



**AMERICAN INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER**  
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**E-Documents**  
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<b>Electronic Journals – all e-journals</b>	<b>IIP Publications – all publications</b>
	<p><b>Free At Last - The U.S. Civil Rights Movement</b></p> <p>This book recounts how African-American slaves and their descendants struggled to win — both in law and in practice — the civil rights enjoyed by other Americans. It is a story of dignified persistence and struggle, a story that produced great heroes and heroines, and one that ultimately succeeded by forcing Americans to confront squarely the shameful gap between their universal principles of equality and justice and the inequality, injustice, and oppression faced by millions of their fellow citizens</p>
<p><b>Ask America</b> Ask America allow foreign audiences to interact with American citizens on wide range of topics using a chat tool over the Internet. U.S. government and private sector subject experts, academics, journalists, and everyday citizens are brought on as guests to do webchats on USINFO. You may visit the <a href="#">Ask America HomePage</a> to see upcoming ones, and read the transcripts of the previous webchats.</p>	<p><b>Podcasts</b> <a href="http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcasts.html">http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcasts.html</a> Audio files and transcripts from America.gov</p>
<p><b>Videos</b> <a href="http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?videoid=1498976413">http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?videoid=1498976413</a> Video files on foreign policy, U.S. politics, American life, democracy, science and health.</p>	<p><b>Blogs</b> <a href="http://blogs.america.gov/">http://blogs.america.gov/</a> Blogs at America.gov offers readers a place to discuss designated topics with experts from the United States and around the world, and to share their comments and reactions with the broader Internet public.</p>

## **SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS**

**BAD WATER AND THE DECLINE OF BLUE CRABS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY.** Chesapeake Bay Foundation. December 29, 2008.

Pollution has been a major factor in the decline of the Chesapeake Bay's blue crab population, according to the report. The report shows data gathered from interviews with 12 leading crab researchers and water quality experts, as well as federal government data and scientific papers. The Bay's blue crab population has plummeted from 791 million in 1990 to 260 million in 2007. Key findings include that dead zones kill an estimated 75,000 tons of bottom-dwelling clams and worms each year, enough to feed 60 million crabs annually. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.cbf.org/site/DocServer/1229crab\\_report.pdf?docID=13823](http://www.cbf.org/site/DocServer/1229crab_report.pdf?docID=13823) [PDF format, 24 pages].

**DISTANCE EDUCATION AT DEGREE-GRANTING POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS: 2006-07.** National Center for Education Statistics. Basmat Parsad et al. Web posted December 30, 2008.

The report shows the result of a survey that was designed to provide national estimates on distance education at 2-year and 4-year Title IV eligible, degree-granting institutions. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009044.pdf> [PDF format, 60 pages].

**EVALUATING IRAQ'S PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAMS WHILE DRAWDOWN LOOMS: A USIP TRIP REPORT.** United States Institute of Peace. Rusty Barber and Sam Parker. Web posted January 2, 2009.

Two U.S. Institute of Peace researchers examine the effectiveness of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Iraq. They find that PRTs play a critical role in facilitating the expenditure of Iraqi funds on Iraqi reconstruction and development. Moreover, the PRTs perform a range of secondary tasks that contribute greatly to the broader U.S. civilian-military effort in Iraq. However, PRTs face a number of administrative and security-related challenges, despite improvement in certain areas, and are also engaged in a number of long-term development activities to which they are poorly suited.  
<http://63.104.169.51/articles/1012009.1008/1.PDF> [PDF format, 25 pages].

**FISHERIES ECONOMICS OF THE UNITED STATES 2006.** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Marine Fisheries Service. Rita Curtis et al. January 6, 2009.

The United States commercial and recreational fishing generated more than \$185 billion in sales and supported more than two million jobs in 2006, according to the study. [http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5/publication/econ/EconomicsReport\\_ALL.pdf](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5/publication/econ/EconomicsReport_ALL.pdf) [PDF format, 166 pages].

FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1969-1976, VOLUME E-14, PART 1, DOCUMENTS ON THE UNITED NATIONS, 1973-1976. Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State. January 5, 2009.

The Department of State has released the latest publication in the sub series of the Foreign Relations series that documents the most important decisions and actions of the foreign policy of the administrations of Presidents Richard M. Nixon and Gerald R. Ford. The volume documents United States Government decision making concerning food policy, population control, and women's issues. It also covers matters pertaining to representation in the United Nations and related international bodies, as well as other United Nations-related issues during the Nixon and Ford administrations. <http://www.history.state.gov/historicaldocuments.xq?volume=frus1969-76ve14> [HTML format, various paging].

