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UNIT 1 Global Issues in the Twenty-First Century: An Overview

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- 1. Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World: Executive Summary, U.S. National Intelligence Council, November 2008**
This widely quoted report examines important **change factors** transforming the **international political system** from the structure established following WWII. The executive summary of the report is presented here. **3**
- 2. The New Geopolitics of Food, Lester R. Brown, *Foreign Policy*, May/June 2011**
Lester Brown argues that both farmers and foreign ministers need to get ready for a new era of **world food scarcity**. He describes the reasons why the era of abundant food supplies has ended. **7**
- 3. Navigating the Energy Transition, Michael T. Klare, *Current History*, January 2009**
The transition from the current **fossil fuel** energy system to one based largely on **renewables** will be **technically** difficult and filled with **political dangers**. The reasons for these difficulties are described. **12**
- 4. Asia's Rise: Rise and Fall, Paul Kennedy, *The World Today*, August 2010**
The shift of **international power** toward Asia is analyzed in the context of the broader historical question of why nations gain and lose power. Kennedy argues that **economic growth** is the primary factor that provides the means to extend and defend power. **17**
- 5. China's Search for a Grand Strategy, Wang Jisi, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2011**
The author, who is dean of the School of International Studies at Peking University, discusses China's growing influence in global affairs. Devising an effective **foreign policy** will not be easy for China as it simultaneously protects its core interests while pursuing rapid **economic development**. **20**



UNIT 2

Population and Food Production

Unit Overview

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6. The New Population Bomb: The Four Megatrends That Will Change the World, Jack A. Goldstone, *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010

Over the next forty years, the relative demographic weight of the world's **developed countries** will significantly drop as their workforce ages and numerically declines. Most of the world's **population** growth will be concentrated in the poorest countries. At the same time most of the world's population will become **urbanized**. These four trends have significant **political and economic** consequences.

26

7. Population and Sustainability, Robert Engelman, *Scientific American*, Summer 2009

Reversing the increase in human **population** is the most overlooked and essential strategy for achieving long-term balance with the **environment**. Contrary to widespread opinion, it does not require population control.

31

8. Why Migration Matters, Khalid Koser, *Current History*, April 2009

The increasing importance of **migration** derives from its growing scale and its widening global reach.

37

9. The Blue Food Revolution, Sarah Simpson, *Scientific American*, February 2011

Offshore **fish farming** and cleaner near-shore operations could provide the world with an adequate supply of protein-rich food according to the author. Global **meat consumption** is rising as wild fisheries decline. Meat production, however, has significant pollution problems. A comparison of the **sustainability** and cost effectiveness of offshore aquaculture with meat production is provided.

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UNIT 3

The Global Environment and Natural Resources Utilization

Unit Overview

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10. Climate Change, Bill McKibben, *Foreign Policy*, January/February 2009

McKibben responds to the arguments that the underlying dynamics of **climate change** remain unclear and public policy options as a result are uncertain. He asserts that the **science** is settled, and the only real issue is whether we will stop playing political games and commit to the limited options remaining if we are to avert a climate catastrophe.

48

11. The Other Climate Changers, Jessica Seddon Wallack and Veerabhadran Ramanathan, *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2009

The most frequently discussed proposals to slow **global warming** focus on reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Little attention is given to reducing "black carbon," even though doing so would be easier and cheaper and have an immediate effect.

51

12. The Big Melt, Brook Larmer, *National Geographic*, April 2010

Much of Asia relies on melting glaciers for **agricultural** and household **water**. Larmer reports that glaciers are shrinking at an accelerating rate, which places the entire region at risk. As rivers dwindle, conflict could spread. India, China, and Pakistan all face pressure to increase **food production** to meet the needs of growing **populations**. Preventing **conflicts** over water from spreading across borders is a growing challenge.

56

13. **Troubled Waters**, *The Economist*, January 3, 2009
A broad overview of the health of the world's **oceans** is provided, including the impacts of human activities. 60
14. **Asian Carp, Other Invasive Species Make a Splash**, David Harrison, stateline.org, July 30, 2010
Invasive species are a major **environmental problem**. This case study explores the threat to the Great Lakes that the feared Asian carp poses as it migrates to within six miles of Lake Michigan. The problems of developing **public policy** to deal with the threat are also described. 62



