

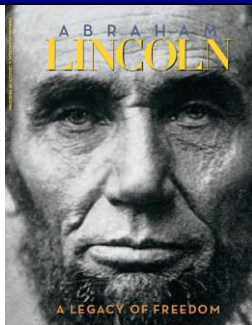


**AMERICAN INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER**  
Ankara, Turkey

**E-Documents**  
**February 2009**

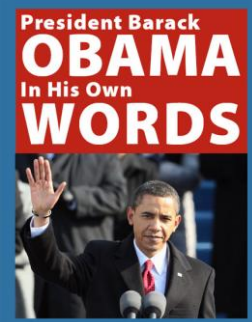
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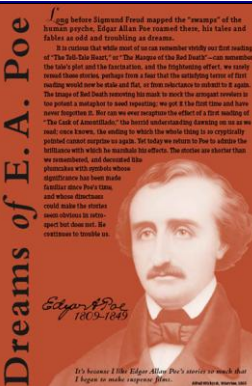
**Abraham Lincoln: A Legacy of Freedom**

The year 2009 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the nation's 16th president, and the man often considered its greatest leader. As the United States endured its greatest crisis, this self-educated common man supplied the leadership and the moral force that bound Americans together and carried them to victory. His vision spanned diplomacy and military strategy, political thought and elemental justice for all Americans --- including the African-American slaves he emancipated. The essays gathered here introduce readers to this "best and most widely acclaimed of all Americans."



**Obama in His Own Words**

These pages share President Obama's words with our global readership. This book includes the complete text of the 44th President's Inaugural Address. Also featured are extended excerpts from eight other significant campaign and pre-presidential speeches. It is our hope that while the book itself is small, readers will discover that the vision captured in its pages is large. NEW! Receive daily highlights from this title. Point your web browser or mobile device to [twitter.com/americagovprint](http://twitter.com/americagovprint) .



**Dreams of Edgar Allan Poe**

Dreams of Edgar Allan Poe honors a giant of American literature. An essay by the acclaimed novelist and critic Diane Johnson explores Poe's life and career. Excerpts from audio dramatizations bring 6 classic Poe stories to life. Formatted as a stylish PDF file, this special web publication is suitable for printing and framing.

	<p><b>The 2009 U.S. Presidential Inauguration</b></p> <p>The citizens of the United States enthusiastically celebrated the inauguration of their 44th president in January 2009. The peaceful transfer of power always renews faith in the strength of democracy, but in 2009 the rise of an African-American to the nation's highest office also gave reason for pride at the nation's repudiation of the segregation and slavery in its past. President Barack Obama called it a day when Americans chose "hope over fear."</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

100 THINGS AMERICAS MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION RECORD. The White House. January 14, 2009.

The White House shows Bush Administrations accomplishments.  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/bushrecord/documents/appendix\\_acc\\_for\\_web.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/bushrecord/documents/appendix_acc_for_web.pdf) [PDF format, 41 pages].

2009 THREAT PREDICTIONS. McAfee. January 2009.

According to the report, the exploitation of the financial crisis to scam users with fake financial transactions services, fake investment firms, and fake legal services continues. The report examines the accuracy of last year's predictions and provides new insight as to where computer security threats are headed this year. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.mcafee.com/us/local\\_content/reports/2009\\_threat\\_predictions\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcafee.com/us/local_content/reports/2009_threat_predictions_report.pdf) [PDF format, 10 pages].

AIRPORT WILDLIFE MITIGATION – ‘BIRDSTRIKE NEWS YOU CAN USE.’ Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Web posted January 20, 2009.

The study suggests changes needed to effectively reduce the hazard of 35,000 birdstrikes a year. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://wildlife.pr.erau.edu/newsletters/newsletter\\_december\\_08.pdf](http://wildlife.pr.erau.edu/newsletters/newsletter_december_08.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

AMERICA’S YOUTH AT 21: SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT TRANSITIONS BETWEEN AGES 20 AND 21 SUMMARY. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. January 23, 2009.

At age 21, women are more likely to be enrolled in college than men, says the report. Among 21-year-olds not enrolled in college, men are more likely than women to be employed in a civilian job or serving in the military. It focuses on the school enrollment and employment experiences of these individuals from the October when they were age 20 to the October when they were age 21. Respondents were age 20 in October during the years 2000 to 2005 and age 21 in October from 2001 to 2006. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/nlsyth.nr0.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

ANNUAL RANKING OF GREEN VEHICLES SHOWS PROGRESS DESPITE TOUGH TIMES. American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. Shruti Vaidyanathan and Therese Langer. February 3, 2009.

