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World Futures



* **The World Ahead** (Special Issue). *Foreign Affairs*, Nov-Dec 2010, 204p. "Today, unlike 20 years ago, there is widespread recognition of a long list of simmering conflicts, unsettling trends, and mounting global problems." The 14 essays include such topics as the future of American power by Joseph Nye, Hillary Clinton on civilian power, the consequences of US fiscal irresponsibility (federal debt could reach 90% of GDP in 10 years), the need to redefine "security" for an economic-centered world, the difficulty of integrating rising powers (Brazil, China, India), low fertility and population aging worldwide, the rise of religion around the world, the need for a globalized clean energy revolution, the questionable security benefits of America's worldwide system of >1,000 military bases and stations, the return of Asia to the world stage, impacts of the infotech revolution, and avoiding famine in Africa. **(WORLD FUTURES)**

* **Globalization: The Greatest Hits. A Global Studies Reader.** Edited by Manfred B. Steger (Prof of Global Studies, Melbourne Inst of Tech; Fellow, Globalization Research Center, U of Hawaii). Boulder CO: Paradigm Publishers, June 2010, 320p, \$24.95pb. Global studies emerged in the 1980s; Steger selects and edits 20 of the most influential pieces on globalization out of a vast repertoire of writing, and explains their interdependence. Chapters cover globalization of markets (Theodore Levitt), global cultural economy (Arjun Appadurai), globalization of modernity (Anthony Giddens), the global city model (Saskia Sassen), globalization as an ascendant paradigm (James Mittelman), the promise of global institutions (Joseph Stieglitz), five meanings of global civil society (Mary Kaldor), the new terrorists (Olivier Roy), American power after 9/11 (Manfred B. Steger), the world as a polder (Jared Diamond), emergence of world social forums (William McNeill), etc. **(WORLD FUTURES)**

***The Atlas of Human Rights: Mapping Violations of Freedom around the Globe.** Andrew Fagan (deputy director, Human Rights Centre, U of Essex). Berkeley CA: University of California Press, Aug 2010/128p/\$21.95pb (copublished with Myriad Editions Ltd). In the post 9/11 world, governments are using the threat of terrorism to justify tightening national security and restricting basic human rights. Addresses the implications of this trend, and judicial violations or legal restrictions that permit state-sponsored torture, indefinite detention, capital punishment, and police brutality. Charts both the progress and the limitation of free expression and media censorship, and details the geographic status of sexual freedom, racism, religious freedom, rights of the disabled, women's rights, sex slavery, and rights of the child. **(HUMAN RIGHTS ATLAS * ATLAS OF HUMAN RIGHTS)**

* **Creating a New Civilization through Social Entrepreneurship.** Edited by Patrick U. Petit (representative to the United Nations, Goi Peace Foundation, Tokyo and Munich). Foreword by Muhammad Yunus (founder, Grameen Bank, Bangladesh). Piscataway NY: Transaction Publishers, Oct 2010/223p/\$29.95pb. While businesses and consumers fail to trigger an economic revival, due to the uncertain environment, social entrepreneurs can restore a sustainable planet and improve the lives of the poorest. Highlights the global movement of social entrepreneurship and features some of the leading organizations and individuals that have tackled major social problems and triggered systemic change throughout the world today. [Also see *Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism* by Muhammad Yunus (Public Affairs, Dec 2007/261p/\$26).] **(WORLD FUTURES * SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP)**

* **The Sacred Universe: Earth, Spirituality, and Religion in the Twenty-First Century.** Thomas Berry (Greensboro NC). NY: Columbia UP, Sept 2009/176p/\$22.95. A leading ecotheologian and Catholic priest calls for regenerative forms of religious experience, an inter-religious dialogue that can better

confront 21C environmental problems, and a new story of the universe and emergence of the Earth within it. [ALSO SEE *The Living Universe* by Duane Elgin; Berrett-Koehler, May 2009.]

