary Region. However, due to the transboundary characteristics of many of these hydrocarbons, some form of bi-national cooperation is necessary to effectively manage the shared resources, protect the oceanic environment and comply with evolving norms of international law before commercial production can begin.

Title: Securing Maritime Australia: Developments in Maritime Surveillance and Security

Authors: Clive Schofield; Martin Tsamenyi; Mary Ann Palma

Abstract : A long coastline and extensive maritime claims mean that Australia benefits from and has responsibility for an enormous maritime jurisdiction. Within this offshore area Australia faces significant, varied, and complex maritime security and ocean policy challenges. In response, Australia has taken a number of innovative steps toward enhancing its maritime security.

Ocean Development & International Law
Volume 39 Issue 2 2008

Title: The Potential Marine Pollution Threat from Oil and Gas Development Activities in the Disputed South China Sea/Spratly Area

Author: Yann-Huei Song

Abstract: This article examines the potential threat of marine pollution caused by offshore oil and gas development activities in the disputed areas of the South China Sea (SCS) and the Spratly Islands. After addressing the potential threat of marine pollution, it discusses the legal obligations and political commitment of the SCS littoral states regarding the protection of the marine environment in the area. The role that Taiwan can play in these matters is also examined.

Title: A Review of Ship Breaking and Rig Scrapping in the Gulf of Mexico

Author: Mark J. Kaiser

Abstract : Ship breaking and rig scrapping is the process in which a unit is broken down and recycled into salvageable components, cut into pieces, and transported to a domestic steel mill or exported on a cargo vessel. Breaking is a labor-intensive, low-technology, and relatively homogeneous industry. Work conditions in breaking yards are difficult, dangerous, and potentially hazardous, with operations that are not well suited for mechanization. Ship breaking and rig scrapping share many common features in workflows, worker safety, and environmental issues, but also have notable differences in breaking cost and industry structure. Ship breaking and rig scrapping do not play a major role in the material handled by scrap processors in the United States, but they are part of the unique industrial landscape associated with the offshore energy industry. The purpose of this article is to review the scrap and storage markets for ships and rigs in the Gulf of Mexico.

African Affairs

Volume 107, Number 426, January 2008

Title: Arab Identity and Ideology in Sudan

Author: Heather J. Sharkey

Abstract: In what is now Sudan there occurred over the centuries a process of *ta'rib*, or Arabization, entailing the gradual spread of both Arab identity and the Arabic language among northern peoples. After the Anglo-Egyptian conquest of 1898, British colonial policies favoured a narrow elite from within these 'Arab' communities. Members of this elite went on to develop a conception of a self-consciously Sudanese Arabic national identity, in the process adapting the term 'Sudanese' (*sudani*), which derived from an Arabic word for blackness and previously had servile connotations.

Title: Beyond 'Dragon in the Bush

Author- Daniel Large

Abstract: In the wake of China's Year of Africa in 2006, China–Africa relations are currently the subject of unprecedented attention. However, although those relations are widely covered they are also under-researched. This article offers an introduction to China–Africa relations, covering background to the history and politics of Chinese involvement in the continent and identifying areas of further research.

The Political Quarterly
Volume 79 Issue 2 - April–June 2008

Title: Combating Climate Change in the UK/

Author: Neil Carter

Abstract: There is a curious disjunction between the Labour Government's international actions and its domestic policy. Although Tony Blair did much to promote the climate change agenda on the international stage, domestically, with carbon emissions rising again, the Government will fail to meet its target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. This article examines the weaknesses in the Labour Government's domestic record and assesses the significance of the recent transformation of climate change politics. Several obstacles to the design and delivery of more effective policies are identified, which can be categorised as either problems of 'environmental politics' or 'environmental governance'. It is argued that the recent politicisation of climate change has overcome some of these obstacles - albeit temporarily - but whether the pressure for further policy measures can be sustained, with a long-term impact on environmental governance, remains uncertain.

Title: Immigrants into Citizens/

Author: Patricia White

Abstract: This paper examines the citizenship test which is part of the UK naturalisation process. The test is based on the government publication *Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship*. A detailed analysis of its two editions (2004 and 2007) reveals that the conception of the citizen, and the picture of British government and society underlying each are very different. There is, additionally, a mismatch between the rationale offered for the *Life in the United Kingdom* test and what the latter can in fact test: the attitudes and civic virtues mentioned in the rationale are untestable on-line. A society which aspires to be a democracy, it is argued, needs to scrutinise carefully the fairness and democratic appropriateness of its procedures for admitting new citizens.