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: THREE POLICY PERSPECTIVES. Congressional Research Service, 98-738, Library of Congress]. Larry Parker and John Blodgett. Web posted January 3, 2009.

The 1992 U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change requires that signatories, including the United States, establish policies for constraining future emission levels of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The George H. W. Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush Administrations each drafted action plans in response to requirements of the convention. These plans have raised significant controversy and debate. The purpose of the report is to articulate the implications of the differing perspectives in order to clarify terms of debate among diverse policy communities. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/98-738.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: PERSPECTIVES ON THE TOP 20 EMITTERS AND DEVELOPED VERSUS DEVELOPING NATIONS. Congressional Research Service, RL32721, Library of Congress. Larry Parker and John Blodgett. Web posted January 3, 2009.

Using the World Resources Institute (WRI) database on greenhouse gas emissions and related data, the report examines two issues. The first issue is the separate treatment of developed and developing nations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. The second issue is the continuing difficulty of the current approach designed to address climate change through limiting greenhouse gas emissions to a specified percentage of baseline emissions. The United States led by emitting 19% of the world total, followed by China with 14%; no other country reached 6%; the top seven emitters accounted for 52% of the 185 nations' emissions. Given the wide range of situations illustrated by the data, a flexible strategy

that allows each country to play to its strengths may be appropriate if diverse countries like the United States and China are ever to reach agreement.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32721.pdf> [PDF format, 22pages].

**GREENING AND SUSTAINABILITY IN HEALTH CARE AND LIFE SCIENCES: IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGIC RESPONSE.** Deloitte LLP. Web posted January 1, 2009.

The report shows that greening efforts in health care organizations are appropriate and necessary since they are good for business and the right thing to do for employees and communities. The report explores leading practices of companies in several industries where greening efforts are mature, and compares and contrasts them with efforts of health care organizations. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us\\_chs\\_Greening\\_Sustainability\\_HealthCare\\_1208.pdf](http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us_chs_Greening_Sustainability_HealthCare_1208.pdf) [PDF format, 29 pages].

**HHS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: CHARTING A NEW COURSE FOR A HEALTHIER AMERICA.** Institute of Medicine. Leonard D. Schaeffer et al. Web posted December 28, 2008.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), with the largest budget of any federal department, spending approximately 2 billion dollars a day, profoundly affects the lives of all Americans. Its agencies and programs protect against domestic and global health threats, assure the safety of food and drugs, advance the science of preventing and conquering disease, provide safeguards for America's vulnerable populations, and improve health for everyone. However, the department faces serious and complex obstacles, chief among them rising health care costs and a broadening range of health challenges.

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12513#toc](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12513#toc) [HTML format, with link to full text PDF file].

**ISLAMIST MILITANCY IN THE PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN BORDER REGION AND U.S. POLICY.** Congressional Research Service, RL34763, Library of Congress. K. Aland Kronstadt and Kenneth Katzman. Web posted January 2, 2009.

Increasing militant activity in western Pakistan poses three key national security threats: an increased potential for major attacks against the United States itself; a growing threat to Pakistani stability; and a hindrance of U.S. efforts to stabilize Afghanistan. A key, according to U.S. commanders, is to reduce militant infiltration into Afghanistan from Pakistan.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34763.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

**LOW-CARBON ENERGY: A ROADMAP.** Worldwatch Institute. Christopher Flavin. January 6, 2009.

New technologies will permit rapid de-carbonization of the world energy economy in the next two decades, according to the report. These new energy sources will make it possible to retire hundreds of coal-fired power plants that now provide 40 percent of the world's power by 2030, eliminating up to one-third of global carbon dioxide emissions while creating millions of new jobs. Reducing dependence on fossil fuels will diminish the climate crisis and will also act as an agent of recovery for an ailing global economy. Rebuilding the global energy system has the potential to create thousands of new businesses and millions of new jobs. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.worldwatch.org/press/prerelease/EWP178.pdf> [PDF format, 52 pages].

**MEASURING POVERTY AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION: THE CURRENT POVERTY MEASURE, THE NAS ALTERNATIVE, AND THE CASE FOR A TRULY NEW APPROACH.** Center for Economic and Policy Research. Shawn Fremstad. December 2008.

In an effort to address the shortcomings of the current federal poverty measure and inform efforts to expand the middle class, the report evaluates current poverty metrics and suggests a new measure for a broader standard of basic income adequacy.

It finds that both the current approach and the poverty measure designed by the National Academies of Science (NAS) do not provide adequate minimum standards for determining the income working families need to make ends meet in their local communities. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/2008-12-Measuring-Poverty-and-Economic-Inclusion.pdf> [PDF format, 47 pages].

