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SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS

Religious Freedom Day: January 16, 2009

2009 ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. U.S. Department of State. October 26, 2009.

The report contains an introduction, executive summary, and a chapter describing the status of religious freedom in each of 195 countries throughout the world. Mandated by, and presented to, the U.S. Congress, the report is a public document available online and in book form from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/index.htm> [HTML format with links].

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. May 2009.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) names six new countries to its lists of nations responsible for committing egregious violations of religious freedom in the report. It details abuse in 28 nations, many of which are at the top of U.S. foreign policy agenda, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, North Korea, China, Iran and Iraq. Commissioners also provides recommendations to the Obama Administration, the U.S. State Department and members of Congress regarding ways in which U.S. policy can promote human rights and religious freedom in nations USCIRF identifies as the world's most severe religious rights abusers.

<http://www.uscirf.gov/images/AR2009/final%20ar2009%20with%20cover.pdf> [PDF format, 274 pages].

GLOBAL RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. December 2009.

The report finds that 64 nations, about one-third of the countries in the world, have high or very high restrictions on religion. But because some of the most restrictive countries are very populous, nearly 70 percent of the world's 6.8 billion people live in countries with high restrictions on religion, the brunt of which often falls on religious minorities. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/restrictions/restrictionsfullreport.pdf> [PDF format, 72 pages].

ICRF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WORLD REPORT. International Coalition for Religious Freedom. November 18, 2009.

International Coalition for Religious Freedom divides the report on religious freedom into Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Russia and the Former Soviet Republics, and the Middle East. Each section provides the current status of religious freedom in individual countries. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.religiousfreedom.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=47&Itemid=56 [HTML format with links].

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. United Nations. December 10, 1948.

Article 18: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml> [HTML format, various paging].
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/Introduction.aspx> Index to Translations

BILL FOR ESTABLISHING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. First Freedom Center. Thomas Jefferson. 1779.

The text of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was drafted by Thomas Jefferson in 1779.
http://www.firstfreedom.org/PDF/Freedom_Statute.pdf [PDF format, 2 pages].

DEFINING RELIGION IN AMERICAN LAW. International Coalition for Religious Freedom. Bruce J. Casino. 2009.

The paper provides an insight into the issue of how "religion" is to be defined. According to the author, the issue is crucial to international human rights law since the protections afforded religious freedom by the various international and national treaties, conventions, declarations and constitutions apply only to religious beliefs and actions. The American legal system has long been concerned with this definitional issue and has developed more case law and legal commentary on the subject than any other nation. Thus the insights provided by American law may prove useful as governmental agencies or courts in other nations or international tribunals consider the issue. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.religiousfreedom.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=431:casino-cesnur&catid=48:maryland-task-force&Itemid=447 [HTML format, various paging].

GUIDANCE ON CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED PRAYER IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS. U.S. Department of Education. 2003.

Section 9524 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ("ESEA") of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, requires the Secretary to issue guidance on constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools. In addition, Section 9524 requires that, as a condition of receiving ESEA funds, a local educational agency ("LEA") must certify in writing to its State educational agency ("SEA") that it has no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools as set forth in this guidance.

http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer_guidance.html [HTML format, various paging].

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE MILITARY. A SHORT HISTORY. Military Religious Freedom Foundation. January 2010.

The concept and practice of religious freedom in the United States Armed Forces date back to the earliest days of this nation. The United States Constitution outlines the basic concept of religious freedom as understood by Americans in the Bill of Rights. All branches of the United States military are afforded the same rights to religious freedom as are American civilians. However, members of the Armed Forces willingly surrender on a temporary basis certain free exercise rights when it impinges on military discipline and the successful completion of a military objective. This guarantee of religious freedom is codified for the Armed Forces in Title 10, United States Code (USC), sections 3073, 3547, 5142, and 8067. Free exercise of religious freedom for military personnel is further detailed in Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 1300.17. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org/about2.html> [HTML format, various paging].

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN FOCUS. Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice. 2009.

The volumes contain the religious freedom related cases in the United States and their outcomes. <http://www.justice.gov/crt/religdisc/newsletters.php> [HTML format with links].

ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Anthony, Katey Walter ARCTIC CLIMATE THREAT -- METHANE FROM THAWING PERMAFROST (Scientific American, December 2009)

Arctic permafrost is already thawing, creating lakes that emit methane. The heat-trapping gas could dramatically accelerate global warming. How big is the threat and what can be done? Methane bubbling up into the atmosphere from thawing permafrost that underlies many Arctic lakes seems to be hastening global warming. New estimates indicate that by 2100 thawing permafrost could boost emissions of the potent greenhouse gas 20 percent to 40 percent beyond what would be produced by all natural and human sources. The only realistic way to slow the thaw is for humankind to limit climate warming by reducing our carbon dioxide emissions.