Despite the beating taken by the auto industry in 2008 and more tough times ahead, manufacturers are fine-tuning their engines and transmissions, improving materials, and adding emissions control technologies get a head start on meeting tightened federal fuel economy standards. Worries over the economy and future gas prices are driving interest in high fuel economy vehicles as well, says the author. This year’s greenest title goes once again to Honda’s natural gas-powered Civic GX. The Toyota Prius and Honda Civic Hybrid claim spots two and three, while the Smart Fortwo Convertible, the Toyota Yaris, and the Nissan Altima Hybrid complete the top six. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.aceee.org/press/0902gb.htm> [HTML format, various paging with links].

AP REPORT TO THE NATION. Annual, College Board. February 4, 2009.

More than 15 percent of the public high school class of 2008 achieved at least one Advanced Placement (AP®) Exam score of 3 or higher, the score that is predictive of college success, announces the College Board. Additionally, AP students are much more likely to earn a bachelor’s degree in four years than their peers, thereby reducing college costs and supporting higher education’s goal of on-time degree completion. The annual spotlights educators’ quantifiable successes in helping a wider, more ethnically diverse segment of students gain access to and achieve success in college-level work. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.collegeboard.com/html/aprtn/pdf/ap\\_report\\_to\\_the\\_nation.pdf](http://www.collegeboard.com/html/aprtn/pdf/ap_report_to_the_nation.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages].  
[http://www.collegeboard.com/html/aprtn/state\\_reports.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/html/aprtn/state_reports.html) State Reports. [HTML format, links to PDF files].

ARTS & THE ECONOMY: USING ARTS AND CULTURE TO STIMULATE STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. National Governors Association. Web posted January 15, 2009.

Fostering the arts and culture sector has played a vital role in state economic development, according to the report. Arts and culture-related industries, collectively known as “creative industries,” provide direct economic benefits to states and communities by creating jobs, attracting new investments, generating tax revenues and stimulating tourism and consumer

purchases. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0901ARTSANDECONOMY.PDF> [PDF format, 44 pages].

AS OBAMA TAKES OFFICE, GLOBAL PRESS TURNS TO REGIONAL CONCERNS. Pew Global Attitudes Project. January 22, 2009.

The celebratory tone that characterized international media coverage of Barack Obama's historic election victory was again pervasive in many of the stories about his inauguration as the 44th American president. "The United States has got its groove back," according to Germany's Der Spiegel. However, many newspapers also noted the more somber tone of Obama's speech, and were themselves relatively somber about the enormous challenges and inflated expectations facing the new president. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1088/global-press-inauguration-reaction> [HTML format, various paging].

ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVABLE POTENTIAL FROM ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAMS IN THE U.S. (2010-2030). Electric Power Institute. Web posted January 22, 2009.

Energy efficiency programs in the United States could realistically reduce the rate of growth for electricity consumption by 22 percent over the next two decades if key barriers can be addressed, according to the analysis. The potential energy savings in 2030 would be 236 billion kilowatt hours, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of 14 New York Cities. However, achieving the ideal would require costly investments as well as political and regulatory support. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://my.epri.com/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_2\\_1630\\_277\\_848\\_43/http%3B/myepri10%3B80/EPRIDocumentAccess/popup.aspx/00000000001016987](http://my.epri.com/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_1630_277_848_43/http%3B/myepri10%3B80/EPRIDocumentAccess/popup.aspx/00000000001016987) [PDF format, 342 pages].

ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS BY LIFE SCIENTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES. Committee on Assessing Fundamental Attitudes of Life Scientists as a Basis for Biosecurity Education, National Research Council. February 2009.

The National Research Council and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) surveyed a sample of AAAS members in the life sciences to assess their views on "dual-use" research, studies undertaken for beneficial purposes that could also have harmful applications such as bioterrorism. Survey results indicate that while most respondents do not perceive bioterrorism as an immediate threat, a small number have taken action to avert misuse of their research. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12460](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12460) [HTML format, links to PDF files].

ATMOSPHERIC AEROSOL PROPERTIES AND CLIMATE IMPACTS. U.S. Climate Change Science Program. Mian Chin. January 2009.