World Politics
Volume 60, Number 3, April 2008

Title: Left Government, Policy, and Corporatism

Author: David Rueda

Abstract: The author argues that to understand the relationship between partisan government and equality two fundamental things need to be done: separate the effects of partisanship on policy and of policy on the economy; and assess the influence of government partisanship once the mediating role of corporatism is accounted for. The main goal of this article is to explore the relationship between government partisanship, policy, and inequality at the lower half of the wage distribution. The analysis is motivated by a puzzling finding in previous work: the absence of government partisanship effects on earnings inequality. The author focuses on the role of three different policies: government employment, the generosity of the welfare state, and minimum wages.

Title: Economic Roots of Civil Wars and Revolutions in the Contemporary World

Author: Carles Boix

Abstract: To explain the distribution of civil wars, guerrilla warfare, and revolutionary outbreaks, the literature on modern political violence has shifted, broadly speaking, from a modernization perspective that emphasized the role of material conflict and of grievances to a more recent research program that stresses the geographical and organizational opportunities that insurgents may have to engage in violence. Drawing on those lines of inquiry equally, this article offers an integrated analytical model that considers both the motives and the opportunities of states and rebels.

Intelligence and National Security
Volume 23 Issue 4, August 2008

Title: British Intelligence and the Mandate of Palestine

Author: Calder Walton

Abstract: Recently declassified Security Service (MI5) records reveal, for the first time, the full extent of the threat that Zionist terrorism posed to British national security immediately after the Second World War. It is well established within the historical literature that after 1945 Britain faced violent campaigns by Jewish terrorist groups in the Mandate of Palestine. Hitherto unacknowledged in the historiography, however, is the fact that the threat of Zionist terrorism extended from Palestine to Britain itself.

Title: Cold War Pioneers in Combined Intelligence and Analysis

Author: Stephen V. Hoyt

Abstract: From its inception in 1947 until the late 1970s the primary missions of the United States Military Liaison Mission (USMLM) involved maintaining a presence in East Germany for confidence building measures and reporting on items related to indicators and warnings of hostilities initiated by the Soviet Army. While not abandoning its traditional missions, the unit underwent a major transformation in the early 1980s and became the first Humint integrated collection, analysis and production center.

Studies in Conflict & Terrorism
Volume 31 Issue 4, April 2008

Title: Harsh State Repression as a Cause of Suicide Bombing

Author: Bader Araj

Abstract: Although students of social movements have established that state repression strongly affects protesters' choice of tactics, this finding has been ignored by most analysts of suicide bombing. Based on data collected from various sources, including 88 interviews the author conducted in 2006 with senior leaders of six Palestinian political organizations and close relatives and friends of Palestinian suicide bombers, this article argues that harsh state repression is a major cause of suicide bombing. It shows that understanding the effect of state repression is crucial to clarifying many of the unsolved puzzles concerning the rationales of organizations that employ suicide bombing, the motivations of individual suicide bombers, and the reasons why this tactic has become popular in some societies.

Title: Connecting a Thousand Points of Hatred

Author: Justin Magouirk

Abstract: This article addresses a key debate within the terrorism literature—the relative importance of madrassahs for training terrorists. It argues that the two contending positions—madrassahs are not important for recruitment of terrorists and madrassahs are breeding grounds for terror—are both overstated. Using a dataset constructed from Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) members, the author finds that JI-linked radical madrassah exposure is strongly associated with terrorist activity and is associated with more important roles on terrorist operations in Indonesia. The article argues that traditional scholarly theories and public debates on the importance of madrassahs are misguided because they only address top-down ideological indoctrination.

Journal of African Economies
Volume 17, Number 2, March 2008

Title: Risk and Schooling Decisions in Rural Madagascar

Author: Flore Gubert

Abstract: Most households in rural Madagascar are engaged in agriculture and derive a large share of their income from the production of food or cash crops and from animal husbandry. However, agricultural yields can be extremely volatile due to weather conditions, pests, insects, rodents and other calamities. As a result, households record large fluctuations in their incomes that must be dealt with. Since the usual consumption-smoothing market mechanisms are quite limited in the Malagasy context, households need to rely on non-market mechanisms or to adopt multi-faceted strategies to cope with risk.