Caputo, Philip THE FALL OF MEXICO (Atlantic Monthly, December 2009)

In the past three years, since President Felipe Calderon launched the war on drug cartels, some 14,000 people have been killed in Mexico -- the worst carnage since the Mexican Revolution. Virtually none of the homicides have been solved, mostly because both police and witnesses see little reason to pursue these cases. The Mexican military, which is supposed to be fighting the drug cartels, frequently exploits and terrorizes citizens, and there are few safeguards in place to control abuses. But even if the Mexican military was comprised of strictly honest soldiers, the author says the drug bosses and their organizations have become so integrated into Mexican society that they corrupt every aspect of the nation's life. Narcotics cultivation and trafficking directly employs some 450,000 Mexicans and generates revenues estimated as high as \$25 billion a year. A recent report concludes that 17 of Mexico's 31 states have become virtual narco-republics, where organized crime has infiltrated government, the courts and the police so extensively that there is almost no way they can be cleaned up. The drug gangs have acquired the military capacity to confront the army on nearly equal footing. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200912/mexico-drugs>

Freeth, Tony DECODING AN ANCIENT COMPUTER: GREEK TECHNOLOGY TRACKED THE HEAVENS (Scientific American, December 2009)

New explorations have revealed how the Antikythera mechanism -- a unique mechanical calculator from second-century-B.C. Greece -- modeled lunar motion and predicted eclipses, among other feats. Its sophistication surprised archaeologists when it was discovered in 1901 but no one had anticipated its true power. Imaging tools have finally allowed researchers to reconstruct how the device predicted lunar and solar eclipses and the motion of the moon in the sky. Inscriptions on the mechanism suggest that it might have been built in the Greek city of Syracuse (now in modern Sicily), perhaps in a tradition that originated with Archimedes.

Garcia, Michelle MYTHS OF MEXICO: THE U.S. MEDIA'S SIMPLISTIC DEPICTION OF THE 'DRUG WAR' Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 48, no. 4, November/December 2009, pp. 16-19)

The author critiques most U.S. journalism about Mexico as narrow and simplistic, focusing on, and even romanticizing, the drug cartels while ignoring their political context. Garcia notes that it is demand for drugs in the United States that is fueling the drug war in Mexico; much of the weaponry and money also originates in the U.S., factors frequently glossed over in the press. Garcia argues that the public would be better served by examination of the causes of the rise of the cartels and less superficial sensationalism.

Schmidle, Nicholas THE HOSTAGE BUSINESS (New York Times Magazine, December 6, 2009, 44-48)

The author, a fellow at the New America Foundation, notes that kidnapping for ransom around the world has grown, despite the advent of the global economic crisis. The article focuses on a recent spate of kidnappings in the oil-producing Niger River Delta region of Nigeria. The author writes that Nigeria has become a hot spot for kidnappings, and the perpetrators are expanding their range of targets; a new global industry of insurers and consultants has sprung up in response. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/06/magazine/06kidnapping-t.html>

Woodard, Colin THE PYRAMID MAN (Smithsonian, Vol. 40, no. 9, December 2009, pp. 50-57)

An amateur archaeologist claims to have discovered the world's oldest pyramids, the evidence of an ancient civilization in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Experts say the claims have no basis in scientific fact, but the Bosnian media, public, and even some public officials have seized on to the claim. Sam Osmanagich says the pyramidal-shaped hills, northwest of Sarajevo, are part of a 12,000-year-old civilization. But Woodard concludes that the acceptance of the story is evidence of a war-torn public attempting to latch onto a story that lends some luster to the tiny, struggling country. But the claims have gained surprising traction. Osmanagich has formed a foundation to promote the site, and contributions pour in after his many television interviews. But a curator at the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina tells Woodard, "I thought it was a very funny joke. I just couldn't believe that anyone in the world could believe this." Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/The-Mystery-of-Bosnias-Ancient-Pyramids.html>

Zakaria, Fareed THE SECRETS OF STABILITY: WHY TERRORISM AND ECONOMIC TURMOIL WON'T KEEP THE WORLD DOWN FOR LONG (Newsweek, December 12, 2009)

The author notes that, despite hard times, there has not been a global collapse in the last year because the current global economic system is inherently more resilient than commonly thought. Among the reasons are that peace among major powers has minimized bloody military conflicts and instability; inflation, which can be more socially and politically disruptive than a recession, is under control; and technological connectivity and the diffusion of knowledge allow for greater opportunities for wealth creation at every level of society. "Clear-thinking citizens around the world," Zakaria writes, "are determined not to lose these gains by falling for some ideological chimera, or searching for a worker's utopia. They are even cautious about the appeals of hypernationalism and war. Most have been there, done that. And they know the price." Currently available online at <http://www.newsweek.com/id/226425>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