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE 111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS: A PROFILE.** Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Mildred Amer and Jennifer E. Manning. December 31, 2008.

The report presents a profile of the membership of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. Statistical information is included on selected characteristics of Members, including data on party affiliation, average age and length of service, occupation, religious affiliation, gender ethnicity, foreign births, and military service.  
[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40086\\_20081231.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40086_20081231.pdf) [PDF format, 10 pages].

**MILLION-DOLLAR FARMS IN THE NEW CENTURY.** U.S. Department of Agriculture. Robert A. Hoppe et al. Web posted January 1, 2009.

Million-dollar farms, those with annual sales of at least \$1 million, accounted for about half of U.S. farm sales in 2002, up from a fourth in 1982, with sales measured in constant 2002 dollars. By 2006, million-dollar farms, accounting for 2 percent of all U.S. farms, dominated U.S. production of high-value crops, milk, hogs, poultry, and beef. The shift to million-dollar farms is likely to continue because they tend to be more profitable than smaller farms, giving them a competitive advantage. Most million-dollar farms, 84 percent, are family farms, that is, the farm operator and relatives of the operator own the

business.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eib42/eib42.pdf> [PDF format, 47 pages].

**A NEW BREED: OPPORTUNITIES FOR WEALTH MANAGERS TO CONNECT WITH GEN X AND Y.** Deloitte LLP. Web posted December 30, 2008.

Wealth managers have focused their energy and resources predominantly on the accumulation and growth of retirement assets, targeting prospects in their peak earning years with messages about the need to save and invest for the “golden years.” As the oldest baby boomers are now beginning to retire, however, the end to this marketing lifecycle is in sight. Nevertheless, most wealth managers continue to place bets that their current business model will be sufficient to fuel growth, even as new competitors appear to be entering the wealth space, players such as Internet-based firms that are savvy with respect to the next target markets on the horizon: Generation X and their younger siblings, Gen Y. Together, these 105 million consumers offer a market potential even greater than that of the baby boomer generation. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us\\_fsi\\_banking\\_WealthMgmtReachingGenXYDec08.pdf](http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us_fsi_banking_WealthMgmtReachingGenXYDec08.pdf) [PDF format, 12 pages].

**OCEAN PIRACY AND ITS IMPACT ON INSURANCE.** Congressional Research Service, R40081, Library of Congress. Rawles O. King. Web posted January 4, 2009.

Many Members of Congress are concerned about the sharp rise in pirate attacks in the strategic waterways in the Gulf of Aden off the East coast of Africa. Given the sharp increase in the number of pirate attacks, the cost of transporting cargo in international waters could rise dramatically because of the sharp increase in ocean marine insurance rates for ships transiting the Gulf of Aden. Commercial insurers, for example, could require a special war risk insurance premium costing an additional ten of thousands of dollars a day. These additional costs could adversely impact international trade during the current global economic slowdown.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40081\\_20081203.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40081_20081203.pdf) [PDF format, 10 pages].

**PARTY LEADERS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, 1789-2009.** Congressional Research Service, RL30567, Library of Congress. Valerie Heitshusen. Web posted January 3, 2009.

The report briefly describes current responsibilities and selection mechanisms for 15 House and Senate party leadership posts and provides tables with historical data, including service dates, party affiliation, and other information for each. Although party divisions appeared almost from the First Congress, the formally structured party leadership organizations now taken for granted are a relatively modern development.

The report shows the evolution of the current form.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL30567.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages].

**RECESSION AND RECOVERY SERIES.** Urban Institute. Web posted January 3, 2009.

Rising unemployment, pinched household budgets, gyrating stock markets, falling home prices, frozen credit, an economy in deep recession inflicts widespread pain. Six new briefs show how Americans have fared during and after downturns since the 1970s, what might be ahead, and how government programs aid those in distress. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411807\\_unemployment\\_and\\_income.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411807_unemployment_and_income.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages, No.1]

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411808\\_unemployment\\_insurance.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411808_unemployment_insurance.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages, No. 2]

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411809\\_role\\_of\\_welfare.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411809_role_of_welfare.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages, No. 3]

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411810\\_SNAP\\_and\\_the\\_recession.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411810_SNAP_and_the_recession.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages, No. 4]

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411811\\_recession\\_and\\_EITC.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411811_recession_and_EITC.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages, No. 5]

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411812\\_health\\_coverage\\_in\\_a\\_recession.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411812_health_coverage_in_a_recession.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages, No. 6]

SOCIAL PANORAMA OF LATIN AMERICA 2008. U.N. Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Web posted January 4, 2009.

