

Comparative Political Studies
October 2012; 45 (10)

Amplifying Silence
Uncertainty and Control Parables in Contemporary China

Author- Rachel E. Stern

Abstract-

Well-known tools of state coercion, such as administrative punishment, imprisonment, and violence, affect far fewer than 1% of Chinese journalists and lawyers. What, then, keeps the other 99% in line? Building on work detailing control strategies in illiberal states, the authors suggest that the answer is more complicated than the usual story of heavy-handed repression. Instead, deep-rooted uncertainty about the boundaries of permissible political action magnifies the effect of each crackdown. Unsure of the limits of state tolerance, lawyers and journalists frequently self-censor, effectively controlling themselves. But self-censorship does not always mean total retreat from political concerns. Rather, didactic stories about transgression help the politically inclined map the gray zone between (relatively) safe and unacceptably risky choices. For all but the most optimistic risk takers, these stories—which we call control parables—harden limits on activism by illustrating a set of prescriptions designed to prevent future clashes with authority. The rules for daily behavior, in short, are not handed down from the pinnacle of the state but jointly written (and rewritten) by Chinese public professionals and their government overseers.

The Effect of Elections on Public Opinion Toward Democracy

Author- Mark Tessler

Abstract-

Given the importance of developing a democratic culture for the long-term survival of democracy, it is crucial to understand whether and how public support for democracy changes over time in response to different events, particularly those that may contribute to democratization. Elections are a key institution associated with democracy; but elections are also found in most nondemocratic regimes, raising questions about whether electoral experiences affect the way that ordinary citizens think about democracy.

Journal of Conflict Resolution

October 2012; 56 (5)

Lame Ducks and Coercive Diplomacy

Author- Kyle Haynes

Abstract-

The literature on “audience costs” in International Relations suggests that a democratic leader’s electoral accountability lends him or her a significant advantage in crisis–bargaining situations. But if elections are the primary source of a democratic leader’s accountability, a democracy’s advantage in crisis situations should disappear when its leader is no longer eligible for reelection. Accordingly, this article asks whether “lame–duck” presidents, those who are constitutionally prohibited from reelection, are systematically less effective than their reelectable counterparts in crisis–bargaining situations. Using a data set of all post–World War II militarized interstate disputes initiated by presidential democracies, the author tests several hypotheses regarding lame–duck crisis behavior derived from Fearon’s bargaining model. The findings generally support the audience costs model. Observed patterns of threat reciprocation and crisis hostility are consistent with Fearon’s predictions. Crisis outcomes, however, do not appear to be affected by a democratic leader’s lame–duck status.

The Violent Consequences of the Nation

Author- Gretchen Schrock–Jacobson

Abstract-

Many scholars assume that nationalism is inherently aggressive without systematically exploring the relationship between nationalism and interstate war initiation. Thus, many questions are unanswered. Does nationalism increase the risk of war and if so, how? Which types of nationalism are most likely to trigger warfare? The author argues that nationalist persuasion campaigns produce several mechanisms that encourage conflict. Nationalism provokes “national enemies” and their foreign allies, generates biased strategic assumptions, creates domestic interest groups that favor war, permits the suppression of opposition groups, and promotes “nationalist bidding wars.” When these processes exist, nationalism should increase the probability of war initiation.

European Journal of International Law

Volume 23 Issue 3, August 2012

Human Rights and the Environment

Author- Alan Boyle

Abstract-

The relationship between human rights and environmental protection in international law is far from simple or straightforward. A new attempt to codify and develop international law on this subject was initiated by the UNHRC in 2011. What can it say that is new or that develops the existing corpus of human rights law? Three obvious possibilities are explored in this article.

Free Lunches? WTO as Public Good, and the WTO's View of Public Goods

Author- Petros C. Mavroidis

Abstract-

The WTO can be viewed as a public good in that it provides a forum for negotiations which also produces the necessary legal framework to act as a support for agreed liberalization. To avoid any misunderstandings, in this article the discussion focuses on the WTO as a forum and a set of agreements, not on free trade. Since the legal agreements coming under its aegis are for good reasons incomplete, the WTO provides an additional public good by 'completing' the original contract through case law. The importance of this feature increases over time as tariffs are driven towards irrelevance. In turn, the WTO has no particular attitude towards public goods provided by its Members.

