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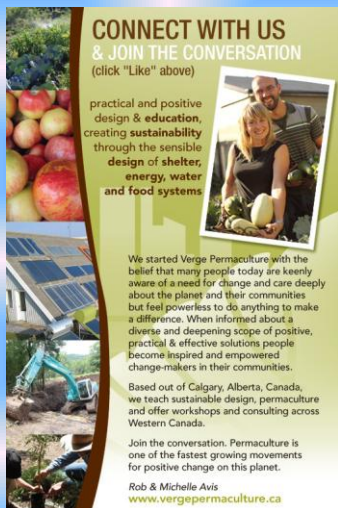
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DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES



IA29 Darnton, Robert *Google's Loss: The Public's Gain* (New York Review of Books, April 28, 2011)

The seven years since Google launched its Google Book Search Project -- to digitalize all books that have ever been printed -- have been marked with a series of lawsuits for violation of copyright. Google has proposed settlements, but a recent court decision rejected their viability. This article explores where Google went wrong and what is right about such a project that would make literature more widely available. Darnton advocates using the lessons learned to create a digital public library that would offer access while giving copyright holders their due.



IA30 Avis, Michelle *Turning Stormwater Into Productive Water* (Verge Permaculture, posted March 28, 2011) Available at

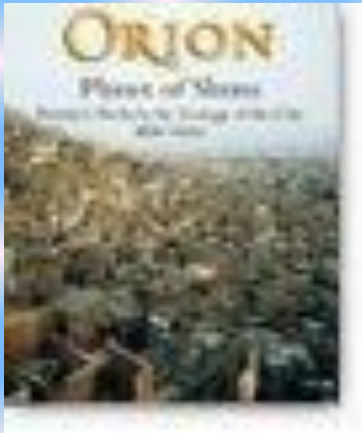
<http://www.vergepermaculture.ca/blog/2011/03/28/turning-storm-water-productive-water>

Cities worldwide are facing major challenges in stormwater management, due to the growth in non-permeable surfaces such as asphalt and concrete pavement. Traditionally, most municipal stormwater systems have been designed to carry water away as quickly as it arrives, by diverting it to storm drains, where it ends up in local streams, rivers and lakes; conventional stormwater management systems are a major cause of local water pollution by concentrating surface contaminant runoff into local ecosystems. Many innovative, low-cost alternatives to traditional stormwater management are being employed in cities around the world; this article features examples from

Sydney, Australia and Tucson, Arizona, USA, such as curb cuts, check dams and constructed wetlands, that create permeable areas to allow flood control and water filtration in urban street settings.

IA31 Kaufman, Frederick *The Food Bubble* (Harper's, July 2010, pp. 27-34)

When Wall Street bankers realized they could profit from gambling on investment futures of certain food commodities and created the Goldman Sachs Commodity Index, the outcome for ordinary people across the globe was disastrous. This clearly-written investigative article shows how turning wheat into a vehicle for stock market speculation raised the price of a staple food by 80 percent worldwide and precipitated the food riots of 2008; the author notes that the ranks of the hungry had increased by 250 million in a single year. The speculative bubble burst, but prices were slow to fall; even more disquieting, says Kaufman, it could happen again.



IA32 Steingraber, Sandra *Mind Games: How Toxic Chemicals Are Impairing Children's Ability To Learn* (Orion, March-April 2011) Currently available online at <http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/6162/>

While environmental toxins such as lead have been successfully curbed by law and resulted in a decrease in brain damage in children, many other commonly-used neurotoxins remain unregulated. Chemicals in pesticides, flame retardants and hydrocarbons released by fossil fuels, among other substances that pollute the air, water and general environment, may contribute to the skyrocketing incidence of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and autism. Backing her argument with statistics, the author advocates tough regulations

that screen out harmful chemicals before they enter the marketplace.



IA33 Tennesen, Michael *Turning To Dust* (Discover, vol. 31, no. 4, May 2010, pp. 66-72) Currently available online at http://discovermagazine.com/2010/may/26-fighting-against-a-global-dust-bowl/article_view?b_start:int=0&C= With The Title *FIGHTING AGAINST A GLOBAL DUST BOWL*.

The author notes that dust storms have been occurring with greater severity and frequency around the world due to drought, rising temperatures and a shift from grasslands to shrubs. Tennesen writes that the problem has been building for decades – wars, energy exploration, agriculture, cattle grazing and development have broken up the soil surfaces in many arid regions and released massive quantities of dust into the atmosphere. Dust can travel large distances; dust storms originating in the Gobi Desert have blown across the Atlantic Ocean, via the Pacific and the United States. Windborne dust can carry toxic substances, such as heavy metals or pesticides from dried lake beds. Desertification has

become most pronounced in northern China and in the Lake Chad region in northern Africa, and is shrinking the amount of arable land. Tennesen writes that researchers are experimenting with various methods to slow erosion and encourage regrowth of native grasses in arid regions; better farming and grazing practices, less development and fewer off-road vehicles would also help stem the tide against dust.