SHOULD CENTRAL BANKS TARGET ASSET PRICES? (International Economy, Fall 2009, pp. 8-19)

Over the past year, with the collapse of the U.S. subprime mortgage market, central banks have enacted a host of emergency measures. However, identifying overinflated asset markets in advance and avoiding moral hazard is very difficult. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan made his famous remark about the stock market being “irrationally exuberant” at a time when the stock market was a third lower than it is today; Americans’ “irrational exuberance” over housing prices turned out to be a bubble, after all. Twenty experts offer their views in this symposium on the degree to which central banks should attempt to influence asset prices, or whether it is even possible. Currently available online at http://www.international-economy.com/TIE_F09_AssetPriceSymp.pdf

Wheary, Jennifer THE GLOBAL MIDDLE CLASS IS HERE: NOW WHAT? (World Policy Journal, vol. 26, no. 4, Winter 2009/2010, pp. 75-83)

Wheary, senior fellow at the public-policy organization Demos, writes that the global middle class has been growing exponentially, with some 1.2 billion people joining its ranks since the early 1990s. This new group has massive new expectations — part consumer group, part social force, they are in a position to pressure for more infrastructure, better governance, social stability or even political change. The author notes that a growing middle class does not guarantee a move to democracy, the elimination of corruption or enactment of property-ownership laws, but is an indication that change is afoot. She notes that the downside of a growing middle class is growing material consumption, resulting in more pollution and carbon emissions. The major challenge is to inculcate in this emerging class the virtues of sustainability, while ensuring that the goods and services they want to obtain are environmentally sound. Available online at <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/wopj.2010.26.4.75>

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

REVITALIZING PUBLIC DIPLOMACY (Journal of International Security Affairs, no. 17, Fall 2009, pp. 9-17, 19-27, 29-53, 55-62)

Six essays in this issue address the subject of public diplomacy. In “No Substitute for Substance,” Robert Reilly, former VOA director, looks at how America interacts with the Muslim world and the importance of new ideas and content. J. Michael Waller, professor of international communication, Institute of World Politics, writes in “Getting Serious About Strategic Influence” that the State Department needs to move beyond what he considers its past legacy of failure into strategic communication. Helle C. Dale of the Heritage Foundation warns in “An Inauspicious Start” that present signs indicate that President Obama has as little interest in public diplomacy as his predecessor did. In “Messaging to the (Muslim) Masses”, Ilan Berman, editor of the Journal, writes that the Islamic world is our target audience and that there are many ways for public-diplomacy efforts to be successful in its efforts towards them. Colleen Graffy, professor of law, Pepperdine University, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy, advises in “The Rise of Public Diplomacy 2.0” that with the global media environment constantly changing, public diplomacy needs to keep up. In “Wanted: A War on Terrorist Media”, Mark Dubowitz, with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, argues that we should be treating the media outlets of terrorist groups as terrorists themselves. Articles are all available online at www.securityaffairs.org

Ganguly, Sumit; Kapur, S. Paul THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE: ISLAMIST MILITANCY IN SOUTH ASIA (Washington Quarterly, vol. 33, no. 1, January 2010, pp. 47-59)

The authors, professors at Indiana University (Bloomington) and the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School respectively, note that Pakistan has a history of using non-state actors in asymmetric conflict with stronger adversaries such as India and the former Soviet Union. Now, they write, the extremist organizations "have taken on a life of their own, like the magic brooms in Goethe's tale", conducting attacks and assassinations, and the Pakistani government is no longer in control of them; India's efforts at coercing Pakistan into reeling them in has also been counterproductive. The authors write that, for India and Pakistan to tame the "sorcerer's apprentice", both countries need to adopt policies outside their normal "comfort zone." Pakistan must forswear militancy, stop supporting jihadis and accept international assistance in combating them, and India must get serious about upgrading their security, and at the same time address legitimate concerns of their own Muslim population in Kashmir and India proper, which would go a long way in defusing the long-simmering Kashmir conflict. Available online at http://www.twq.com/10january/docs/10jan_GangulyKapur.pdf

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Baker, Nicholson A NEW PAGE: CAN KINDLE REALLY IMPROVE ON THE BOOK? (New Yorker, August 3, 2009)