Comparative Political Studies

July 2012; 45 (7)

Making Democratic Citizens
The Effects of Migration Experience on Political Attitudes in Central and Eastern Europe

Author- Romana Careja

Abstract-

This article examines the effects of migration experience on political attitudes in Central and Eastern European countries. The rationale for this quest is the hypothesis that contact with democratic contexts translates into democratic political attitudes, for which evidence is so far inconclusive. In this article, we are interested to see whether migrants returning from Western countries display different political attitudes than their fellow nonmigrant citizens. The analysis of survey data shows that migration experience diversifies the array of political attitudes: Although migrants are more likely to trust EU institutions and to try to convince friends in political discussions, they do not differ from nonmigrants in their attitudes toward domestic institutions. Based on earlier works on determinants of political attitudes, the authors argue that migration experience has a significant effect only when these attitudes are related to objects that are associated with improvements in the migrants' material and cognitive status.

Is There a Necessary Condition for Democracy? The Role of State Capacity in Postcommunist Countries

Author- Jessica Fortin

Abstract-

Although postcommunist countries share a common past, the variability of outcomes in both democracy and economic reform is very large in the region. Only a few countries have become Western-type democracies in Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic. By contrast, the norm is clearly not democracy for other Soviet successor states. In this article, the author attributes this variation to differences in the infrastructural capacity of the state.

International Studies Quarterly

Volume 56, Issue 3, September 2012

Anti-Globalization or Alter-Globalization? Mapping the Political Ideology of the Global Justice Movement

Author- MANFRED B. STEGER

Abstract-

Globalization has unsettled conventional, nationally based political belief systems, opening the door to emerging new global political ideologies. While much analytic focus has been on ideational transformations related to market globalism (neoliberalism), little attention has been given to its growing number of ideological challengers. Drawing on data collected from 45 organizations connected to the World Social Forum, this article examines the political ideas of the global justice movement, the key antagonist to market globalism from the political Left. Employing morphological discourse analysis and quantitative content analysis, the article assesses the ideological coherence of “justice globalism” against Michael [Freeden’s \(1996\)](#) three criteria of distinctiveness, context-bound responsiveness, and effective decontestation. We find that justice globalism displays ideological coherence and should be considered a maturing political “alter”-ideology of global significance. The evidence presented in this article suggests the ongoing globalization of the twenty-first-century ideological landscape.

Capitalist Development and Civil War

Author- MICHAEL MOUSSEAU

Abstract-

Capitalism has emerged as a force for peace in studies of interstate conflict. Is capitalism also a force for peace within nations? This article shows how a market-capitalist economy—one where most citizens normally obtain their livelihoods contracting in the market—creates citizen-wide preferences for universal freedom, peace, and the democratic rule of law. Prior research has corroborated the theory’s predictions linking market-capitalism with liberal preferences, human rights, and peace among nations. Here, Granger tests of causality show that market-capitalism causes higher income, but higher income does not cause market-capitalism, and from 1961 to 2001 not a single civil war, insurgency, or rebellion occurred in any nation with a market-capitalist economy. Market-capitalism is the strongest variable in the civil conflict literature, and many of the most robust relationships in this literature are spurious—including income, state capacity, and oil-export dependency.

International Studies Perspectives

Volume 13, Issue 3, August 2012

Open Access in International Relations

Author- Nils Petter Gleditsch

Abstract-

The electronic revolution in academic publishing brings promises as well as pitfalls. The main promises are greater efficiency, vastly greater access to the journal literature, a more equitable global sharing of intellectual resources, and hopefully improved quality. Open access—free entry to the electronic version of the journal literature—is in many ways a logical continuation of this development and will break the trend toward accelerating journal costs. But if the subscription revenue simply disappears, neither publishers nor editors will have the necessary funding to keep up peer review and other editorial routines. One alternative is to levy page charges for publication. Intermediate models are also possible, where the journal may keep its copyright to the final edited product while authors are allowed to post the final submitted version on their Web site. At the moment, open access is uncommon in international relations, but the publishers and owners of journals, including academic societies such as ISA, would be wise to think through these issues before they become acute. This symposium is a contribution to that process

Immigrant Youth, hip-hop, and Feminist Pedagogy

Author- Barbara Franz

Abstract-

This article describes a local social work project currently operating in the Viennese suburbs of Austria with second-generation migrant teenagers (who come mostly from working class guestworker families of Turkish and Yugoslav origin). This project which applies feminist pedagogy is successfully providing a platform for underprivileged teens to express themselves through Rap music and hip-hop (by enabling access to the Internet and music studios), thereby offering an alternative to violence and drug use. The project promotes equal access opportunities for young women to articulate their adolescent feelings and angst in creative and often remarkable ways. This study raises the importance of feminist perspectives in applied local politics and the effectiveness of art practices as a powerful tool for transforming integration conflicts. Despite national xenophobic policies, some urban, often small-scale alternative integration programs empower immigrant youth through creative projects and the caring relationships that develop between teenagers and their mentors.