Scientists need a more detailed understanding of how human-produced atmospheric particles, called aerosols, affect climate in order to produce better predictions of the Earth's future climate, according to the report. "The influence of aerosols on climate is not yet adequately taken into account in our computer predictions of climate," said Mian Chin, report coordinating lead author.  
<http://downloads.climate-science.gov/sap/sap2-3/sap2-3-final-report-all.pdf> [PDF format, 149 pages].

BEYOND "FORTRESS AMERICA" NATIONAL SECURITY CONTROLS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. National Research Council. Web posted January 9, 2009.

Many U.S. export and visa controls, developed during the Cold War era to prevent the transfer of technological and scientific advances to our enemies, now harm U.S. national security and economic prosperity, says the report from the National Research Council. The current regulations were designed for a world that no longer exists and are unsuitable for today's adversaries. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12567#toc](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12567#toc) [HTML format, link to PDF file].

**BROADCASTING TO CUBA: ACTIONS ARE NEEDED TO IMPROVE STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS.** U.S. Government Accountability Office. January 2009.

For more than two decades, the U.S. government has been broadcasting to Cuba to break the Cuban government's information blockade and promote democracy in Cuba. Over this period, questions have been raised regarding the quality and effectiveness of these broadcasts. The U.S. Government Accountability Office analyzes documentation related to strategic planning, audience research, oversight, and operations and interviewed officials from BBG, BBG's International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), OCB, State, and other agencies.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09127.pdf> [PDF format, 59 pages].

**THE BUDGET AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: FISCAL YEARS 2009 TO 2019.** Congressional Budget Office. January 2009.

The sharp downturn in housing markets across the country, which undermined the solvency of major financial institutions and severely disrupted the functioning of financial markets, has led the United States into a recession that will probably be the longest and the deepest since World War II. The Congressional Budget Office anticipates that the recession, which began about a year ago, will last well into 2009.

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/99xx/doc9957/01-07-Outlook.pdf> [PDF format, 58 pages].

**BUILDING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE: PROMOTING THE EDUCATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF HISPANIC IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN AMERICA.** Excelencia in Education. Mary Gershwin et al. January 21, 2009.

Strategic partnerships between industry and community colleges that engage younger Hispanic immigrants can boost the economy by training an important proportion of U.S. workers for future jobs. The report looks at six innovative partnerships throughout the country. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.edexcelencia.org/pdf/Building%20Tomorrow's%20Workforce%20full%20report.pdf> [PDF format, 51 pages].

**CHINA'S MILITARY POWER.** Backgrounder, Council on Foreign Relations. Jayshree Bajoria. February 4, 2009.

Since the 1990s, China has dramatically improved its military capabilities on land and sea, in the air, and in space. Recently, China has begun to project its military power beyond the Pacific Ocean by deploying a flotilla of small warships in December 2008 to the Gulf of Aden to aid in international efforts to fight Somali piracy. Historically, the United States is most concerned about the possibility of a conflict between China and Taiwan, though tensions between the two have lessened since 2008. But looking decades ahead, U.S. military planners clearly see the potential for China to develop as a "peer competitor." [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/18459/chinas\\_military\\_power.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fbackgrounder](http://www.cfr.org/publication/18459/chinas_military_power.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder) [HTML format, various paging].

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: A FEDERAL PERSPECTIVE.** U.S. Geological Survey. Levi D. Brekke et al. February 2, 2009.



A study to help better manage and preserve the nation's water resources in a changing climate is compiled by multiple government agencies. Water managers can use the report to support their efforts to provide water to communities and farms, generate power for cities, sustain ecological systems, or protect lives and homes from floods, all critical to the public's health, safety, and quality of life. The report presents the best available science to help water managers prepare for, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change on the nation's water resources.

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1331/Circ1331.pdf> [PDF format, 76 pages].

**CONSUMER PROTECTION IN THE STATES: A 50-STATE REPORT ON UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS AND PRACTICES STATUTE.** National Consumer Law Center, Inc. February 2009.

Serious gaps and weaknesses have compromised consumer protection laws in most of the 50 states, and recent court rulings have opened the door to predators and abuses in billions of everyday transactions. The report analyzes and summarizes the unfair and deceptive acts and practices (UDAP) laws that protect consumers in each state and the District of Columbia, and spotlights limitations in the substance and scope of the laws and in their enforcement. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.nclc.org/issues/udap/content/UDAP\\_Report\\_Feb09.pdf](http://www.nclc.org/issues/udap/content/UDAP_Report_Feb09.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages].