A constant in the Social Panorama of Latin America is the chapter on poverty dynamics in Latin America. Up-to-date estimates and analyses of the relevant figures, based on household surveys conducted in 18 countries, are provided for the year 2007. Three other chapters focus on the specific topics of the new employment-related target which has been incorporated into the Millennium Development Goals, the demographic dividend as an opportunity for expanding secondary education coverage, and the issue of youth violence and family violence as viewed from a perspective of social inclusion. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/3/34733/PSI2008-SintesisLanzamiento.pdf> [PDF format, 50 pages].

UNIVERSITY-PRIVATE SECTOR RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS IN THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. Web posted January 1, 2009.

In order to recognize fully the importance of university-private sector partnerships and their role in the rapidly globalizing innovation ecosystem, President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology reviews the current state and historical trends of the U.S. R&D enterprise. The study involves examining inputs to the ecosystem, including funding sources and mechanisms, and outputs of the ecosystem in order to evaluate the effectiveness and productivity of the research enterprise.

[http://www.ostp.gov/galleries/PCAST/past\\_research\\_partnership\\_report\\_BOOK.pdf](http://www.ostp.gov/galleries/PCAST/past_research_partnership_report_BOOK.pdf) [PDF format, 92 pages].

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## ARTICLES

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### DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Bumiller, Elisabeth INSIDE THE PRESIDENCY (National Geographic, January 2009)

Although the occupant of the White House changes, most of the routines for the staff that assist the president stay the same. Bumiller gives an inside look at life in the White House or on the road with the president; she interviews Gary Walters, former chief usher of the Executive Mansion, who served as a manager of the White House for 31 years, spanning six presidencies. A staff of 90, including butlers, maids, chefs, elevator operators, florists, carpenters and electricians, runs the White House residence, which has been known to welcome up to 30,000 guests in a single week. The White House staff knows how the first family wants their bedrooms set up, what snacks they like, what toothpaste they use. But these perks come at a price — first families foot the bill for personal items such as food and dry cleaning. In the article Joe Hagin, former deputy chief of staff in charge of operations, describes what it is like traveling on the road or on the plane with the president. He describes Air Force One as equipped with beds, exercise equipment and a fully functioning kitchen. He explains that the president travels with a contingent of hundreds overseas, but typically is in a “bubble” surrounded by close staffers and Secret Service agents. The article ends with a quote from former First Lady Barbara Bush: “presidents come and go. Butlers stay.” Currently available online at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/print/2009/01/president/bumiller-text>

Dorroh, Jennifer ENDANGERED SPECIES (American Journalism Review, vol. 30, no. 6, December 2008-January 2009, pp. 20-27)

Under pressure to cut costs, more newspapers are cutting their Washington bureaus. And while the reporters experienced at covering the nation’s capital go on to find jobs with niche markets, they are not informing the general public any longer. The sad outcome endangers American democracy, experts say, because only those in power are informed about what is happening and how to control it. Others say that those most interested in politics can get all the information they need from issue-oriented organizations, Internet sources and the contributions of online “citizen journalists.” Currently available online at <http://www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4645>

Emmerson, Donald K. ASEAN’S “BLACK SWANS” (Journal of Democracy, Vol. 19, No. 3, July 2008, pp. 70-84)

Following the brutal suppression of Burmese pro-democracy demonstrators in fall 2007, ASEAN issued a statement expressing “revulsion” and urged a “transition to democracy” in the country. But the organization’s apparently newfound human rights legitimacy was soon dashed after the Burmese junta successfully prevented the U.N. special envoy to Burma from briefing EAS leaders at its 40th anniversary summit in November 2007 and the organization adopted a charter that watered down reformist pro-democracy elements. The author, head of the Southeast Asia Forum at Stanford University’s Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, argues that ASEAN’s tradition of non-interference in the affairs of its member states, particularly with regard to democracy and human rights, can be modified only as the balance of its membership swings more on the side of “free” countries. “Too few countries are democratic enough for their leaders to exert effective pressure on the association to liberalize,” he writes. The organization must also seize upon



unexpected “black swan” opportunities such as financial, political and natural crises to broaden its agenda. Currently available online at [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_democracy/v019/19.3.emmerson.pdf](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v019/19.3.emmerson.pdf)

Grodsky, Brian JUSTICE WITHOUT TRANSITION: TRUTH COMMISSIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF REPRESSIVE RULE (Human Rights Review, Vol. 9, no. 3, September 2008, pp. 281-297)

Using Uzbekistan as an example, Grodsky, with the Department of Political Science at the University of Maryland, shows that truth commissions, designed to be a “third way” to come to terms with past abuses, are also used by repressive leaders either due to public pressure, desire for better international relations or as a means of condemning previous regimes. Repressive leaders must balance between having a commission with some legitimacy but which also does not threaten their own power base. Launching his truth commission in 1999, Uzbek President Karimov was motivated by a desire for closer relations with the West and affixing public blame for past offenses on Soviet and tsarist Russia rather than the local Communist officials who have retained power. Thus a new idea of transitional justice has developed, where regimes unearth previously hidden crimes and abuses, and even discuss compensation for victims, but control the process and divert attention from the blood on their own hands.