Survival

Volume 54, Issue 5, 2012

The Battle over America's Foreign Policy Doctrine

Author- Amir Stepak

Abstract-

Obama's foreign policies and rhetoric are a major departure from that which has prevailed in the United States for generations. Republicans have a different idea.

The Republican Challenge to Obama's Russia Policy

Author- Ruth Deyermond

Abstract-

The reset in US–Russia relations has not been universally welcomed. There is much opposition within the Republican Party elite over both individual policies and the approach as a whole.

Iran, the US and Weapons of Mass Destruction

Author- Hossein Mousavian

Abstract-

Serious efforts to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would help Iran become more forthcoming in resolving questions about its own nuclear programme.

Journal of Palestine Studies

Vol. 41, No. 4, Summer 2012

Gaza's Tunnel Phenomenon: The Unintended Dynamics of Israel's Siege

Author-Nicolas Pelham

Abstract-

This article traces the extraordinary development of Gaza's tunnel phenomenon over the past decade in response to Israel's economic asphyxiation of the small coastal enclave. It focuses on the period since Hamas's 2007 takeover of the Strip, which saw the industry's transformation from a clandestine, makeshift operation into a major commercial enterprise, regulated, taxed, and

bureaucratized. In addition to describing the particulars of the tunnel complex, the article explores its impact on Gaza's socioeconomic hierarchy, strategic orientation, and Islamist rule. The larger geopolitical context, especially with regard to Israel, the Sinai Peninsula, and the Nile Valley, is also discussed. The author argues that contrary to the intentions of its architects, the siege precipitated the reconfiguration of Gaza's economy and enabled its rulers to circumvent the worst effects of the blockade.

Israel, the Palestinians, and the 2012 Republican Primaries: Fantasy Politics on Display

Author-Lawrence Davidson

Abstract-

This essay looks at the 2012 Republican primaries through the lens of “localism” and how candidates and lobbies manipulate for their own purposes the ignorance of their voting constituencies on issues not relevant to their everyday lives. After a discussion of the wider process, the piece focuses on the eight leading candidates in the presidential primary race with regard to Israel and Palestine, with an overview of their positions and advisers. It ends with some reflections on the consequences of the peculiarly American mix of localism, national politics, and special interest groups.

Studies in Conflict & Terrorism

Volume 35, Issue 10, 2012

Poverty, Ideology and Terrorism

Author- Alessandro Orsini

Abstract-

This article focuses on the role of ideology in the decision of people who are not from societies' worst-off socioeconomic groups to join a left-wing terrorist organization. Taking up the sociological perspective of Max Weber, Clifford Geertz, and Raymond Boudon, the author introduces the concept of the “terrorist of the first hour” and considers ideology as a type of social bond. The concept of ideology is here broken down into four dimensions: Social, Temporal, Affective, and Moral (STAM bond). This article also presents data on the ages, sex, educational level, and occupation of the Italian people arrested (2,730) or convicted (528) for crimes of terrorism from 1970 to 2011. Data on Italian terrorists were provided by the General Department of Prisoners of the Ministry of Justice.

Suicidality and Suicide Bombing Revisited

Author- Bader Araj

Abstract-

Ariel Merari purports to demonstrate a tendency on the part of suicide bombers to be motivated by depression and suicidal tendencies. However, he misconstrues the present authors' critique of his work and misinterprets their research. By clarifying both issues, this article seeks to substantiate three claims: (1) Merari's sampling procedure precludes generalization; (2) interviewer and contextual effects probably bias his findings; (3) evidence challenges his inferences.

