Week 11: What Policies and Institutional Reforms Are Needed?

Conflict & Resolution
Francis, “Fueling War”
1. What fueled roughly one-quarter of the of the wars & armed conflicts active in 2001?

2. What are 3 potential solutions proposed to prevent or end such conflicts?

LaFranchi, “A Welcome Surprise: War Waning Globally”
1. According to a recent UN report and other specialists, why in recent years has there been vast improvement/reductions in the number of wars/civil conflicts and death from these conflicts?

2. Despite countervailing evidence, according to Mr. Mack, what are 2 reasons why fears persist that global human security is deteriorating?

Lambert, “Chocolate Now Fuels War in West Africa”
1. During the past decade, what 3 commodities have West African governments & rebel groups used to finance civil wars?

2. What does the Global Witness report call for to eliminate the possibility of conflict chocolate?

Crilly, “UN Calls for Action in Somalia”
1. In a report published by Human Rights Watch, what was the Ethiopian army, the transitional Somali government and the insurgents accuse of doing?

2. According to Ken Roth (Human Rights Watch), what has added to the tragedy (in Somalia) and what action does he recommend?

Soderberg, “The African Union Moves a Quiet Revolution”
1. What is the quiet revolution that has been occurring in Africa in recent years, which represents a fundamental shift in outlook since the African Union was created in 2002?

Hanson, “In Once Brutal War Zone a Model Arises”
1. What event served as a benchmark for the success of Sierra Leone’s transition from war to peace?
2. According to Prendergast, why do many African crises continue to burn and what is the recipe for success that can be replicated anywhere on the continent?

**Structural Adjustment & Economic Reform**

**Barr, “Asia Waiting to Exhale”**

1. What were the multiple causes (2 items) of the economic crisis in Asia?

2. Why did East Asia get into such trouble, without anyone noting it earlier?

**Bures, “Robinhood in Reverse”**

1. On what assumption was the IMF founded and why/how did this assumption change in the 1980s?

2. What is the “Washington Consensus” (3 principles) and how well have these IMF/World Bank policies worked?

3. What are 2 changes in IMF/WB policies that Stiglitz advocates and what does he say development & economics are about?

**Llana, “Latin American Voters Go Left, but Not that Far Left”**

1. What does the recent election of leftists in several Latin America countries indicate--what is there no doubt that voters in most countries have firmly rejected?

2. What unites the countries in Latin America which have recently elected leftist presidents?

**Llana, “Latin America’s Answer to the World Bank”**

1. What are a group of Latin American countries looking to do (to finance their development) and why are they doing this?

2. Why did the influence of the IMF begin to wane with the Asian financial crisis and what sealed (Latin America’s) scepticism about the IMF?
**Baldauf, “Opening Shop in India? Bring Scissors to Cut Red Tape”**
1. According to a survey of India-based business owners (conducted by the World Bank), what are 3 major or severe obstacles to growth and what does a new World Bank report make clear, regarding what India must do to improve its investment climate?

**Downie, “Can Brazil’s Lula Deliver on His Promises?”**
1. According to Helio Magalheas (American Chamber of Commerce in Brazil), what are 4 economic reforms that everyone agrees are needed to boost Brazil’s sluggish economic growth?

2. According to foreign policy experts, why (3 examples) is Lula’s election good for ties with allies far and near?

**Ford, “China’s Great Leap Forward on Property Rights”**
1. For what type of private property does China’s new property law provide protection? What isn’t covered by the new law?

2. Why do critics—such as law professor Gong Xiantian—oppose the new property law?

**Democracy & Empowerment**

**Balfauf, “For Post-Colonial Africa, Hope Deferred”**
1. Why does Mr. Lyman argue that both rich countries of the West and African leaders are to blame for Africa’s problems?

2. According to Mr. Lyman, what should African nations and the US & the EU do to starve off economic & political catastrophe in Africa?

3. Today, Ghana has much to be proud of. According to World Bank statistics, what are 3 of Ghana’s successes?

**Sabitini & Farnsworth, “Latin America Lurches to the Left”**
1. Throughout the region (Latin America), on what issues are candidates of both of the right & left placing greater emphasis and what concern does this reflect?

2. According to the authors, what must US policy be designed to do as the hemisphere embarks on this election year?
Hughes, “Indonesia: Democracy, Islam Do Mix”
1. Why is Indonesia a success story for democracy?

2. What evidence does Freedom House point out, which contradict the cynical view that Islam & democracy are incompatible?

McLaughlin, “In Africa, Are the Donor’s Darlings Stifling Democracy?”
1. What events in Ethiopia and Uganda suggests that these countries are backsliding on multiparty democracy?

2. Why (2 reasons) haven’t diplomats/donors turned the screws in to force democratic reforms?

Hanes, “Congo Tense as UN Mandate Set to Expire”
1. Why did the UN send peacekeepers to the Congo and why are many people concerned about the possibility that the UN will withdraw its peacekeepers?

2. In addition to maintaining peace, what (3 examples) is the UN trying to help the Congo do?

Think: Given that the tragedy of the civil war in the Congo, which has claimed 4 million lives, why is it that we/most American aren’t aware of the conflict in the Congo?

Non-Governmental Organizations & People Power
Knickbocker, “New Kid in the Global Arena”
1. What are 2 reasons behind the rapid growth of NGOs?

2. What are 3 accomplishments (success in influencing international agencies/corporations) that are credited to NGOs?

Bruyn, “Civic Society Transcends Right-Left Gap”
1. What are the forces of civic society and what values does civic society carry?

2. According to USAID’s Assistant Administrator Franco, how does civic society participation strengthen democracies?
Itano, “In Africa, ‘Little Guys’ Bring Big Changes”
1. In Zambia & elsewhere in Africa, what are civil society groups doing?

2. According to Mr. Gyimah-Boadi & Mr. Sitole, what are 2 improvements that have strengthened civil society in Ghana & throughout Africa?

Francis, “A Step Towards Honest Government”
1. What are 2 factors that have spurred the shift in attitude about corruption since the mid-1990s?

2. What does Transparency International do and how has it’s annual report contributed to reducing corruption?

Walker & Tatie, “Corruption Drag on Democratic States”
1. What are Freedom House’s 4 indicators of good governance?

2. According to Freedom House, what is critical to combating corruption (i.e., where is corruption often most rampant)?

Baldauf, “Freedom of Speech Suffers in Tense Ethiopia”
1. Following Ethiopia’s contentious national elections & their violent aftermath, what did the government do (3 examples) and why did government officials say that these strong measures were justified?

2. According to critics, why did the government arrest & put on trial journalists, opposition leaders & social activists?

Anabe, “US-Style Press–Best Bang for the Buck in Foreign Aid”
1. In what 2 countries did an independent press & media, that was Western trained and funded, contribute to peaceful political change?

2. Why does the author argue that the U.S. should be prepared to support a thriving free press worldwide?