Hawkins, Darren POWER AND INTERESTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (SAIS Review of International Affairs, Vol. 28, No. 2, Summer-Fall 2008, pp. 107-119)

According to Hawkins, associate professor of political science at Brigham Young University, the ICC should probably best turn its attention to training judges in developing countries with a weak institution of the rule of law. More effective and less costly ways exist to pursue justice in any single country than those used by the ICC, which lacks the money and force to arrest suspects and try them. The U.S. experience with the ICC has focused on punishing the mostly small countries that cooperated with the court; the United States would do better to press this listless organization into the service of countries struggling with or transitioning to democracy. Currently available online at [http://www.muse.uq.edu.au/journals/sais\\_review/v028/28.2.hawkins.pdf](http://www.muse.uq.edu.au/journals/sais_review/v028/28.2.hawkins.pdf)

McKibben, Bill THINK AGAIN: CLIMATE CHANGE (Foreign Policy, January/February 2009)

Noted author Bill McKibben writes that it may be too late to avert climate change, but that it is imperative that the international political order stop delaying and adopt the few options humanity has left. He notes that there is no doubt left among the scientific community that global warming is a reality; many scientists feel that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s latest report is too conservative. The claims that agriculture will improve in some regions as frost recedes may hold true for a while, but eventually the threat of heat stress and drought will be global. Solving the climate crisis is no longer an option, as human activities have already raised the global temperature by a degree; all we can do is mitigate its worst aspects. Coordinating this effort with every country on earth will be “far and away the biggest foreign-policy challenge we face.” Available online at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=4585&page=0](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4585&page=0)

Sullivan, Andrew WHY I BLOG (Atlantic, November, 2008)

Sullivan describes the evolution of his blogging, which he began in 2000. He describes not knowing what to write about at first, but eventually discovering that writing a blog was similar to writing an e-mail. "You end up writing about yourself, since you are a relatively fixed point in this constant interaction with the ideas and facts of the exterior world. And in this sense, the historic form closest to blogs is the diary. But with this difference: a diary is almost always a private matter," Sullivan writes. He describes blogs as a publication with a deadline at all times. "There is a vividness to this immediacy that cannot be rivaled by print," he says. Sullivan says he was quickly hooked on blogging because its unfiltered process was "liberating," but it also came with more direct criticism from readers. But the readers also become news sources, changing the way reporting works. Sullivan's article outlines the many challenges he has faced and lessons he has

learned from this new medium. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200811/andrew-sullivan-why-i-blog>

Ugochukwu, Chioma CULTURAL RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE AMID IMPORTED TV PROGRAMMING IN NIGERIA (Africa Today, vol. 55, no. 1, Fall 2008, pp. 34-57)

The author, associate professor of Journalism at the University of South Carolina Upstate, writes that, thanks to globalization, American television programming is widely available in African countries such as Nigeria. Generally speaking, the jury is still out on whether the prevalence of American TV programs helps the image of the U.S., distorts it, or creates a “backlash effect.” But Ugochukwu’s polling research in Nigeria disputes the notion of “cultural imperialism.” It found that while exposure to American TV increases viewer knowledge of the U.S., it does not lead to more positive attitudes towards the United States, nor does it affect consumer behavior or change the values or beliefs of Nigerian viewers. Currently available online at [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/africa\\_today/v055/55.1.ugo-chukwu.pdf](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/africa_today/v055/55.1.ugo-chukwu.pdf)

Watkins, David I. 25 YEARS LATER: THE AIDS VACCINE SEARCH GOES ON (Scientific American, October 2008)

Repeated failures in the quest for an AIDS vaccine have sent investigators back to the drawing board. HIV has defeated the best efforts of vaccine scientists because the virus evades and undermines the immune system. If HIV infection can’t now be prevented, a second goal of vaccine makers is to reduce the virus’s spread and the severity of illness it causes. Researchers are already returning to basic science to follow new leads. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-aids-vaccine-search-goes-on>