Europe Asia Studies

Volume 64, Issue 10, 2012

Russian Educational Reform and the Introduction of the Unified State Exam

Author- Evgeniya Luk'yanova

Abstract-

The introduction of the Unified State Examination (USE) in Russian higher education has been the subject of much debate. One of the primary factors hindering the transition has been ambivalent public and professional perceptions of the effectiveness of the USE in addressing the problems associated with inequalities of access to higher education. This essay contributes to research in this area through a case study analysing the introduction of the USE in Ul'yanovsk Oblast'. It draws on survey data collected from pupils and parents of final year high school students about the USE reforms and explores the reasons why the transition to USE did not proceed as smoothly as its creators might have envisaged. Here the negative perceptions of the high-school graduates and parents reveal that the reforms have been judged to be largely ineffective with regard to reducing the role of material and regional inequalities in determining access to higher education, and in addressing how the differing institutional status of ordinary 'comprehensive' and elite, specialised schools continues to create inequalities in access to higher education in Russia.

Locating Ethnic Identity: Russian German Identity Construction in Ul'yanovsk

Author- Sophie Mamattah

Abstract-

This essay presents a micro-level analysis of ethnic identity construction among ethnic Germans resident in Ul'yanovsk. The essay explores the local and trans-local situation of this group within a historical framework which informs the group's understanding of how to 'be German'. It shows respondents' participation in 'return'-based, family-orientated diaspora networks. Analysis of the divergent discourses that emerge around the theme and experiences of mutual visits and travel to the Federal Republic of Germany and the differing identity outcomes which result are discussed. This reveals the ways in which transnational links can be utilised by non-movers both to

problematise and to augment their local identities. This, in turn, uncovers the continuing relevance of issues around post-Soviet 'returns' for contemporary identity-construction and highlights the potential for analysis of non-movers as participants in migration networks.

Third World Quarterly

Volume 33, Issue 9, 2012

The War on Drugs in Mexico

Author- Adam David Morton

Abstract-

This article focuses on the continued attractiveness of 'failed state' strategic thinking that stretches across policy-making and academic circles and links it to the issue of the War on Drugs in Mexico. It does so in order to challenge, if not reject, caricatured representations of 'failed states'. Moreover, it offers an alternative understanding of the War on Drugs and issues of state crisis in Mexico. Rather than assume that state power is rooted within clear and immobile boundaries, it is more fruitful to rethink transformations in state space that cannot be isolated from underlying historical patterns of development and political economy. A political economy approach to state space is therefore better able to draw attention to the twin geopolitical processes shaping the War on Drugs in Mexico: (1) the geographic restructuring of the trade in cocaine and (2) the coeval onset and consolidation of neoliberalism.

Challenging Global Neoliberalism? The global political economy of China's capital controls

Author- Sacha Dierckx

Abstract-

This article engages with critical **ipe** scholars who have examined the rise of China and its impact on the neoliberal world order by analysing whether China poses a challenge to the neoliberal norm of free movement of capital. We argue that China's capital control regime is marked by a contradiction between its domestic social relations of production and its global geo-economic ambitions. On one hand, the key **raison d'être** of China's capital controls is to protect and consolidate an investment-led accumulation regime that redistributes income and wealth from Chinese workers to its state-owned enterprise sector. Dismantling these controls would result in changing social relations of production that would not necessarily benefit Chinese industrial and financial capital. On the other hand, China's accumulation regime has found itself increasingly constrained by the dynamics of US monetary hegemony, making the contestation of US structural monetary power a key global geo-economic ambition of China's ruling elites. In this regard, China would have to challenge the dominance of the US dollar by promoting the international role of the renminbi and developing liquid financial markets.

International Security

Fall 2012, Vol. 37, No. 2

Israel's War in Gaza

Author- Benjamin S. Lambeth

Abstract-

For more than two decades, the pursuit of “lessons learned” from major combat encounters has been an area of sustained activity within the defense establishments of the United States and its principal allies around the world. Yet as often as not, such efforts have, at best, yielded lessons merely indicated and identified, since they cannot be said to have been truly learned until their prescriptions have been accepted and assimilated into an armed service's doctrine, force development, and operating procedures. In one notable instance in late December 2008 and early January 2009, however, an exemplar of lessons learned and incorporated was offered by the twenty-three-day campaign conducted by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) against the radical Islamist organization Hamas in the Gaza Strip. That performance came on the heels of the IDF's less impressive showing more than two years before against the Iranian-sponsored terrorist movement Hezbollah during Israel's 2006 war in Lebanon. By any measure, Israel's comparative success in Gaza was a direct result of teachings gained and duly incorporated into the IDF's combat repertoire by Israeli civilian and military leaders in response to their earlier misadventure in Lebanon.