(RELIGION * SPIRITUALITY)

**** 2010 World Population Data Sheet.** Carl Haub (PRB Demographer). Washington: Population Reference Bureau, July 2010/one page/\$4 (download free at www.prb.org). Not a book or a booklet, but a single 34x22" wall chart that is intelligently presented, authoritative, and low-cost. Presents population, health, and environmental data and estimates for all regions and nations in 19 categories, notably population projections to 2025 and 2050. World population, now at 6.89 billion as of mid-2010, is estimated to grow 17.6% to 8.12 billion in 2025, and 37.6% to 9.49 billion in 2050. US population, at 310 million in 2010, is expected to grow to 351 million in 2025 (13.2%) and to 423 million in 2050 (36.5%). (For further info, see *GFB Book of the Month* for August 2010.)

(WORLD POPULATION * WORLD FUTURES * POPULATION TO 2050)

**** 2010 State of the Future.** Jerome C. Glenn (Director, The Millennium Project), Theodore J. Gordon (Senior Fellow, MP), and Elizabeth Florescu (Director of Research, MP). Washington: The Millennium Project, July 2010/88p (8x11")/\$49.95 (includes 7,000p CD). (www.StateOfTheFuture.org). The 14th annual edition continues to provide a context for global thinking and improved understanding of global issues and strategies, assisted by 35 project Nodes in various countries. The mainstay of the report is concise two-page descriptions of 15 Global Challenges: sustainable development/climate change, clean water, population, democracy, long-term perspectives, ICT convergence, ethical market economies, infectious diseases, decision-making capacity, security challenges, status of women, organized crime, energy, accelerating sci/tech, and ethics in global decisions. Also includes special studies on the State of the Future Index, building collective intelligence systems, emerging environmental security issues, Latin America 2030, and a survey on futures research and gaps around the world (completed by 32 Nodes). The SOTF report is the best introduction and overview—by far—to a broad range of major global issues and long-term remedies. (For further info, see long review as *GFB Book of the Month* for Sept 2010.)

(WORLD FUTURES * GLOBAL CHALLENGES * MILLENNIUM PROJECT * STATE OF THE FUTURE REPORT * FUTURE: 2010 REPORT)

**** Patterns of Potential Human Progress. Vol 1: Reducing Global Poverty.** Barry B. Hughes (Prof of International Studies and director, Pardee Center for International Futures, U of Denver) and five others. Boulder CO: Paradigm Publishers, Aug 2009/352p/\$39.95pb (free pdf at www.ifs.du.edu). The first in a new series inspired by the UN Human Development Reports and Millennium Development Goals, using the large-scale International Futures program developed by Hughes over three decades. Explores a multi-issue database and a wide range of scenarios, looking 50 years into the future. Chapters discuss the character and extent of poverty, the need for a long horizon, measures of poverty, poverty reduction strategies, framing uncertainty with proximate drivers (population, economic growth, distribution), levers to change the future of poverty (fertility, human and social capital, governance, infrastructure, natural capital, knowledge), international drivers (trade and FDI, worker remittances, foreign aid), the multiple faces of poverty and its future (in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe), conflict and poverty, and corruption and poverty. Concludes that the horizon of global goal setting should be at least to 2030, and 2050 seems reasonable. The difficulty of rapid progress should be explicitly acknowledged, and global goals should not pretend to be appropriate for all regions and nations. Finally, the global development community needs integrated reviews of progress toward goals, with analysis of potential for future progress.

(WORLD FUTURES * GLOBAL POVERTY REDUCTION * DEVELOPMENT: 50-YEAR OUTLOOK * INTERNATIONAL FUTURES MODEL * PARDEE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FUTURES)

***The Earth Charter: A Framework for Global Governance.** Edited by Ron Engel and Klaus Bosselmann. Amsterdam: Kit Publishers (dist by Stylus), Sept 2010/200p/\$39.95. Analyzes The Earth Charter—the leading ethical framework for global governance— from a legal and ethical point of view. Discusses challenges surrounding current international law and governance: state sovereignty, global governance, sustainable development, and the precautionary principle.

(WORLD FUTURES * EARTH CHARTER * ETHICS AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE * GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS)

**** Hyperconflict: Globalization and Insecurity.** James H. Mittelman (University Prof of Intl Affairs, American U). Palo Alto CA: Stanford U Press, Jan 2010, 288p, \$24.95pb. Author of *Whither Globalization?* (Routledge, 2005) and *The Globalization Syndrome* (Princeton, 2001) views hyperconflict as a consequence of globalization. Intense interaction of the systemic drivers of global security and insecurity heightens insecurity at a world level. The emergent condition of *hyperconflict* results in reorganized political violence (as states are unable to monopolize legitimate violence), a growing climate of fear, and increasing world instability (fueled by technology and economic integration). Concludes with scenarios for future world order, offered as an early warning to prevent the gathering storm of hyperconflict and to identify opportunities for establishing enduring peace.

