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abstracts

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■ **Hervé Le Bras**, World Population in the Twenty-First Century

Demographic projections are extremely complex, and the theory of demographic transition seems to have fallen firmly out of favor. Changes in population are influenced by many factors, whose relative importance varies across time and space: economic and cultural factors, conflicts, events and shocks with political repercussions, and so on. Long-term projections should arguably be relinquished in favor of short- and medium-term forecasts that can account for the contingencies of human history.

■ **Akiko Suwa-Eisenmann**, Food Security: How Can the World Population Be Fed?

Food insecurity is a global public health problem, manifesting first and foremost in the form of hunger and reflected in the failure to reach the Millennium Development Goals. The causes of this insecurity are largely international in nature, and stem from both structural and circumstantial factors. Global food security must be rebuilt on the basis of the universal right to food and the “One Health” approach, which integrates the requirements of human health, animal health, and environmental protection.

■ **Jean Kaseya**, From African Health Sovereignty to Global Health Security

The African continent faces both the long-standing burden of infectious diseases and a health situation shaped by major global changes, including antimicrobial resistance, population movements, and environmental degradation. The entire approach to prevention, education, and treatment for epidemics must be rethought, based on cooperation within communities and between countries and the pursuit of medical and health sovereignty.

■ **Laura Cozzi and Thomas Spencer**, Energy in the Era of the New Geopolitics

The global energy system is constantly changing: rising consumption in developing countries, the growing role of electricity, vulnerabilities in supply chains, and the environmental implications of energy policy choices. The security of the system and the substantial investments required in the future can only be ensured through international cooperation, as exemplified, among other mechanisms, by the International Energy Agency.

■ **Anu Bradford**, *How Technology Is Reshaping the World Order*

The central role of technology in the competition between the major powers is fueling an ever-more intense rivalry. Artificial intelligence is enabling large corporations to accrue unprecedented power, with consequences for states and even for international conflict. However, states do have tools at their disposal to regulate these developments. In this international competition, Europe has a strong hand, but must be prepared to play its cards in order to create a new kind of international cooperation.

■ **Peter Mandaville**, *Religion, Moral Order, and the Resacralization of International Politics*

The question of the role of beliefs in international politics extends beyond that of religion alone. To an ever-increasing extent, the world is structured by competing normative projects, rather than straightforward civilizational blocs. With liberal universalism in retreat, religious traditions offer narratives, legitimacy, and international networks that support alternative visions of moral order, making the global system more pluralistic but also more unstable.

■ **Thierry de Montbrial**, *A New Path for Europe*

The construction of the European Union is historically inseparable from the emergence, at the end of World War II, of an Atlantic world dominated by the United States. Successive enlargements and the revision of U.S. policy are undermining the concepts upon which the European Union has been built since the fall of the USSR. It is undoubtedly time to return to a path of more diverse groupings, corresponding to the levels of commitment and the interests of the states of the Old Continent.

■ **Jean-Marie Guéhenno**, *Reflections on A Darkening World*

The system that emerged after the Second World War to regulate international relations is now moribund. Russia and China may have weakened it, but it seems that Donald Trump's United States may deliver the fatal blow. The prevailing atmosphere is one of power struggles, and the rise of nationalisms is fraught with danger. The artificial intelligence revolution also needs to be factored into this equation, as it has a strong bearing on how much power different players can exert. In this respect, Europe must ensure it does not get left behind.

■ **Philippa Webb and Daisy Peterson,** Law and the International Order

It is tempting to conclude that international law's influence is receding in a context where power struggles are in the ascendant, especially between dominant nations. But the law still carries weight: as the ultimate constraint on the use of violence, as a shared language for all human communities, and as a framework for action for those who seek to invoke it. It doubtless needs to be rethought, and adapted to changes in international relationships, but without losing sight of its day-to-day importance.

■ **Patricia M. Lewis,** The Crises Testing Arms Control

The arms control system built during and after the Cold War is under enormous stress and is fraying at the edges. It once enabled significant improvements in international security but is in danger of not withstanding the resurgence of tensions in recent years. Urgent action is now needed to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as cluster bombs and anti-personnel mines.

■ **Hew Strachan,** War and Technology: An Approaching Military Revolution?

Historically, technological change has altered how battles are fought but has not overturned the fundamental principles of war. However, three considerations may now represent an actual revolution: the recourse to tactical nuclear weapons, the development of software for "multi-domain operations," and the prospect of general artificial intelligence. The organization of militaries and the use of force need to be rethought in this light.

■ **Jean-Marie Paugam,** Governing World Trade: Plutus, Midas, or Agnostos Theos?

Efforts to coordinate international trade, begun at the end of the Second World War, culminated in the creation of the World Trade Organization in 1994. This body might now seem somewhat out of step with a world that is less structured around multilateralism, but in the face of the current crisis, and the dramatic policy swings of the Trump administration, this collective endeavor is as important as ever. The question is now how to reform the WTO to account for new international dynamics.

■ **Anton Hemerijck** and **Waltraud Schelkle**, *Governability, Inequality, and the Welfare State*

Economic insecurity and inequality make the governance of political societies and the international order more complex. Reallocating spending from the social commitments of the welfare state to the military budget is thus inadvisable over the long term. Instead, the welfare state should be oriented toward protecting production capacity, especially at a time when the means of production are potentially going to be revolutionized by the emergence of new technologies such as artificial intelligence.

■ **Sylvie Goulard**, *Finance and the World: A European Perspective*

In a world where international tensions are rising, governments' room for maneuver is largely dictated by the state of their finances. This is the case for Europe, which seeks to assert its sovereignty but can only do so by investing heavily in defense, security, and other core sovereign functions, as well as in innovation. More broadly, Europeans must equip themselves to guard against international financial crises, including those stemming from digital financial innovation.

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