More than 350,000 titles are available for reading on an Amazon Kindle, and despite a \$359 price tag, the wireless reading device was the top-selling item on Amazon this Christmas. Author Nicholson Baker tried out a Kindle and reports in this August 2009 article that he isn't especially impressed. He doesn't like the gray screen with gray typeface; the fact that many books, ranging from potboilers ("The Bourne Identity") to literature (Nabokov), are unavailable; the absence of page numbers; the poor resolution of photos and graphs; the impossibility of reading Kindle books on any other device except the iPod Touch and iPhone; and the fact that Kindle users are "tied ... to Amazon forever." Although it makes claims of earth-friendliness, since no trees are cut down, a Kindle requires electricity to operate, is difficult to recycle, and "will probably take a last boat ride to a Nigerian landfill in five years." But Baker isn't against the concept of electronic books in general. He finds it odd that more people aren't buying the Sony Reader, which has sharper resolution. He advises readers to "buy an iPod Touch ... or buy an iPhone, and load the free 'Kindle for iPod' application onto it" or other applications such as Stanza. This serves a night-reading need: when you wake up at 3 a.m. you can read without disturbing your bedmate then tuck the iPod Touch back under your pillow and sleep. Baker started reading a novel on his iPod but switched to a Kindle to give it a fair try for this article: "It was like going from a Mini Cooper to a white 1982 Impala with blown shocks." Currently available online at http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/08/03/090803fa_fact_baker

Fowler, George J. BEYOND BOOKS AND BULLETS (American Libraries, vol. 40, no. 12, December 2009, pp. 44-47)

The author, a librarian at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, recounts his experience in learning new leadership skills during a deployment in Iraq with the Arkansas Army National Guard in 2007-2008. He writes that, while librarianship and leading 31 soldiers through a year-long deployment may seem to have nothing in common, he "considers them both service professions," even if the means they use to serve the public differ greatly. He writes the responsibilities of librarianship and military service, along with most professions, can be summarized in the seven Army Values taught to all soldiers: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage (LDRSHIP). Fowler notes that "these values have guided me since my return ... now that I'm home and back at work, I consider any challenges that come my way with an

entirely different perspective.” Currently available online at <http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/features/12012009/beyond-books-and-bullets>

Katz, Jamie LESTER YOUNG TURNS 100 (Smithsonian.com, August 25, 2009)

Jazz legend Lester Young — nicknamed “Prez” — was among the most revered saxophone players of the Swing Era (1930s-1950s), yet the 100th anniversary of his birth has gone virtually unnoticed. Jamie Katz, writing for Smithsonian magazine’s online edition, hails Young as “a pivotal figure” whose “lyrical, flowing style changed the terms of jazz improvisation and deeply influenced such musicians as Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Frank Sinatra and Antonio Carlos Jobim.” Young — whose landmark recordings with Count Basie, Billie Holiday, Benny Goodman and Nat King Cole have come to define mid-century jazz — was an innovator who “electrified the jazz world with his dexterity and imagination,” says Katz. Raised in New Orleans, Young was born into a musical family and became familiar with a variety of music genres at an early age. Young brought a hip, freewheeling sensibility to his saxophone playing, and tilted his saxophone at a rakishly high angle during onstage performances, prompting Rolling Stone magazine to declare him “quite likely the hippest dude that ever lived.” Yet for all his talent and ingenuity, Young “was sliding into a long decline by his early 30s,” according to Katz. Young’s traumatic experience in the U.S. Army during World War II may have been a factor, and although he still performed with flashes of brilliance, he was hospitalized with a nervous breakdown in 1955. He died on March 15, 1959, a few months shy of his 50th birthday. Now, a half-century later, Young remains a powerful influence on the jazz scene, with many contemporary saxophonists — including Wayne Shorter, Lee Konitz, Joe Lovano and Mark Turner — professing deep admiration for him. Katz recalled that the late pianist John Lewis, who played in Young’s band, said he regarded Young as “a living, walking poet” whose wounds in life had never healed. One hundred years after Young’s birth, says Katz, it is time for this “artist of the highest rank” to be featured on a postage stamp, honored with a statue, or otherwise given his due: “Happy birthday, Prez.” Available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/Lester-Young-Turns-100.html>.

Wilson, Robin GLOBE-TROTTING ACADEMICS FIND NEW CAREER PATHS (Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 16, December 11, 2009, pp. A1, A19–A21)

At a time when American college leaders talk frequently about internationalizing their campuses, only 9 percent of U.S. faculty have ever held a job at a foreign university for at least one year, according to a new survey by the Chronicle. Those American academics who have pursued careers at foreign universities have often done so for reasons other than the tight U.S. job market. In interviews with more than two dozen American academics teaching at universities around the world, Wilson found that some wanted new challenges after long, successful careers in U.S. education; some wanted to pursue research centered in the country in which they teach; some welcome the opportunity to play leadership roles in institutions that are just getting started; some are attracted by the chance to do things that they could not do in the United States until much later in their careers; and some are “adventure junkies.” Many foreign universities are trying to attract American academics by offering big salaries and substantial perks. The Chronicle survey revealed one reason there aren’t more American academics taking jobs internationally: most American academics would be most tempted by a job in Europe, while the regions in which institutions are trying hardest to recruit U.S. faculty are located in the Middle East and East Asia, the regions least tempting to the participants in the survey.

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