(SECURITY AND GLOBALIZATION * HYPERCONFLICT AND GLOBALIZATION * GLOBALIZATION)

AND HYPERCONFLICT * WORLD FUTURES)

* **Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth about the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity.** James Hansen (director, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies; www.stormsofmygrandchildren.com). NY: Bloomsbury, Dec 2009/320p/\$25. A leading American climate scientist who first warned of global warming in 1982 warns that “the timetable is shorter than we thought... (due to) the nearness of climate tipping points, beyond which climate dynamics can cause rapid changes out of humanity’s control.” The biggest obstacle to addressing global warming is the undue sway of special interests, and “government greenwash” (the vast disparity between words and reality) contributes to the crisis. “In 2001, I was more sanguine about the climate situation,” thinking that CO2 at 450ppm was tolerable. It is now at 387ppm in 2009, “already in the dangerous range” and we must reduce it to 350ppm at most.

(WORLD FUTURES * CLIMATE CHANGE)

****Requiem for a Species: Why We Resist the Truth about Climate Change.** Clive Hamilton (Prof of Public Ethics, Australian National U). London & Sterling, VA: Earthscan (dist. by Stylus), May 2010, 286p, \$24.95. Greenhouse gas emissions are now exceeding the worst-case scenarios of a few years ago, and, after a decade of little real action, “catastrophic climate change is now virtually certain.” Even if we act promptly and resolutely, “the world is on a path to reach 650ppm” of CO2, well above the “safe” level of 450ppm. Chapters discuss growth fetishism, wasteful consumption, the many forms of denial, disconnection from nature, climate engineering, and life in “the four-degree world” expected by leading climate scientists, well beyond the two degree rise previously expected.

(CLIMATE CHANGE * WORLD FUTURES)

** **The Beijing Consensus: How the New Chinese Illiberal Order Is Outpacing the West.** Stefan Halper (Senior Fellow in Int’l Relations, U of Cambridge; Distinguished Fellow, Nixon Center, Washington). NY: Basic Books, April 2010/312p/\$28.95. China’s vision is rapidly replacing the so-called Washington Consensus: instead of promoting democracy through economic aid, China offers no-strings-attached gifts and loans. The autonomy China offers, along with the appeal of its illiberal capitalism, have become the dual engines for the diffusion of power away from the West.

(WORLD FUTURES; CHINA; BEIJING CONSENSUS)

****The Flooded Earth: Our Future in a World without Ice Caps.** Peter D. Ward (Prof of Geological Sciences, U of Washington). NY: Basic Books, July 2010/272p/\$25.95. Sea-level rise will happen no matter what we do. Even if we stopped all CO2 emissions today, the seas would rise one meter by 2050 and three meters by 2100. This will be the most catastrophic effect of global warming. Details what our world will look like in 2050, 2100, and 2300. Also, as icebound regions melt, new sources of oil, gas, minerals, and arable land will be revealed, leading to fierce geopolitical battles.

(WORLD FUTURES; CLIMATE CHANGE; SEA LEVEL RISE)

* **Power and Responsibility: Building International Order in an Era of Transnational Threats.** Bruce Jones (Center for International Cooperation, NYU), Carlos Pascual (VP, Brookings) and Stephen John Stedman (Center for International Security, Stanford U). Washington: Brookings Institution Press, Mar-09/360p/\$32.95. The post-WWII fabric of global security does not meet the needs of today’s global challenges. Proposes a new concept of “responsible sovereignty,” new commitments to rule-based international order, helping the UN return to peacekeeping, an Inter-Governmental Panel on Biological Security, a path down the road to zero nuclear weapons, a Centre of Excellence on Poverty Reduction, expanding the G8 to G16, a new climate change framework, global economic security, etc.

(WORLD GOVERNANCE * SECURITY)

* **Cosmopolitanism and the Geographies of Freedom.** David Harvey (director, Center for Place, Culture, and Politics, CUNY Graduate Center). NY: Columbia UP, Jul-09/368p/ \$27.50. Liberty and freedom are frequently invoked to justify political action, but in practice these idealist agendas often turn sour because they ignore the complexities of geography. Harvey charts a cosmopolitan order more appropriate for an emancipatory form of global governance, rooted in human experience rather than illusory ideals, yet bringing us closer to the liberation we seek.