**CLOSING GUANTANAMO AND RESTORING THE RULE OF LAW.** Center for Constitutional Rights. Web posted January 13, 2009.

The study includes the newest and most comprehensive numbers and lists of detainee status by nationality. It suggests three steps: 1) send those who can go home home, 2) secure safe haven for those who cannot, and 3) charge those who can be charged and try them in ordinary federal criminal court. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://ccrjustice.org/files/12.01.09\\_CCR%20Report\\_Closing%20Guantanamo.pdf](http://ccrjustice.org/files/12.01.09_CCR%20Report_Closing%20Guantanamo.pdf) [PDF format, 5 pages].

**CLOSING THE GUANTANAMO DETENTION CENTER: LEGAL ISSUES.** Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Michael John Garcia et al. January 15, 2009.

As part of the war on terror, after 9/11, many persons captured during military operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere were transferred to the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for detention and possible prosecution before military tribunals. The report provides an overview of major legal issues likely to arise in the event of executive and/or legislative action to close the Guantanamo detention facility. It discusses legal issues related to the transfer or release of Guantanamo detainees, either to a foreign country or into the United States, the continued detention of such persons in the United States, and the possible removal of persons brought to the United States.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40139\\_20090115.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40139_20090115.pdf) [PDF format, 40 pages].

**COASTAL SENSITIVITY TO SEA LEVEL RISE: A FOCUS ON THE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONS.** U.S. Geological Survey. January 15, 2009.

The report discusses the impacts of sea level rise on the coast, coastal communities, and the habitats and species that depend on them. It examines multiple opportunities for governments and coastal communities to plan for and adapt to rising sea levels.

Sea-level rise can affect coastal communities and habitats in a variety of different ways, including submerging low-lying lands, eroding beaches, converting wetlands to open water, intensifying coastal flooding, and increasing the salinity of estuaries and freshwater aquifers. It is caused by a number of natural and human-induced factors and can vary by region.

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/effects/coastal/SAP%204.1%20Final%20Report%2001.15.09.pdf> [PDF format, 784 pages].

COLOMBIA: A NEW ETHANOL PRODUCER ON THE RISE? Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Web posted February 9, 2009.

Colombia's sugarcane-based ethanol industry, after operating for only 3 years, is the second most developed in the Western Hemisphere, according to the report. Most Colombian ethanol plants are energy self-sufficient and even generate surplus power that is sold to the national electric grid. Colombia's sugarcane-based ethanol production is increasing: proposed expansion projects have the potential to more than triple daily production from 277,000 gallons in 2007 to almost 1 million gallons in 2010. Most of the expansion is intended for exports, principally to the United States.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/WRS0901/WRS0901.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages].

COMMON CHALLENGE, COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES: A ROADMAP FOR U.S.-CHINA COOPERATION ON ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. February 5, 2009.

The report presents a vision and a concrete roadmap for U.S.-China collaboration focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change. Experts and key stakeholders from the worlds of science, business, civil society, policy, and politics in both China and the United States contributed to the report, or "Roadmap," that explores the climate and energy challenges facing both nations and recommends a concrete program for sustained, high-level, bilateral engagement and on-the-ground action. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/US-China-Roadmap-Feb09.pdf> [PDF format, 58 pages].

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS: DO ENERGY-SAVINGS OUTWEIGH MERCURY HAZARD? U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Donna Heron. January 29, 2009.

Many people are turning to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), which use 75 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, to save energy. However, there is also a concern because CFLs contain a small amount of mercury. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "It would take 100 CFLs to equal the amount of mercury contained in older thermometers, which is about 500 milligrams."

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/6427a6b7538955c585257359003f0230/00c07ccb32cf4fab8525754d0073d8d1!OpenDocument> [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/universal/lamps/index.htm> Mercury-Containing Light Bulb (Lamp) Recycling [HTML format, various paging].

COMBATING MARITIME PIRACY. Council on Foreign Relations. Stephanie Hanson. January 27, 2009.