Title: Are Poor, Remote Areas Left behind in Agricultural Development

Author: Nicholas Minot

Abstract: The conventional wisdom in Africa is that economic reforms may have stimulated economic growth, but the benefits of this growth have been uneven, favoring urban households and farmers with good market access. This idea, although quite plausible, has rarely been tested empirically. In this paper, we develop a new approach to measuring trends in poverty and inequality and apply it to Tanzania in order to explore the relationship between rural poverty and market access.

Parliamentary Affairs
Volume 61, Number 2, April 2008

Title: Building Democratic and Responsible Global Governance

Author: Zlatko Sabic

Abstract: The emergence and growth of international parliamentary institutions (IPIs) is a phenomenon that needs a comprehensive evaluation. Their members, parliamentarians, are increasingly interested in participating in these institutions, which explains the dynamic growth of IPIs over the last few decades. IPIs also have a long history. The first among them, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, was founded in 1889.

Title: A Code of Conduct for Indonesia

Author: Bernice Ang

Abstract: Previous analyses have shown that the success of ethics reforms such as the adoption of codes of ethics and codes of conduct depends on whether legislators have homogeneous ethical standards. In this paper, we discuss why the DPD (upper chamber) and the DPR (lower chamber) of the Indonesian legislature have decided to enact a code of conduct. The paper also presents the results of a survey that we conducted in the Indonesian legislature.

European Journal of International Law
Volume 19, Number 3, June 2008

Title: Terrorist Crimes and International Co-operation

Author: Marcello Di Filippo

Abstract: Notwithstanding the emphasis placed on the need for concerted international action to confront the problem of terrorism, positive international law is far from treating the issue of defining the criminal notion of terrorism coherently; the discussion of such a notion is being made hostage [sic!] to the abuse of the term ‘terrorism’ in the course of the debate and to the confusion between an empirical description of a phenomenon and its treatment under criminal law. Proposing a core-definition approach, this article elaborates a notion based upon the basic rights of civilians and on the unacceptability of their violation by terrorist methods carried out by private organized groups. The definition proposed here, which does not recognize in the perpetrator’s motivations any material relevance because of the overwhelming importance of the value infringed, is able to minimize the relevance of some abused arguments (such as state terrorism or the treatment of ‘freedom fighters’), could quickly gain customary status and would prove useful in interpretation and in drafting exercises, both at international and national level.

Journal of Peace Research
July 2008, Volume 45, No. 4

Title: The Aftermath of Civil War

Author-Gary J. Milante

Abstract: This article introduces the special issue on 'The Aftermath of Civil War' and presents the research project from which the articles in this issue originate. The article presents a few empirical observations that demonstrate the increasing importance of the post-conflict situation for actors that engage to reduce the global incidence of armed conflict. The global incidence of conflict was reduced from 1992 to 2002, since there were more terminations than onsets. Although this trend seems to have halted, a scrutiny of the onsets shows that they increasingly are recurrences of conflicts that have been inactive for a period. In 2005 and 2006, there were no new conflicts.

Title: Post-Conflict Risks

Author- Paul Collier

Abstract: Post-conflict societies face two distinctive challenges: economic recovery and reduction of the risk of a recurring conflict. Aid and policy reforms have been found to be effective in economic recovery. In this article, the authors concentrate on the other challenge — risk reduction. The post-conflict peace is typically fragile: nearly half of all civil wars are due to post-conflict relapses. The authors find that economic development substantially reduces risks, but it takes a long time. They also find evidence that UN peacekeeping expenditures significantly reduce the risk of renewed war. The effect is large: doubling expenditure reduces the risk from 40% to 31%. In contrast to these results, the authors cannot find any systematic influence of elections on the reduction of war risk. Therefore, post-conflict elections should be promoted as intrinsically desirable rather than as mechanisms for increasing the durability of the post-conflict peace.

Journal of Palestine Studies
July 2008, Vol. 37, No. 4

Title: Enclave Micropolis: The Paradoxical Case of Ramallah/al-Bireh

Author: Lisa Taraki

Abstract: Among the consequences of the consolidation of the Israeli closure regime have been the contraction of Palestinians' social worlds and the emergence of new forms of localism. Unlike the more parochial West Bank towns of Nablus, Hebron, and Jenin, Ramallah/al-Bireh has taken on many of the cosmopolitan aspects of larger metropolises—Beirut, Cairo, Tunis—because of a combination of historical influences, present-day migration patterns, and political realities. The result is a paradoxical “enclave city” whose sights are oftentimes more fixed on the global rather than the national level.