(WORLD POLITICS * COSMOPOLITANISM)

* **Freedom for Sale: The Death of Democracy and the Birth of a New World Order.** John Kampfner (London UK, former editor of New Statesman). Basic Books, Jan-10/288p/\$26.95. Former editor of New Statesman (2005-2008) argues that nations in the last 20 years such as Russia, China, Italy, and the United Arab Emirates have disproved the idea that capitalism and democracy are inextricably linked. This alarming trend to “authoritarian capitalism” as a potent rival to Western democracy has only been exacerbated by the global economic meltdown.

(WORLD POLITICS * DEMOCRACY * “AUTHORITARIAN CAPITALISM”)

* **Superpower Illusions: How Myths and False Ideologies Led America Astray—And How to Return to Reality.** Jack F. Matlock Jr (Adjunct Prof of Int’l Rels, Columbia U). Yale U Press, Jan-10/320p/\$30.

Former US Ambassador to the Soviet Union (1987-1991) refutes the enduring idea that the US forced the collapse of the USSR, arguing that the end of the Cold War diminished US power because, with the removal of the Soviet threat, allies were less willing to accept American protection and leadership. During recent years, the belief that the US had defeated the Soviet Union led to a conviction that it did not need allies, diplomacy, or international organizations, resulting in America's weakened ability to lead. (WORLD POLITICS * U.S.: WORLD LEADERSHIP)

* **The Future of Human Rights: U.S. Policy for a New Era.** Edited by William F. Schulz (Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress). Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania Press, Feb 2009/288p/\$26.50pb. Former executive director of Amnesty International USA assembles 13 essays on the current state of global human rights programs, promoting democracy, women's rights, refugee policy, religious freedom, labor standards, economic and social rights, and once again making the US a respected and forceful proponent of human rights. (WORLD FUTURES * HUMAN RIGHTS)

* **Commonwealth.** Michael Hardt (Prof of Literature and Italian, Duke U) and Antonio Negri. Cambridge: Harvard UP/Belknap Press, Oct 2009/330p/\$35. Concludes a trilogy started with *Empire* and continued in *Multitude*, considers models of governance adequate to a global commonwealth, and proposes an ethics of freedom for living in our common world and a possible constitution for our common wealth; "common" should replace the opposition of private and public, and the politics predicated on that opposition. (GOVERNANCE)

* **The Empathic Civilization: The Race to Global Consciousness in a World of Crisis.** Jeremy Rifkin (President, Foundation on Economic Trends, Washington). NY: Tarcher/Penguin, Dec 2009/688p /\$27.95. "We are in a race to biosphere consciousness in a world facing the threat of extinction." No matter how much we put our minds to the task of meeting the challenges of a rapidly globalizing world, the human race seems to continually come up short, unable to muster the collective mental resources. This disconnect between our vision for the world and our ability to realize it lies in the current state of human consciousness. The very way our brains are structured is not relevant to the new environments we have created. But we are on the cusp of refashioning consciousness so that human beings can mutually live and flourish in the new global space. "The undeniable dialectic of human history is the continuous feedback loop between expanding empathy and increasing entropy." (WORLD FUTURES * GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS * CONSCIOUSNESS)

* **The Warcraft Civilization: Social Science in a Virtual World.** William Sims Bainbridge (Director, Human-Centered Computing program, NSF). Cambridge MA: The MIT Press, March 2010/256p/\$27.95. World of Warcraft is an immersive virtual world in which characters must cope in a dangerous environment, assume identities, struggle to communicate and understand, learn to use technology, and compete for dwindling resources. WoW, with >5,000 possible quests and hundreds of parallel realms, can be seen as an allegory of today and as a virtual prototype of tomorrow. Sociologist Bainbridge spent >2,300 hours in the Warcraft universe, deploying 22 characters of all ten races, all ten classes, and numerous professions. (WORLD OF WARCRAFT AS PROTOTYPE OF FUTURE * WORLD FUTURES * VIRTUAL WORLD AS FORECAST * WARCRAFT CIVILIZATION AHEAD?)