## **ECONOMIC SECURITY**

Christy, David BOOTSTRAPPING TRADE (World Policy Journal, Vol. 25, no. 4, Winter 2008/2009, pp. 127-131)

The lessons of the Smoot-Hawley tariff act make it easy to advocate free trade, says the author, a Washington trade lawyer. However, he notes that U.S. policies must recognize both the benefits and the costs of free trade, and that it must be supported as a matter of smart politics in a time of economic trouble. More needs to be done, however, to avoid unacceptable social costs. The WTO will remain an important institution despite its detractors, says Christy; signaling U.S. continued support for trade liberalization would give it a boost. However, he argues that there is little that any U.S. administration could do to speed the Doha Round, and that the U.S. should not take anything off the table because any retrenchment would have a negative impact on the talks. He praises the G20’s pledge not to erect trade barriers for at least a year, but he raises a possibility that the U.S. and other WTO members may have to cut a few corners on trade to find the way out of the crisis despite this pledge. He also argues against opening NAFTA in an attempt to renegotiate it as the U.S. “would have to pay Canada and Mexico dearly for every change we were to seek.” Currently available online at <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/toc/wopj/25/4?cookieSet=1>

Larmer, Brook THE REAL PRICE OF GOLD (National Geographic, January 2009, pp. 34-61)

Humanity’s attachment to gold is experiencing a frenetic resurgence, as global economic uncertainty fuels demand for gold, its price having driven to unprecedented levels. The author writes that demand for gold in 2007 outstripped mine production by almost 60 percent. Although investors are flocking to gold-backed funds or buying gold for investment, two-thirds of the demand for gold is for jewelry, with India far and away the biggest consumer of gold. Only

161,000 tons of gold have ever been mined, but half of that has been in the last fifty years; all the richest deposits are being rapidly depleted, and most of the remaining deposits are traces in remote and ecologically fragile regions. Larmer writes that modern gold mining is highly environmentally destructive, resulting in huge swaths of rainforest being cleared, mountains of tailings and widespread mercury contamination; the rush for gold is fueling conflicts in many developing nations. Currently available online at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/01/gold/larmer-text>

Roubini, Nouriel **WARNING: MORE DOOM AHEAD** (Foreign Policy, January/February 2009)

The author, professor of economics at New York University's Stern School of Business, writes that "last year's worst-case scenarios came true," and that the global financial pandemic that he and others had warned about has arrived. This year portends the credit crunch getting worse, as the deleveraging continues and asset prices continue to fall. The U.S. will experience its worst recession in decades, and some developing economies will experience a full-blown financial crisis, and may need external financing to avoid a meltdown. Roubini notes that this crisis is not only the result of the collapse of the U.S. housing market or of abuses in subprime mortgage lending — the credit excesses were global, amounting to "the biggest asset and credit bubble in human history." He notes that drastic actions in the last year by the G-7 and others averted a total systemic meltdown, but that "the worst is not behind us ... only very aggressive, coordinated, and effective action by policymakers will ensure that 2010 will not be even worse than 2009 is likely to be." This is the first of a five-article series in this issue of FP magazine, called **THE WORST IS YET TO COME**, and can be found online at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=4590](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4590)

## **INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

Alarcon, Daniel **YOU DO NOT REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** (The Virginia Quarterly Review, vol. 84, no. 3, Summer 2008, pp. 168-179)

As one of a group of American writers touring the Middle East on a U.S. Department of State tour, the author visited various universities in the region. The purpose of the tour was to hear what locals thought about the U.S. government, in general, and the Iraq war, specifically. Although the author and his group of fellow writers were repeatedly told by their hosts that they did not represent the American government, the Middle Eastern locals tended to view the group as representatives of the U.S. government and questioned them as such.

Christoff, Joseph **NONPROLIFERATION: U.S. AGENCIES HAVE TAKEN SOME STEPS, BUT MORE EFFORT IS NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE** (GAO, no. GAO-09-43, November 2008, 57 pp.)