Title: Secrets and Lies: The Persecution of Muhammad Salah

Author: Erica Thompson

Abstract: The case of Muhammad Salah, a Palestinian-American grocer and Chicago resident, is the longest-running terrorism case in the United States. He was brought to trial on terrorism-funding charges in October 2006 after a thirteen-year saga that began with his January 1993 arrest in Israel as the “world commander of Hamas” and that continued in the United States following his release from Israeli prison in late 1997. Though acquitted of all terrorism-related charges by a U.S. federal jury in Chicago in February 2007, Salah was convicted on a single count of obstruction of justice.

International Studies Perspectives
Volume 9 Issue 3, August 2008

Title: American Democratic Interventionism

Author: Constance G. Anthony

Abstract: There is an American foreign policy tradition in respect to military interventions in the Third World, which validates the importance of democratic ideals as central to the success of the policy. Woodrow Wilson is the founding father of this tradition. While the normative commitments of Wilson made sense in Victorian America and can probably be considered innovative for his day, the manifest lack of success in transferring democracy through military intervention leads us to question the character of Wilson's interventions and the ideals that motivated them. This essay will consider the content of Wilson's democratic theory and its integration into ideals of national mission and destiny; how this became the philosophical basis for policies of military intervention; the assessments offered by historians of the success of this policy; and the role of racial paternalism in legitimating the policy at the time.

Title: The New American Empire

Author: David A. Lake

Abstract: The phrase "American empire" has reentered the popular lexicon but remains contested. What does it mean to say that the United States is an empire? Why has this term resurfaced after so many decades to describe the United States in the new millennium? What does this mean for American foreign policy? I attempt to answer these questions by making three interrelated points. First, empire is a particular authority relationship between two polities constituted by extreme forms of both security and economic hierarchy. Second, the United States today is not an empire but it does exert substantial authority over other states in a range of hierarchical relationships. Third, although not an empire, the United States is acting in an imperialist fashion and, paradoxically, is undermining the international authority that it has cultivated and nurtured over the last century.

Title: The Emperor Wore Cowboy Boots

Author: Jennifer Sterling-Folker

Abstract: Why does it matter if the United States is an empire in any objectively definable sense? All this academic and political pundit hand-wringing, over whether the United States should technically be labeled an empire or not, seems oddly out of step with the sorts of egregious foreign policy behaviors the United States engages in on a daily basis. Yet the words we use to describe something do matter a great deal to what we see and how we act in the world. In this paper, I argue that the closer one looks at the debate over the empire designation, the more one begins to see an underlying dynamic of political self-delusion that is endemic to the American power project.

Contemporary Security Policy
Volume 29 Issue 2, August 2008

Title: Security in the Persian Gulf

Author: Gawdat Bahgat

Abstract: The toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003 has drastically altered the strategic and security landscape in the Persian Gulf and the broader Middle East. This article examines Iranian, Iraqi, and Saudi security perceptions of and policies towards their immediate shared region following the American invasion. It argues that despite other changes, their policies are still driven more by national interests and less by ideological orientations.

Title: Lacunae in the Study of Culture in International Security

Author: Christopher P. Twomey

Abstract: Two separate strands of political science literature have reinvigorated the study of culture in international security in recent years through their methodological rigor and empiric accuracy: constructivism and organizational theory. It is important to recognize, though, that these literatures speak to particular roles of culture in strategic studies - and not those roles studied in the strategic culture literature. Indeed, that literature has not been as successful as the other two, suffering from over-determined predictions, empirical failures, and an unresolved debate about epistemology. Thus, there is a perplexing lacuna in the centre of this field: a weak core of cultural analysis in international security coupled with stronger works at the periphery.

Title: Russo-Chinese Strategic Partnership

Author: Thomas S. Wilkins

Abstract: Strategic Partnership represents a new mode of state-to-state alignment. Yet our understanding of this phenomenon is obscured by a lack of definitional precision, resulting in a frequent misapplication of the term. This article seeks to rectify this shortcoming and apply some conceptual rigor to the analysis of strategic partnerships in international relations. This is achieved through the employment of a model drawn from the field of organization studies.