China's Fear of Contagion

Author- M.E. Sarotte

Abstract-

The Tiananmen Square massacre of June 1989 remains a taboo topic in the People's Republic of China (PRC); the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) still detains participants and suppresses online, popular, and scholarly discussions of it. The twentieth anniversary of the end of the transatlantic Cold War, however, saw the release of new sources from high-level contacts between the CCP and foreign leaders. These new sources, combined with older ones, show the extent to which Chinese political leaders were obsessed with the democratic changes in Eastern Europe and were willing to take violent action to prevent similar events on their territory. This obsession has received mention from a few scholars, but until now it has played too small a role in the current understanding of Tiananmen. New evidence documents that one of the main motivations for the CCP in deploying the army in June 1989—on the same day as semi-free elections in Poland—was its desire to combat possible contagion from the events in Europe.

Foreign Affairs

Volume 91, Number 6, November/December 2012

Broken BRICs

Author-Ruchir Sharma

Abstract-

The most talked-about global economic trend in recent years has been “the rise of the rest,” with Brazil, Russia, India, and China leading the charge. But international economic convergence is a myth. Few countries can sustain unusually fast growth for a decade, and even fewer, for more than that. Now that the boom years are over, the BRICs are crumbling; the international order will change less than expected.

The Problem With the Pivot

Author -Robert S. Ross

Abstract-

The Obama administration has responded to Chinese assertiveness by reinforcing U.S. military and diplomatic links to the Asia-Pacific, to much acclaim at home and in the region. But the “pivot” is based on a serious misreading of its target. China remains far weaker than the United States and is deeply insecure. To make Beijing more cooperative, Washington should work to assuage China’s anxieties, not exploit them.

The Future of Special Operations

Author- Linda Robinson

Abstract-

With the rise of endless irregular wars playing out in the shadows, special operations have never been more important to U.S. national security. But policymakers and commanders focus too much on dramatic raids and high-tech drone strikes. They need to pay more attention to an even more important task these forces take on: training foreign troops.

American Foreign Policy Interests

Volume 34, Issue 5, 2012

Russian Foreign Policy at the Outset of Putin's Third Term

Author- Michael Rywkin

Abstract-

The article deals with the prospect of continuity in Russian foreign policy during Vladimir Putin's third term as president of the Russian Federation. It concentrates on two documents: "The Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation," published in 2008, and Putin's "Russia and the Changing World," published in July 2012. The key difference between the two is an increased emphasis on securing the Russian sphere of influence in the "Near-Abroad" and Russian prestige on the international arena. Except for the need to respond to new circumstances, no important shift has been found in the direction of Russian foreign policy, with reassertion of Great Power status abroad and continuity and stability at home remaining principal objectives.

Al Qaeda in Yemen Pushed Back, but Terrorism Threat Remains Strong

Author- Eva Sohlman

Abstract-

This article aims to assess the strength of Al Qaeda and its allies in the Arabian Peninsula after the Yemeni government, with the help of a U.S.-backed military campaign, pushed them out of the southern provinces of Abyan and Shabwa in June. Despite the gains of the new president, Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi, the Islamist fighters have shown that they are still capable of launching lethal attacks when and where they want. They continue to pose a significant threat to Yemen and to Western powers. President Hadi now faces huge challenges; the international community *must* continue to give him firm support—not only in fighting Al Qaeda and handling a reorganization of a divided military, but also in backing a democratic transition and stopping a worsening humanitarian crisis. The fear is that Hadi, who has failed to provide the population with basic services such as clean water, electricity, and health care, might lose the support, hearts, and minds of Yemen's citizenry. This would play into the hands of Al Qaeda. Last, the article looks at America's foreign policy in Yemen and its controversial expanded drones program as experts call for a broader, more comprehensive, and long-term U.S. approach in the country.

Studies in Conflict & Terrorism

Volume 35, Issue 11, 2012

Becoming Patani Warriors

Author- Sascha Helbardt

Abstract-

Focusing on the case of Thailand's ongoing insurgency in its southern Malay Muslim majority region, this article examines the circumstances surrounding individual's choices to engage in violent revolt and their conformity and non-conformity with the norms and disciplines of the movement in which they operate. Insurgent-driven violence in Thailand's southern border provinces has attracted considerable attention, but little has been published about the people who become "Patani Warriors" (*juwae*). Based on the

authors' direct encounters with current and former insurgents and study of Thai official documentation and captured insurgent propaganda material, this article presents the most detailed information currently available on southern Thailand's shadowy fighters. We argue that there is no single type of Malay Muslim insurgent: this variegated reality defies the normative ideals projected in insurgent's indoctrination material while it also poses a challenge for the Thai authorities to define in simple terms those who oppose the state.

