



INFOALERT DECEMBER 2010

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

IA54 Brown, Lester. **Reducing Urban Water Use.** *Earth Policy Institute Book Bytes, November 3, 2010* Currently available online at http://www.earth-policy.org/book_bytes/2010/pb4ch06_ss5

Brown, founder of the Earth Policy Institute, argues that using water to wash away human and industrial wastes is an "outmoded system, made obsolete by new technologies and water shortages." Our modern "flush and forget" system disrupts the nutrient cycle by removing nutrients that originated in the soil and dumping them in the sewer system. Not only are these nutrients lost to agriculture, but they cause overload of marine ecosystems, resulting in ocean "dead zones", and spread pathogens. Additionally, water-based sewage disposal systems are very expensive to run. Brown writes that composting toilets drastically reduce water usage by removing the toilet from the water system, making it much easier to reclaim the nutrients and recycle used household water. He notes that many developing countries are beginning to realize that high-maintenance water-based sewage systems are not environmentally or economically viable.

IA55 Passel, Jeffrey. **Unauthorized Immigrants And Their U.S.-Born Children** *Pew Hispanic Center, August 11, 2010* Currently available online at <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1696/unauthorized-immigrants-babies-born-united-states-citizens?src=prc-latest&proj=peoplepress>

An estimated 340,000 of the 4.3 million babies born in the United States in 2008 were the offspring of unauthorized immigrants, according to a new analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data by the Pew Hispanic Center, which is part of the nonpartisan Pew Research Center. Nearly 79% of the 5.1 million children younger than age 18 of unauthorized immigrants were born in the United States, making them U.S. citizens by virtue of the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In total, 4 million U.S.-born children of unauthorized immigrant parents resided in this country in 2009, alongside 1.1 million foreign-born children of unauthorized immigrant parents.

IA56 Rosen, Jeffrey. **The Web Means The End Of Forgetting.** *New York Times Magazine, July 25, 2010, 30-37, 44-45* Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/25/magazine/25privacy-t2.html>

The author, a professor at George Washington University, notes that legal scholars, technologists and cyberthinkers are wrestling with the first great existential crisis of the digital age -- the impossibility of erasing your posted past. For most users, this includes regrettable activities or photographs posted on sites such as Facebook and MySpace that are now an embarrassment, best left forgotten. But how to do this? Cyberlaw expert Jonathan Zittrain believes that the law should

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permit people to declare 'reputation bankruptcy' every decade or so, wiping out certain categories of personal information online, especially if it can be viewed by future employers and groups with whom an individual may later have to connect. One solution comes from the University of Washington which is developing a technology called Vanish that makes electronic data, such as e-mail messages and photos and text posted on the Web, 'self-destruct' after a specified period of time.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

IA57 Heinberg, Richard. **The End Of Growth.** *MuseLetter No. 222, November 2010* currently available online at <http://richardheinberg.com/222-the-end-of-growth>

Heinberg, author, educator and speaker, notes that access to abundant and cheap fossil fuels over the last couple of centuries sparked a boom unprecedented in human history of growth in economic activity and human numbers, such that we have now become accustomed to thinking that continuous growth is a normal state of affairs. Heinberg contends that the economic crisis that began in 2007-2008 is not simply another cyclical recession, but represents a permanent break with past decades -- the world is now colliding with fundamental barriers to ongoing economic expansion, namely, the depletion of resources such as fossil fuels and minerals, the proliferation of environmental impacts related to their exploitation and use, and the inability of financial systems geared to never-ending growth to adjust to resource scarcity and to service the mountain of debt in the context of a shrinking economy. Even fast-growing economies such as China may continue to grow for a while longer, but will inevitably reach a ceiling dictated by shrinking natural resources. Heinberg maintains that humanity has to develop a desirable "new normal" that fits with constraints imposed by depleting resources, otherwise "we will create by default a much less desirable 'new normal' whose emergence we are already beginning to see." Adapted from a book set for publication in 2011.

IA58 Schmidle, Nicholas. **Inside The Knockoff-Tennis-Shoe Factory** *New York Times Magazine, August 22, 2010, pp. 38-45* Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/22/magazine/22fake-t.html?pagewanted=1>

Copyright infringement and industrial espionage have increased significantly within the last decade, and China has become one of the major offenders. In southern China, making fake tennis shoes and other counterfeits has become big business. Chinese authorities are slow to enforce the law, and it is becoming more difficult to tell which shoes and other such illegal products are real. To do such work, Chinese businesses are place help-wanted notices at their workplaces without a mention that the work is illegal. Last year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized more than \$260 million worth of counterfeit goods such as DVDs, brake pads, computer parts and baby formula; for the last several years, counterfeit footwear has topped the seizure list with electronics as a close second. Schmidle notes that there is disagreement in China on what constitutes counterfeiting -- what the West considers counterfeiting, many in China regard as a form of industrial training, a way to develop skills that can eventually be used to develop legitimate businesses.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

IA59 Buffet, Cyril. **The Cold War In Film: Special Issue** *Cold War History*, vol. 9, no. 4, November 2009, 453-524

Cold War films have achieved a certain historical importance in the last twenty years as a study between the opposing ideologies between East and West, but also between propaganda and entertainment, politics and commerce, didacticism and artistry. For the U.S. information and cultural program, first in the State Department and then in the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), such films often represented depictions of Good versus Evil, exemplified in genres such as westerns and science fiction films which were popular with foreign audiences but often masked real Cold War fears. However, other countries were also involved in Cold War conflicts.