UNIT 4 Political Economy

Unit Overview 64

Part A. Globalization Debate

15. **Globalization and Its Contents**, Peter Marber, *World Policy Journal*, Winter 2004/2005
The term **globalization** has different meanings for different people, often depending on their political perspective. The debate about the positive and negative impacts of this situation is reviewed from a broad historical perspective. The author concludes that the evidence strongly suggests that **human prosperity** is improving as boundaries between people are lowered. 66
16. **It's a Flat World, After All**, Thomas L. Friedman, *The New York Times*, April 3, 2005
Thomas Friedman is a well-known commentator who has contributed significantly to the debate about **globalization**. This article summarizes his latest book, **The World Is Flat**. He discusses a number of **technological trends** that are not only involving new participants in the global economy but also fundamentally changing the way people do business. 72
17. **Why the World Isn't Flat**, Pankaj Ghemawat, *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2007
The concept of **globalization** has defined much of the debate about international **economic activity** for the past twenty years. The author critically examines the basic assumptions of those that argue that this trend is dominant and concludes that "the champions of globalization are describing a world that doesn't exist." 77
18. **Can Extreme Poverty Be Eliminated?**, Jeffrey D. Sachs, *Scientific American*, September 2005
One of the United Nations Millennium Project's goals was reducing by half the level of **poverty** by 2015. The director of the project describes how business as usual has to be replaced with programs that address the underlying causes of poverty by improving **health, education, water, sanitation, food production, and roads**. 80
19. **Gazing across the Divides**, Lucien Crowder, *Current History*, January 2011
The author describes two broad **economic trends** and predicts diverging prospects for **rich nations** (not promising) and **developing countries** (considerably better). 85

Part B. General Case Studies

20. **Of the 1%, by the 1%, for the 1%**, Joseph E. Stiglitz, *Vanity Fair*, May 2011
The causes of the growing **inequality of income** in the United States are described, including how they distort **markets**. In addition, the implications of this trend to the American **middle class** are discussed. 87
21. **The Case against the West: America and Europe in the Asian Century**, Kishore Mahbubani, *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2008
The changing international, **economic** roles of both Asian and Western countries is described along with an evaluation of how the West is resisting the rise of the Asian countries. There is specific focus on the issues of **nuclear nonproliferation**, the Middle East, and **trade**. 90
22. **Bolivia and Its Lithium**, Rebecca Hollender and Jim Shultz, *A Democracy Center Special Report*, May 2010
Lithium is the battery material underlying the increased use of cell phones, laptops, and electric automobiles. The raw material is found in large quantities in Bolivia, which has earned the title of the “Saudi Arabia of lithium.” This report focuses on the **development paradox**: countries with abundant **natural resources** often have less **economic development** than those with fewer resources. What are the challenges facing Bolivia as it attempts to avoid the development paradox? 96
23. **Supply and Demand: Human Trafficking in the Global Economy**, Siddharth Kara, *Harvard International Review*, Summer 2011
Human trafficking is a growing and profitable enterprise in our highly **globalized economy**. The author proposes **policies** to discourage the practice. 99
24. **More Aid Is Not the Answer**, Jonathan Glennie, *Current History*, May 2010
The author argues that more **international aid** to Africa will not make a big difference in the lives of the poor. In fact, aid often increases **poverty** and diminishes **government accountability**. 104

Part C. Global Energy Case Studies

25. **It’s Still the One**, Daniel Yergin, *Foreign Policy*, September/October 2009
The Pulitzer Prize–winning author and chairman of the Cambridge Energy Research Associates describes the contemporary **political economy of oil** and the major trends likely to shape its supply and cost in the foreseeable **future**. 108
26. **Seven Myths about Alternative Energy**, Michael Grunwald, *Foreign Policy*, September/October 2009
As the search for alternatives to **oil** intensifies, energy sources such as **biofuels, solar, and nuclear** seem to be the answer, but the author argues they are not. Changes in **consumer behavior** in the developed world ultimately will be necessary. 112
27. **The End of Easy Oil**, Monica Heger, *Discover*, September 2010
Canada’s tar sands are one of the major sources for U.S. oil. Heger discusses whether the **energy** produced is worth the **economic and environmental costs** involved in its extraction. In the wake of the Gulf oil spill, the reliance on extreme extraction and its environmental impacts is a major issue in the global energy supply-and-demand equation. 116
28. **Coming Soon to a Terminal Near You**, *The Economist*, August 6, 2011
The article is a case study of the rapidly changing **political economy of shale gas**. Included is a discussion of the **environmental impacts** of this cleaner-burning fuel. 118

29. **Nuclear Power after Fukushima**, Rod Adams, *National Review*, June 20, 2011
 The author reviews the scope of the **nuclear disaster** following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. He outlines the reasons why he believes society will not turn its back on nuclear power as an **energy source**. The former naval officer argues that the lessons of the Fukushima disaster will be incorporated into new nuclear power plant designs. 121