IA34 Tuohey, Brendan; Cognato, Brian **Peaceplayers International: A Case Study On The Use Of Sport As A Tool For Conflict Transformation** (*SAIS Review of International Affairs*, vol. 31, no. 1, Winter-Spring 2011, pp. 51-63)

The authors, both with PeacePlayers International (PPI), describe their organization’s approach to conflict transformation. PPI, which was founded in 2001, has helped over 50,000 young people overcome deep ethnic, religious or social divides in their communities through basketball. The authors have identified four key program components as integral to its success: local leadership; a balance between educational and sports content in programming; maintaining frequent, long-term contact; and structures for external leadership development. Over time, children can develop the shared histories that support true friendship, creating lasting relationships in the service of inter-communal reconciliation.

ECONOMIC SECURITY



IA35 Arslanalp, Serkan; Bornhorst, Fabian; Gupta, Sanjeev **Investing In Growth** (*Finance & Development*, Vol. 48, No. 1, March 2011) Currently available online at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2011/03/Arslanalp.htm>

The authors, all with the International Monetary Fund, write that policymakers in developing countries point to the lack of infrastructure as an impediment to growth and the difficulty in obtaining financing. The authors note that the important question is whether a country should expand its public investment; to explore the issue of the productivity of public infrastructure, they conducted a study of 48 advanced and developing nations during the period 1960-2001. They found that, overall, public investment has a positive effect on growth; however, the higher the levels of public capital

stock, the growth effect of additional capital stock diminishes. In advanced economies with very high levels of public capital stock, the growth effect is close to zero, with public investment being used more as a demand management tool to counter the business cycle. Their study finds that for developing economies, the payoff is greater but accrues over a longer period of time.

IA36 Berrett, Dan **The "Inside Job" Effect** (*Inside Higher Ed*, April 19, 2011) Currently available online at http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/04/19/economists_start_probing_their_own_ethics

The author, a reporter with Inside Higher Ed, notes that many in the economics profession have been stung by their failure to predict the financial crisis, and by suggestions of conflict of interest.

In a first move of its kind, the American Economic Association has formed an Ad Hoc Committee on Ethical Standards for Economists, to examine ethics in the field. Berrett writes that this is a significant development, because most economists dismiss the suggestion that they require a code of ethics, arguing that their profession is devoted to impartial empirical analysis – but “the assumption that ethical standards are unnecessary to the discipline has begun to crumble in the wake of the financial meltdown of 2008.” Academic economists have long had connections with powerful financial firms, regulators and bond raters, and these close ties between academe, government agencies and the financial sector have bred a self-reinforcing group-think in which economists at top university programs share a common perspective and ideology about financial markets and regulation. Even though acknowledgement of such conflicts of interest might not have headed off the financial crash, the author writes that it might make economists think about their consulting work affects their outlook. Berrett writes that some believe that a policy on conflicts of interest aren’t enough, that what is needed is a change in how economists think about ethics – a shift away from “narrow emphasis on objective, quantifiable truth and prod those in the profession to consider the implications of their work on other people, particularly those in developing countries.”

IA37 Brown, Jeffrey *Will We Be Able To Maintain & Replace Our Energy & Transportation Infrastructure In A Post-Peak Oil World?* (ASPO-USA, posted April 4, 2011) Currently available online at <http://www.energybulletin.net/stories/2011-04-04/commentary-will-we-be-able-maintain-replace-our-energy-transportation-infrastruct>

The author, an independent petroleum geologist, notes that developed countries worldwide are facing huge costs associated with maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure. This will entail a large expenditure of resources and energy, chiefly petroleum, but Brown, who has extensively documented an ongoing and accelerating trend in the decline of global oil exports, believes that large-scale maintenance and replacement is unlikely to happen. In an energy- and resource-constrained future, Brown states that “what can’t be funded and maintained won’t be funded and maintained” – already, many local governments in the U.S. are turning paved county roads back into gravel because they can’t afford the upkeep. Natural disasters, such as the earthquake and tsunami that recently hit Japan and the hurricanes that struck the U.S. Gulf Coast in 2005, will only aggravate the problem. He believes that the U.S. will eventually be forced to conduct “triage” on its infrastructure; however, no serious discussion of this possibility is taking place, as most government planners are still working on the assumption of future increases in automobile traffic.