The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) is a multinational effort to prevent the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction as well as related delivery systems and material to and from states and non-state actors of proliferation concern. PSI is not a formal organization and participation is voluntary. U.S. government PSI activities included multilateral planning meetings, exercises and outreach efforts including workshops and conferences. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) notes that the State Department sponsored the fifth PSI anniversary conference in May 2008 which was attended by 86 nations. GAO says the Defense Department has established clear PSI policies and procedures and has established a support office to improve the department's participation in related exercises. Although PSI activities are increasingly focused on law enforcement issues, it says State and agencies such as the FBI and the Coast Guard have only some PSI structure in place, and, only the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency has written guidance establishing its roles and responsibilities. It recommends fixing this. It also

says the State and Defense Departments should take steps to increase cooperation and coordination between the United States and certain PSI nations. This report is available online at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0943.pdf>

Hirata, Keiko WHO SHAPES THE NATIONAL SECURITY DEBATE? DIVERGENT INTERPRETATIONS OF JAPAN'S SECURITY ROLE (Asian Affairs: An American Review, vol. 35 no. 3, Fall 2008, pp. 123-151)

As Japan continues to debate whether to take a more pro-active or assertive security role in the post-Cold War era, the country appears divided into four distinct groups (pacifists, mercantilists, normalists, and nationalists) which at times overlap and other times are diametrically opposed to each others' views on the security alliance with the United States and the use of Japan's Self Defense Forces (SDF) in international disputes. Pacifists believe the country can avoid war and many negative repercussions by strictly adhering to the war-renouncing constitution that has been in place since the end of World War II and they do not favor a close U.S. security alliance. Mercantilists de-emphasize minimal defense spending in favor of economic prosperity, and give the U.S. alliance a high priority. Normalists believe Japan should assume greater responsibility for its security and have the SDF participate in U.N.-led efforts. The far-right nationalists want Japan to reassert itself militarily and for its security to be independent from the U.S. As exemplified by the ascendance of Prime Ministers Koizumo, Abe and Aso, the normalists have currently taken over leadership from the mercantilists that had dominated the country for decades.

Jacques, Karen; Taylor, Paul MALE AND FEMALE SUICIDE BOMBERS: DIFFERENT SEXES, DIFFERENT REASONS? (Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, vol. 31, no. 4, June 2008, pp. 304-326)

Recent research into suicide terrorism suggests that women are most often motivated more by personal events, where men are more likely motivated by religious or nationalistic factors. The authors, with the psychology department at Lancaster University (U.K.), also found that women are as likely to be recruited through peer influence, exploitation, or self-promotion, though men are more likely to be recruited as a direct result of religious persuasion for suicide terrorist missions. Their research also shows that the belief that women are likely to assume passive roles or supportive roles in terrorist groups is false. They also cite the work of other researchers who believe that women are motivated from a unique set of motivations and life events. While the research is providing a necessary look into the minds of women who have chosen suicide terrorism, it also points up to the need for even more research, because the work of Jacques and Taylor comes at a time when the emerging roles women play in terrorism, across all regions and ideological spectrums, is increasing in dramatic numbers.

Kaplan, Robert IRAN'S POSTMODERN BEAST IN GAZA (Atlantic online, January 5, 2009)

According to Kaplan, Gaza, where the mullahs of Teheran hold considerable power, now constitutes the western edge of Iran's "new empire." Hamas, even if it loses against the Israelis, he says, will be able to achieve a moral victory of sorts. And, if Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement tries to replace Hamas in power, it will be tagged as "an Israeli stooge" in the eyes of Palestinians. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200901u/gaza>

## U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Holmes, Emory A PRICELESS INHERITANCE (American Legacy, Winter 2009, pp. 23-30)

With her salary as a librarian at the University of Southern California and UCLA, and later her Social Security checks, Mayme A. Clayton purchased rare photos, films, books and memorabilia that became the largest collection of African-American artifacts ever amassed by one person. Her son Avery is currently creating the Mayme Agnew Clayton Library and Museum in Culver City, California. He says his mother's life mission for over 40 years had been to preserve endangered African-American artifacts "so that people will know that blacks did great things." The collection is now a resource "of incalculable national worth," according to author Emory Holmes: 3.5 million items, including 10,000 rare sound recordings, 1,700 films, 75,000 photos and 30,000 rare and out-of-print books. Among these are the first edition of Phillis Wheatley's 1773 volume, *Poems on Various Subjects Religious and Moral*, the first book by an African-American author ever published in the United States. It is likely the only signed copy in existence. The new library is tentatively due to open in early 2010. In the United States today there are three major collections that focus on African-American history and culture: one is in Harlem, one in Chicago, and the third is Mayme Clayton's, which is the largest such collection in the world held independently. Mayme Clayton died in 2006 at the age of 83.