UNIT 5 Conflict

Unit Overview 124

30. **The Revenge of Geography**, Robert D. Kaplan, *Foreign Policy*, May/June 2009
 The author revisits an old idea: People and ideas influence events, but geography largely determines them. To understand twenty-first century **conflicts**, Kaplan argues it is time to dust off the Victorian thinkers who knew the physical world best. 126
31. **A Himalayan Rivalry**, *The Economist*, August 21, 2010
 China and India are home to 40 percent of the world's **population**. Both countries are experiencing rapid **economic growth**. Their two-way **trade** is growing, but a history of border disputes combined with the rivalry of both being aspiring **global powers** reveals underlying tensions. This article examines these sources of tension and bilateral efforts to manage these issues. 133
32. **Living with a Nuclear Iran**, Robert D. Kaplan, *The Atlantic*, September 2010
 The prospect of Iran obtaining **nuclear weapons** is a central issue in the long-term stability of the Middle East. A course of action laid out in the 1950s by Henry Kissinger proposes that the U.S. check revolutionary powers with a credible willingness to engage them in **limited war**. Kaplan reviews this **containment policy** as developed in the context of the Cold War and its implications for the world's major **military powers** as they deal with Iran. 137
33. **Drug Violence Isn't Mexico's Only Problem**, Francisco González, *Current History*, February 2011
 Considerable attention has been focused on Mexico's **drug war**. The author argues that beyond this threat to democracy, fundamental structural problems negatively affect Mexico's **economy** and political process. The country faces three challenges: restoring social peace, reforming **political institutions**, and attracting **investment** to allow Mexican companies to add more value to production chains. 140
34. **Demystifying the Arab Spring: Parsing the Differences between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya**, Lisa Anderson, *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2011
 The article describes the **political uprisings** in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya. The author argues that critical distinctions between the three countries will shape the outcome of these distinct movements. 146
35. **Deliver Us from Evil**, David Patrikarakos, *New Statesman*, November 2010
 The Democratic Republic of Congo has been ravaged by **war** for almost twenty years as different interests vie for control of its minerals and other **natural resources**. The largest United Nations **peacekeeping mission** in history is based in the country. The author assesses the prospects for peace and the future of the UN mission. 149
36. **War in the Fifth Domain**, *The Economist*, July 3, 2010
 In addition to land, sea, air and space, **warfare** has entered the fifth domain: cyberspace. Growing connectivity over the insecure Internet multiplies the avenues of e-attacks by **criminals, terrorists, and hostile governments**. The scope of the problem and efforts to combat it are described. 153



UNIT 6

Cooperation

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37. **Climate Change after Copenhagen: Beyond Doom and Gloom**, Bernice Lee, *The World Today*, August 2010

The failure of the Copenhagen **climate conference** to reach a meaningful **international agreement** on the reduction of greenhouse gases does not mean there are no prospects for collective action addressing climate change. The author points out that investment in both **clean energy** and improved energy efficiency continue to rise in both **developed and emerging economies**.

158

38. **Geneva Conventions**, Steven R. Ratner, *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2008

The author discusses the **international law** governing the treatment of soldiers and civilians during **war** with a focus on twenty-first-century issues, including the War on Terror.

161

39. **America's Nuclear Meltdown towards "Global Zero,"** Lavina Lee, *USA Today*, May 2011

Russia and the United States recently agreed to further reductions of deployed **nuclear warheads**. It is not likely that India, Pakistan, and China will join in arms reductions talks any time soon. The strategic issues between these three nuclear powers are described within the context of both existing **international agreements** and the growing momentum for eliminating all nuclear weapons.

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40. **The 30 Years War**, *The Economist*, June 4, 2011

Extensive **international cooperation** has led to successes in the fight against AIDS. This effort is described along with ongoing research to develop a vaccine to prevent the **disease**.

168

41. **Is Bigger Better?**, David Armstrong, *Forbes*, June 2, 2008

Using **market incentives**, the world's largest **antipoverty** group helped pull Bangladesh out of the ashes. Now it wants to take on Africa.

171

42. **Humanitarian Workers: Comprehensive Response**, Marc DuBois and Vickie Hawkins, *The World Today*, March 2011

The authors, officials in Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), respond to criticisms that the neutrality of **humanitarian aid organizations** has been co-opted by the political agendas of **military combatants**. They describe the strategy of MSF to maintain its neutrality and contrast their approach with the so-called comprehensive approach of governments.

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UNIT 7

Values and Visions

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43. **Humanity's Common Values: Seeking a Positive Future**, Wendell Bell, *The Futurist*, September/October 2004

The author argues that "there is an emerging global ethic, a set of shared values." These have evolved and now shape and constrain behavior. Specific principles along with behavior that supports the development of **legal and ethical norms** necessary for a positive global **future** are described here.

178

44. **Visible Man: Ethics in a World without Secrets**, Peter Singer, *Harper's Magazine*, August 2011
The assertion is often made that modern **surveillance technology** makes it easier for governments to control behavior. The author offers the counterargument that the same technology allows people to keep tabs on the government and corporate abuses and in fact protects **individual freedom**. 184
45. **UN Women's Head Michelle Bachelet: A New Superhero?**, Jane Martinson, *The Guardian*, April 22, 2011
Michelle Bachelet was Chile's first woman president. This article provides a profile of her career, including her new leadership role in the UN, which focuses on the **empowerment of women**. 189
46. **The End of Men**, Hanna Rosin, *Atlantic Monthly*, July/August 2010
Rosin argues that **patriarchy** has always been civilization's basic organizing principle with only a few exceptions. For the first time in human history, this is now rapidly changing, for the modern **economy** is becoming the place where women have a distinct advantage over men. 191
- Test-Your-Knowledge Form** 196