Economic & Political Weekly
Vol. 43, No.44, November 1-7, 2008

Title: The Technician in the Establishment: Obama's America and the World

Author: Vinay Lal

Abstract: On November 4, Barack Obama will in all likelihood be elected the 44th president of the United States. As against the euphoria in the rest of the world about such a presidency, this article reads into his 2006 book (The Audacity of Hope) and his campaign speeches, a different kind of Obama. He emerges as a technician who is best equipped to fix broken policies and get America working once again. One can only hope that a US that is once again working does not mean a US that is more efficient in its exercise of military domination and even more successful in projecting its own vision of human affairs as the only road to the good life. To believe in Obama, one needs to hope against hope.

Title: Seven Triggers of the US Financial Crisis

Author: Rajendra Chitale

Abstract: What were the factors that catalysed the financial meltdown in the United States? A listing and discussion of seven triggers of the crisis.

Economic & Political Weekly
VOL 43 No12- 13, April 4, 2008

Title: Constituent Assembly and the Revolutionary Left in Nepal

Authors: Mahesh Maskey, Mary Des Chene

Abstract: As the elections to the constituent assembly draw near, the question in Nepal seems not to be whether there will be a democratic republic, but rather what kind of democratic republic it will be. “Bourgeois democrats” would want to preserve the country’s capitalistic character, while the “revolutionary left” will make every effort to give it a transitional character to bring socialism on to the nation’s agenda. “The reformist left” will vacillate between the two courses but predominantly forge alliances with the “bourgeois democrats”.

Title: Territoriality, Indigeneity and Rights in the North-east India

Author: Sanjib Baruah

Abstract: For the people of the troubled north-east, citizenship both of India and of a state can provide an alternative political idiom to that of indigeneity and territoriality. The obvious advantage of multi-level citizenship is that it could define political communities in civic terms, and introduce a dynamic element of incorporating new members. It could make a decisive break from the notion of ethnic homelands that owes so much to the colonial propensity of fixing tribes to their supposedly natural habitats.

Title: Independence, Autonomy and Freedom in Kashmir

Author: Balraj Puri

Abstract: The concept of “Azadi” in Kashmir has been misunderstood by those who are fighting for independence, misused by those who are swearing by autonomy and has not been implemented in its substantial meaning in Kashmir.

Far Eastern Economic Review
November 2008

Title: China's Land Reform

Authors: Tom Orlik and Scott Rozelle

Abstract: For China's 700 million strong rural populations, the light of property rights may finally be appearing at the end the Communist-era tunnel. Thirty years of economic reform have left the countryside significantly better off than before, but neither farmers nor migrants are yet able to participate fully in the benefits of China's ongoing modernization. That may start to change if positive signals from China's leaders translate into concrete policies for turning farmers' contractual land-use rights into legal title to land.

Title: Asia's Challenges for Obama

Author: Brian P. Klein

Abstract: The Obama administration will come into office at a time of relative calm in East Asia. Cross-Strait relations are at a high point, territorial issues between China and Vietnam are being addressed amicably and Japan-China relations are progressing smoothly with reciprocal military ports of call and strong trade ties. Against this favorable backdrop lie several potential difficulties, including serious concerns over North Korean leadership succession, the affects of a broad and lengthy global economic downturn and the risks inherent in China's next economic stage of development.

Title: Affirming Democracy as an Asian Value

Author: Rana Siu Inboden

Abstract: On Sept. 7, 2007, at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Sydney, U.S. President George W. Bush called for the formation of a new regional organization in which "free nations will work together to support democratic values, strengthen democratic institutions, and assist those who are working to build and sustain free societies across the Asia Pacific region." Soon thereafter, Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, the United States and East Timor joined together to form the Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership (APDP), Asia's first regional democracy organization. While the APDP is still in its infancy, its existence creates uncomfortable questions for authoritarian rulers in the region who claim that democracy, human rights and rule of law are "Western values" that are irrelevant to Asia.

Title: Cambodia's New Intellectuals

Author: Geoffrey Cain

Abstract: After France granted Cambodia independence in 1953, an impassioned renaissance swept Phnom Penh in the 1960s, a resurgent Angkorian nationalism alongside a potpourri of foreign influences that included Beatlemania and existentialism. Many saw the city—once called the "Pearl of Asia"—a neutral safe haven from the havoc

that rocked neighboring Vietnam and Thailand. Artists, writers and scholars frequented Phnom Penh's beautified universities and cafés, discussing the great works of Jean-Paul Sartre and Picasso, while musicians and dancers revived traditional Khmer styles from the country's Angkor-era height. Even then-Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the movement's figurehead, was a filmmaker and singer who led a jazz band.