

view of what constituted democracy, preferring to emphasize social order over individual rights. Under enlargement, America's chief concern in Asia would therefore be free market access—the rest, for the most part, would be left to sort itself out.”

“We have put our economic competitiveness at the heart of our foreign policy,” Clinton said in 1994. In the Clinton formula, economic advantage and national political interest do not conflict but go hand in hand. Emerging democracies with a growing middle class eager to consume American products, in this view, serve both America's need for markets and its desire for a world of peaceful and prosperous liberal-minded nations. “Relations with countries with bright economic futures such as Mexico and South Korea,” Brinkley writes,

“would thus be placed on the front burner in his administration; poor, blighted nations, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Central America,” would ordinarily be given little attention.

Some critics favor “a more militarily activist” foreign policy, Brinkley notes. Others complain that enlargement is mostly empty rhetoric that avoids unpleasant realities and hard choices. But the president, Brinkley writes, sees more promise “in helping Toys ‘R’ Us and Nike to flourish in Central Europe and Asia than in dispatching Marines to quell unrest in economically inconsequential nations.”

With his strategy of enlargement, Brinkley says, Clinton is hoping to go down in history “as the free trade president and the leading architect of a new world economic order.”

## A Man Called Jane

“How *Fighting Ships* Became Jane's” by Richard Brooks, in *Proceedings* (Dec. 1996), U.S. Naval Institute, 2062 Generals Hwy., Annapolis, Md. 21401.

Civilian “strategic analysts” are accepted figures in public life, populating think tanks, holding forth on op-ed pages, and even landing jobs on network TV news shows. Their analyses are looked to as a counterweight to military views. It wasn't always so. One of the pioneers was Fred T. Jane, says Brooks, author of a forthcoming biography. In turn-of-the-century Britain, his *All The World's Fighting Ships* helped break the British Royal Navy's monopoly on naval affairs.

Born the son of an Anglican curate in 1865 in a London suburb, Jane had forebears on his mother's side who had served in the Royal Navy and Marines. When poor health prevented him from shipping out, he used his talent for drawing to make a career in journalism, sketching naval maneuvers for the *Illustrated London News* and other periodicals in the 1890s. He not only built up his collection of warship sketches but picked the brains of naval officers and enlisted men to get information about the ships' strengths and weaknesses. By 1897 he was

ready to launch the visual warship atlas that came to be known as *Jane's Fighting Ships*, complete with pungent comments about ships' performance from engineering officers he had cultivated.

Jane systematically categorized ships by their appearance, and even provided a visu-



*Fred Jane didn't just play with toy ships.*

al index of ship silhouettes. Lookouts or officers of the watch could thus quickly identify unknown vessels and their pertinent characteristics, such as speed and weaponry.

With the success of *Jane's Fighting Ships*

and the knowledge he had gained, Jane made various attempts to open up debate on naval matters, Brooks says. The naval establishment did not appreciate his efforts. When one admiral publicly objected to Jane's expressing opinions on naval tactics, the analyst replied that he was "professionally compelled to devote hours and days to the study of points which the average Naval Officer can only spend as many minutes on."

Yet Jane enjoyed some significant victories. In 1903, he published an article by an Italian officer outlining the concept for a revolutionary battleship. Three years later,

the Royal Navy launched it in the form of the big-gun HMS *Dreadnought*. In 1909, when a British official claimed ignorance of the extent of Germany's battleship build-up, a furious Jane pointed out that "anyone who cared to do so could find out German naval progress without the slightest trouble" by reading his *Fighting Ships*.

Unable to find official employment during World War I, Jane "undertook an exhausting series of lecture tours to explain his views on the conduct of the war," Brooks writes. After a bout of influenza, he died in 1916 of apparent heart failure. But his *Fighting Ships* lives on.

## ECONOMICS, LABOR & BUSINESS

### *Share the Wealth!*

"The Spiral of Inequality" by Paul Krugman, in *Mother Jones* (Nov.-Dec. 1996), 731 Market St., Ste. 600, San Francisco, Calif. 94103.

The facts about growing income inequality in the United States are no longer much in dispute, says Krugman, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Consider this: in 1970, American families in the top five percent of earners enjoyed an average income 12 times that of families in the bottom 20 percent; by 1994, the rich were raking in more than 19 times as much as the poor.

The only real question remaining, Krugman says, is what's behind the shift. Foreign trade and "skill bias" (which skews pay toward brain workers) are not as important as many people assume, he argues. What's changed most is values. In 1970, the CEO of a typical *Fortune* 500 company earned about 35 times as much as the average manufacturing employee. "It would have been unthinkable to pay him 150 times the average, as is now common," Krugman says, "and downright outrageous to do so while announcing mass layoffs and cutting the real earnings of many of the company's workers."

Though America a quarter-century ago had large disparities between economic classes, it also had "an egalitarian ethic that limited those disparities," he maintains. The labor movement fostered those egalitarian values and enforced them at the bargaining table and in the political arena,



*Unions now represent less than 12 percent of the private work force.*

providing a counterweight to the political influence enjoyed by wealthy individuals and corporations.

How can America become again "the relatively decent society we had a generation ago"? Strengthen unions, Krugman says.