

CURRENT HISTORY

January 2021

Vol. 120, No. 822

CONTENTS

3 The International System

After Trump and the Pandemic *Allen Hicken, Pauline Jones, and Anil Menon*

Public support for the liberal international order has lasted through a hostile US presidency and a pandemic. Now is the time to rebalance the system so it is less dependent on Washington.

9 Is There a Cure for Vaccine Nationalism?

Ana Santos Rutschman
The race to secure coronavirus vaccine supplies has sharpened old inequities in public health between the global North and South. A new cooperative mechanism could provide a solution.

15 Education Technology Seizes a Pandemic Opening..... *Ben Williamson*

An algorithmic worldview that was already filtering into educational systems has surged into the vacuum left by school closures and the shift to remote learning on digital platforms.

21 The Meat Industry Goes Back to the Jungle

Wilson J. Warren
COVID-19 outbreaks in meatpacking plants have drawn attention back to an industry whose largely immigrant workforce has endured eroding conditions for decades, despite earlier reforms.

28 The Many Faces of China's Belt and Road Initiative

Raffaello Pantucci
Beyond infrastructure, China's global foreign policy vision aims to build a multitude of links with partner countries, creating networks that will position Beijing at the center of the world.

PERSPECTIVE

35 The Politics of Epidemics,

from Thucydides to Mary Shelley to COVID-19

Eileen Hunt Botting

For millennia, encounters with plagues have prompted authors to search for the deeper roots of these disasters. Some, including the creator of Frankenstein, have identified political causes.

BOOKS

38 The Pot of Race War and the Kettle of Holy War

Marwan M. Kraidy
A pair of books about jihadism and white power movements find a common denominator: US militarism and its pernicious effects at home and abroad.