IA60 Lynn, William J. **Defending A New Domain.** *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 89, no. 5, September/October 2010, pp. 97-108

According to Lynn, U.S. deputy secretary of defense, the U.S. military's 15,000 networks are probed thousands of times daily through its seven million computing devices scattered across hundreds of installations. For a number of reasons, retaliation to cyberattacks is not an option; instead, the Pentagon relies on deterrence to deny any benefit to attackers. With little ability to predict where and how threats will emerge, the United States needs flexible strategy and capabilities. The Pentagon has already recognized cyberspace as a domain of warfare on par with land, sea, air, and space. The new strategy aims to train and equip cyberdefense forces, employ layered protections with a strong core of active defenses, help secure the networks that run critical infrastructure, build collective defenses with U.S. allies, and invest in the rapid development of additional cyberdefense capabilities.

IA61 Zipprich, Scott. **The International Criminal Court: Time To Adjust U.S. Foreign Policy** *Orbis*, vol. 54, no. 4, Fall 2010, pp. 644-655

The author, Deputy with the Army Office of the Staff Judge Advocate in Fort Knox, Kentucky, writes that the U.S. has long supported the idea of an International Criminal Court (ICC). However, when it came time to sign the Rome Statute, the treaty that created the ICC, the U.S. refused to sign it, on the grounds that American military personnel serving overseas could be prosecuted by the ICC, or NGOs with anti-American agendas could launch politically-motivated cases with the ICC. In 2002-2004, the Bush administration took further steps to withhold military assistance and economic aid to countries that signed the ICC treaty and who had not signed a bilateral immunity agreement with the U.S. Protests from the international community and reactions from the U.S. military persuaded the administration to relax some of its previous decisions. Zipprich notes that the Obama administration is more favorably disposed to the ICC, but has yet to clearly articulate its policy toward the treaty. He writes that countries that have not signed the treaty are not immune from the court's jurisdiction, as the ICC's ongoing efforts to prosecute senior officials from Sudan illustrate. U.S. ratification of the treaty would send a clear signal to the world of U.S. commitment to human rights, notes Zipprich, and would enable the U.S. to better enact changes to the treaty; by isolating itself from the treaty, the U.S. continues to lose international credibility.

US SOCIETY AND VALUES

IA62 Britt, Bruce. **Making Politics More Personal** *Deliver*, vol. 6, no. 4, August 2010, 14-19

One of the most impressive results of the 2008 presidential elections was the success in which Barack Obama's campaign used an array of contemporary marketing techniques; pundits coined the phrase "Brand Obama" to describe his fundraising prowess. One of these was a targeted mail campaign through the U.S. Postal Service. After he became President in January 2009, his organization, Organizing for America (OFA), sent e-mails to supporters asking them to sign a symbolic "Declaration of Support" for President Obama's health care bill, with a free, personalized thank-you certificate to supporters of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act 2010, who donated \$50 to OFA. 350,000 supporters responded to the free certificate, while an additional 6,000 responded to the \$50 donation/framed certificate offer. What these techniques proved was that brands that do the best job of maximizing their messages are smart enough to continue the relationship with direct mail and that marketing continues to play an ever-growing role in the evolution of both political figures and the messages they promote. Direct mail will now be one of the major ways that politicians will be able to communicate with voters.

IA63 Judis, John B. **Tea Minus Zero.** *New Republic*, vol. 241, no. 4883, May 27, 2010, pp. 18-21

Once of the fastest-growing political developments in the country has been the conservative Tea Party Movement, which started in February 2009 when CNBC commentator Rick Santelli, speaking from the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, called for a "Chicago Tea Party" to deal with the mortgage crisis. The Tea Parties are the latest in a series of conservative insurgencies, such as the anti-tax rebellion of the late 1970s, and the Moral Majority and Christian Coalition of the 1980s and 1990s. Although not orchestrated by the Republican National Committee, the group has picked up a lot of support from the likes of Fox News host Glenn Beck and former vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin, who have given the Tea Party high-profile coverage. The author notes that as the 2010 elections approach, the Tea Party members are a force to be reckoned with.

IA64 Sproles, Claudene. **Government Information: Key Online And Print Resources.** *Choice*, vol. 47, no. 12, August 2010, pp. 2231-2241

The author, a government documents librarian at the University of Louisville, notes that U.S. government information is relevant to a wide range of science and humanities curricula, as well as many facets of everyday life. At some point, students, researchers and the general public will encounter government information, whether it be income-tax forms, Social Security applications or Census Bureau statistics. In the past decade, the format and distribution of such information has changed; many print publications, including standard reference sources, have ceased altogether, or they are now issued in conjunction with their electronic version. The main U.S. government site was GPO Access, created in 1994 by the Government Printing Office (GPO), to provide government electronic information but in 2009, GPO released Federal Digital System (FDsys), with an enhanced digital content management system. This essay attempts to locate some of the most common government information sources.