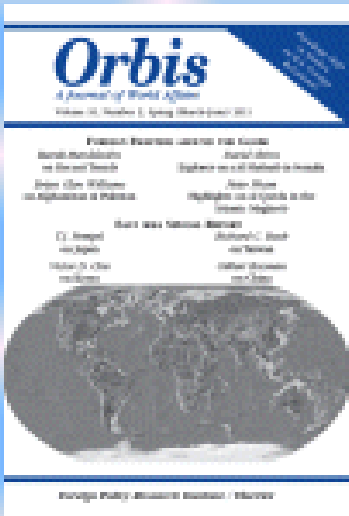


IA38 Rose, Andrew; Spiegel, Mark *Do Mega Sporting Events Promote International Trade?* (SAIS Review of International Affairs, vol. 31, no. 1, Winter-Spring 2011, pp. 17-29)

The authors write that hosting large sporting events, such as the Olympic Games or the World Cup, allows countries to signal their desire to participate on the world stage. Rose and Spiegel, with the University of California at Berkeley and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, respectively, note that proponents of major sporting events point to tangible benefits of doing so, such as increased trade. However, their studies suggest that the economic benefit associated with mega sporting events seldom justifies the considerable expense of building infrastructure that has a peak usage of only a few weeks.

While hosting games does boost trade, the authors believe the primary benefit to hosting a sporting event is a greater openness to the outside world and an increase in international standing. They note that unsuccessful bidders for the Olympic Games experience the same increase in reputation and a boost in trade, at a substantially lower cost.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY



IA39 Davis, Zachary *Strategic Latency And World Order* (Orbis, vol. 55, no. 1, Winter 2011, pp. 69-84)

The author, Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Security Research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, writes that technological progress occurs unevenly and in an unpredictable fashion, with the potential of many discoveries remaining unappreciated for decades or longer. This also holds true for technologies which could confer military or economic advantage, but which remain untapped, a condition he terms “strategic latency”. Davis notes that this is not necessarily due to inattention, but also to restraint, as in the case of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, in which only a few nations have chosen to move from a civilian or research stage to a weapons program. Space and geo-engineering are also examples of fields that have not been exploited in a widespread manner for military purposes. The global nonproliferation regime and programs to control the spread of dual-use

technologies represent a form of intentional latency. Davis writes that terrorist groups have “intent without capability” – they do not possess WMD capabilities of their own, but seek to circumvent the forces of moderation by gaining access to the latent capabilities of the industrial infrastructure of nation-states. He also notes that cyberspace, nanotechnology, bioengineering and micromanufacturing are emerging technologies that nation-states are finding increasingly difficult to control, and that we “have yet to come to terms with their latent potential”.

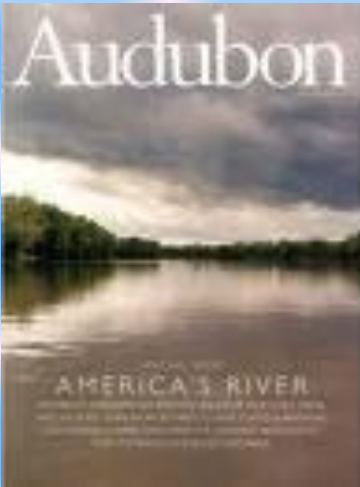


IA39 Goldstone, Jack *Understanding The Revolutions Of 2011: Weakness And Resilience In Middle Eastern Autocracies* (Foreign Affairs, April 14, 2011)

Goldstone, professor at George Mason University’s School of Public Policy, writes that, for a revolution to succeed, several factors must converge. It is not often that the interests of elites, the middle class, students, different ethnic and groups, and different socioeconomic groups coincide, and these are the necessary ingredients of a viable revolution. “Sultanist” autocratic regimes, such as those in Egypt and Tunisia, can generate successful revolutions because their power strategies and ways of concentrating wealth ultimately make

them vulnerable. But post-revolution transitions are difficult, and implementing reforms will be challenging.

US SOCIETY AND VALUES



IA39 Cosier, Susan Urban Planting (*Audubon, March-April 2011*) Currently available online at <http://www.audubonmagazine.org/currents/currents1103.html>

Abandoned lots, marginal land and even rooftops in cities across the United States are being turned into small scale farms to supply urban dwellers, farmers markets and restaurants with local produce. City Farm in Chicago, Illinois, Slicker Farm in Oakland, California, and the Garden Resource Program in Detroit, Michigan are three such enterprises. Urban farms may be less efficient than huge factory farms, but may also be more sustainable because of their much smaller carbon footprint. More importantly, urban agriculture brings healthy food to low-income communities where it is harder to obtain and more expensive than unhealthy fast food.



IA40 Smith, Zadie Generation Why? (*New York Review of Books, November 25, 2010*)

Novelist Zadie Smith reviews the book YOU ARE NOT A GADGET by master programmer Jaron Lanier, and the film "The Social Network," as starting points for reflections on where social media are taking society. "When a human being becomes a set of data on a website like Facebook, he or she is reduced," she writes, to the world of Harvard sophomore Mark Zuckerberg, who is creating an Internet of shallow conformity. The software in use -- often "haphazard, accidental" in design, according to Lanier -- contributes to this homogenized mind. Lanier warns against entrapment "in someone else's recent careless thoughts," a sentiment echoed by Smith.