A Basic Model Explaining Terrorist Group Organizational Structure

Author- Joshua Kilberg

Abstract-

Terrorist groups strive to balance efficiency with their need for security. This article examines the factors that affect a group's choice of organizational structure. I classify 254 groups from the Global Terrorism Database into one of four basic structures: market, all-channel, hub-spoke, or bureaucracy. The results of a multinomial logistic regression reveal that as secret organizations, terrorist groups are not just driven by achieving efficiencies in their organization but rather by protecting against infiltration and threats. Internal factors such as target selection, operational pace, ideology, and stated goals shape a group's structure. External environmental factors such as political rights, civil liberties, polity durability, and state wealth also help shape a group's structure.

European Journal of International Relations
September 2012; 18 (3)

A 'Confucian Long Peace' in pre-Western East Asia

Author- Robert E. Kelly

Abstract-

International Relations theory about East Asia has increasingly argued that East Asia before Western penetration enjoyed a protracted peace. As explanations, a Chinese military hegemony would fit realist theory fairly well, while a cultural peace based on shared Confucian norms would be a significant anomaly. A Confucian Long Peace challenges widely held, albeit Eurocentric, realist presumptions including the perils of anarchy, the arms-racing and misperception of the security dilemma, and the regularity of power balancing. This article therefore investigates, first, whether such a peace did in fact exist, and, second, whether this might be attributed to Confucianism. A cultural peace theory requires a strong anti-war cultural norm and a shared sense of community. Skepticism is established by examining three comparative cultural spaces that nonetheless did not enjoy a culturally informed peace: the classical Greek city-state

system, early modern Christendom, and the contemporary Arab state system. All were deeply riven and competitive. Nevertheless, empirical investigation of the last Chinese (Qing) dynasty before the Western arrival (1644–1839) demonstrates that it was remarkably peaceful toward its Confucian neighbors, while more ‘normally’ exploiting its power asymmetry against non-Confucian ones. Process-tracing specialized Chinese practices toward fellow Confucians suggests that the low Confucian war finding emanates from cultural restraint.

America’s military interventionism

Author- Shiping Tang

Abstract-

By synthesizing material forces with ideational forces more organically via a social evolutionary approach, we advance a deeper understanding about post-World War II American military interventionism. We argue that post-World War II American military interventionism — that is, the American elites’ and public’s support for America’s military intervention abroad — cannot be understood with ideational or psychological forces alone. Rather, two crucial material variables, namely, geography and aggregate power amplified by superior technological prowess, are indispensable for understanding the propensity for the United States to intervene militarily abroad. These two factors have powerfully shielded the American elites and public from the horrendous devastation of war. As a result, compared to their counterparts in other major states, American citizens and elites have tended to be less repelled by the prospect of war. The outcome is that since World War II the United States has been far more active in military intervention overseas than other major states.

Asian Affairs

Volume 43, Issue 2, 2012

ASIA'S HYBRID DYNASTIES

Author- Mark R. Thompson

Abstract-

Political dynasties seem to flourish in Asia, whatever the political system. But this is not a relapse into traditional rule. Political dynasties are modern hybrids in which elite political aims are linked to popular norms of charismatic legitimacy. They are found in non-democratic regimes, electoral democracies and democratic movements, providing key advantages in a context of weak

institutions or institutional decay. The author's detailed analysis of the situation in countries as varied as North Korea and India, Singapore and Thailand, Japan and the Philippines, shows that the descendents of charismatic leaders play a major role in politics in Asia. For they are often the key to the survival of a regime, a party or a movement.

MYANMAR: FROM ARMY RULE TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE

Author- Robert H. Taylor

Abstract-

The recent turn of events in Myanmar has surprised and puzzled those in the West who formerly condemned the military government, yet now seem keen to visit and be seen with Aung San Suu Kwei. The article suggests that the West's analysis of the previous situation was badly flawed. On the basis of an alternative narrative of the last twenty years, the author argues that what is now happening is not an abrupt change of direction, but rather a continuation of a policy line followed by the army for many years. Their concern has always been with national security. The recent deals with the many ethnic-based insurgent groups provide a basis on which it is possible for them to change focus and promote the political and economic strength of the country. This article was written before the results of the 1 April election were known, but suggests that, whatever the outcome, many of the problems which plagued previous regimes will persist.