

Jay Stagi, Readings for 11/8/2005
Policy and Politics

The literature regarding offshoring is replete with analysis from either side extolling or decrying the effects of implementation. It is clear that many of these “analyses” come from those who have a stake or ideology that drives their perspective. Yet, there is precious little regarding policy prescriptives for mitigating the effects on those countries that are experiencing the job losses. Most dwell on the need for education, yet even this panacea is not fleshed out enough and again there are contradictory opinions.

The politics of the situation are driven by an often reactive public. So what should policy dwell on? Is it too late to close the barn door? Should the focus be upon dealing with the reality of offshoring as it spreads, or should policy be devised to stem the tide?

Some of the major themes that emerge from the readings include:

- Education/Retraining
- Regulatory Reform
- Tax Policies
- Workers Compensation/Insurance
- Locational factors

The Readings

The readings run the gamut from describing scenarios how to prepare ourselves for the paradigm shift through education to those that argue for more prescriptive policies. Most of the policy proposals are buried deep in the literature and are not stand alone pieces.

Please read:

Atkinson_bookchapter_0705.pdf	pp12-17
epi_issue_guide_on_offshoring.pdf	p 1
Fortune.doc	pp 5-8
State of Calif 2004-115.pdf	pp 24-27
Bane of Boon.pdf	pp 6-8
Bay Area Offshoring.pdf	p 27 of pdf (or p 35 of report)
Outsourcing and Off shoring	
Pushing the Europeanwp05-1.pdf	pp 20-25
State and Metropolitan Area Impacts.pdf	pp 36-39 of pdf (or pp 32-35 of report)

Clearly, this is a number of articles, but you need only read small parts of each. Many of them recapitulate what we have covered and make for nice summarizations. In particular, the McKinsey Report has a high profile in several of the readings. And although there is great context in this literature, some may be duplicative or simplistic, not to mention beyond the amorphous scope of the class session. Suffice to say, beyond what I have assigned you might read the entire chapter of Atkinson. (Off topic and the heretofore covered scales are – The Bay Area Offshoring, Cynthia’s piece on State and Metro, and the broader issues states are facing in the State of California Auditor’s Report.)