Hvistendahl, Mara CHINA ENTICES ITS SCHOLARS TO COME HOME (Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 55, No. 17, December 19, 2008, pp. A20-21)

Between 1978 and 2005, more than 770,000 Chinese students went abroad but less than one quarter returned to China after completing their studies. Today, Chinese government and private efforts to improve the country's academic environment and reverse this brain drain appear to be succeeding. As part of its effort to create internationally-recognized universities, the government has provided money to top universities specifically for hiring from overseas. University administrators have also been busy recruiting top Chinese-American academics like Yusheng Zheng, who was lured away from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School to return to his native Shanghai and become associate dean of Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business, where 27 of 35 faculty members are Chinese academics educated in the United States. Chinese universities now offer competitive benefits and salaries to those academics interested in returning from abroad, says Hvistendahl, who terms the about-face from earlier Chinese policies on study abroad "remarkable." In 2005, about 35,000 returned, often to positions of leadership and with real power to effect educational reforms. "In the U.S., you're one of thousands of people who end up there," says Dean Zheng. "In China, every one of us chooses to be here." While there are problems -- the resentment of locals against returnees who may earn many times more in salary depending on their credentials and professional profile -- the "sea turtles," as they are called, are returning home, bringing the American model of education with them. Currently available online at <http://chronicle.com/free/v55/i17/17a02001.htm>

Murray, Nubia OUR FACES ON BROADWAY (Ebony, vol. 64, no. 1, November 2008, pp. 138-140, 144)

New York's famous Broadway theater district, known as "the Great White Way" on account of its bright lights, has too often lived up to its nickname when it comes to the race or ethnicity of the actors onstage, says the author. But recently, African-American performers have begun turning up in a greater variety of roles. While productions that chronicle the black experience (such as "Ain't Misbehavin'" or "The Color Purple") still account for the vast majority of appearances by African-Americans on Broadway, a new trend is emerging: color-blind casting. A number of major theatrical shows in New York now feature African-American performers in roles that are not race-specific, creating wider opportunities for minority actors and redefining audience expectations. The stage version of "Chicago," starring Broadway veteran Brenda Braxton as leading lady Velma Kelly, offers just one example of this trend. In the summer of 2008, the restaged Tennessee

Williams classic "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" featured James Earl Jones and Phylicia Rashad, with Rashad's sister Debbie Allen at the production's helm. And Morgan Freeman, best known for his film roles, returned to Broadway after a 20-year absence to star in "The Country Girl." One show that is seldom recognized as a multicultural production, however, actually leads the pack: the Broadway adaptation of Disney's megahit "The Little Mermaid." "I think we do a really good job of showing so many colors on the stage," says actor Derrick Baskin, who plays the role of Jetsam. For their part, cast members add that they would like to see a more diverse audience at the theater, too.

Robelen, Erik STRATEGY RETOOLED AT GATES (Education Week, Vol. 28, No. 13, November 19, 2008, pp. 1, 10-11)

Over the past eight years, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has spent \$4 billion on education, much of it on a school improvement strategy that has not delivered the academic gains the foundation hoped for. The Gates Foundation is focusing on "fewer, clearer, and higher" standards for college readiness, better quality teaching and aiding struggling students. Gates believes the U.S. has put too much emphasis on expanding access to higher education and not enough on college completion. Only about half of U.S. students who enroll in college manage to graduate within six years, and the completion rates for African-American and Hispanic students are only about 20 percent, according to the foundation. The foundation plans to promote common core standards across states, build the public and political will to achieve college readiness for all, work with school districts to retain and compensate effective teachers in the schools that most need them, and foster technological innovations that will help students who have fallen behind. Currently available online at [http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/11/19/13gates-2\\_ep.h28.html](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/11/19/13gates-2_ep.h28.html)

Wilkinson, Alec NON-LETHAL FORCE (New Yorker, June 2, 2008)

For about a decade, researchers have sought to design non-lethal weapons specifically for civilian law enforcement agencies, rather than simply modifying non-lethal weapons intended for military use. Current options are "primitive," says Charles Heal, an expert who works with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. Tear gas, for instance, is dependent on wind direction and can affect innocent bystanders. Some other examples: billy clubs, stun bags fired from shotguns, dogs, stink bombs, smoke, Tasers, extremely loud noises or bright lights, soporifics, and sticky foam. The critical standard is whether the non-lethal weapon creates a "save" — that is, whether a person who would have been killed was instead apprehended. This not only saves lives, it also reduces the chance of costly lawsuits. Heal, who tests products proposed by inventors and manufacturers, discusses some promising products such as a flashlight that disperses pepper spray (so a police officer who feels threatened can use the spray to incapacitate an offender rather than hitting him on the head). Heal hopes someone will invent a device that causes the engine of a car being pursued to die. Currently he is testing a speaker that broadcasts sound with clarity at ranges never seen before. It could be used by police to broadcast warnings, instructions, or frightening sounds such as machine gun fire or police dogs barking. Heal says it is being used in Iraq "to clear neighborhoods and to tell people at checkpoints to stop."

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