Maritime piracy has been on the rise for years, according to the study. But until 2008, when pirates operating off the coast of Somalia hijacked a ship full of Russian tanks and an oil supertanker, the crime drew limited international attention. By early 2009, more than a dozen countries had deployed their navies to the Gulf of Aden to counter piracy, and the United Nations passed four resolutions in 2008 on the issue. The complexities of international maritime law make it difficult to prosecute pirates once they are caught. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/18376/combating\\_maritime\\_piracy.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fbackgrounder](http://www.cfr.org/publication/18376/combating_maritime_piracy.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder) [HTML format, various paging].

A COMPARISON OF HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mark Nord and Heather Hopwood. Web posted January 9, 2009.

Food security, consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life, is essential for health and good nutrition. The extent to which a nation's population achieves food security is an indication of its material and social well-being. Differences in the prevalence of household-level food insecurity between Canada and the United States are described at the national level and for selected economic and demographic subpopulations.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR67/ERR67.pdf> [PDF format, 50 pages].

THE CONFERENCE BOARD LEADING ECONOMIC INDEX FOR THE EURO AREA SHOWS CONTINUING CONTRACTION. The Conference Board. January 28, 2009.

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index (LEI) for the Euro Area declined a further 0.9 percent in December to 93.3 (2004 = 100), following a 1.7 percent fall in November and a 2.5 percent drop in October. Falling economic sentiment and stock prices more than offset large positive contributions from inflation-adjusted money supply and the interest rate spread, according to the index. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.conference-board.org/pdf\\_free/translations/shortLSBDAY.pdf](http://www.conference-board.org/pdf_free/translations/shortLSBDAY.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages].

CONNECTING THE DOTS: MANAGING RISK IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF UNPRECEDENTED UNCERTAINTY. Commonfund. Bill Martin. Web posted January 28, 2009.

The level of uncertainty and unpredictability created by current events, according to the report, has undermined confidence in the risk management techniques built for normal market environments and for stress and scenario analyses that are related to historical experience.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.commonfund.org/Templates/Generic/RESOURCE\\_REQUEST/target.pdf?RES\\_GUID=BBE20876-8F3F-409E-892F-61D146A3F7DE](http://www.commonfund.org/Templates/Generic/RESOURCE_REQUEST/target.pdf?RES_GUID=BBE20876-8F3F-409E-892F-61D146A3F7DE) [PDF format, 8 pages].

CORPORATE WELFARE: NOW A \$182 BILLION ADDICTION. Fraser Institute. Web posted January 23, 2009.

While politicians in Ottawa argue over how much additional money the government should give business in the name of economic stimulation, the report shows that Canadians already provided more than \$182 billion in corporate welfare to businesses between 1994 and 2006. That works out to \$13,639 per tax payer over that twelve-year period or \$1,291 per tax payer in 2006 alone.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.fraserinstitute.org/Commerce.Web/product\\_files/CorporateWelfare.pdf](http://www.fraserinstitute.org/Commerce.Web/product_files/CorporateWelfare.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

THE COST OF QUALITY OUT-OF-SCHOOL-TIME PROGRAMS. Wallace Foundation. Jean Baldwin Grossman et al. Web posted January 27, 2009.

Out-of-school time (OST) programs are increasingly expected to be of high enough quality to produce real benefits for children, but until now there has been little information on what such quality programming costs. The report provides a data-filled examination of the costs of 111 diverse, quality OST programs in six cities. The report finds that costs vary widely depending on a range of factors from program goals to times of operation and the ages of the children served.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/KnowledgeCenter/KnowledgeTopics/AreasOfContinuingInterest/PhilanthropicIssues/Documents/The-Cost-of-Quality-OST-Programs.pdf> [PDF format, 106 pages].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEF: COLOMBIA. Energy Information Administration. Web posted February 5, 2009.



Colombia has seen an increase in oil production in recent years following a period of steady declines. The Colombian government has implemented a partial privatization of state oil company Ecopetrol in an attempt to revive its upstream oil industry. In addition, it has enacted a series of regulatory reforms to make the sector more attractive to foreign investors. While the security situation has improved, Colombia's longstanding civil conflict has taken its toll on the country's energy sector, with the country's pipelines and power lines still experiencing occasional sabotage by insurgent groups. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Colombia/Background.html> [HTML format, various paging].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEF: IRAN. Energy Information Administration. February 2009.

Iran, one of OPEC's founding members, holds the world's third-largest proven oil reserves and the world's second-largest natural gas reserves. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Iran/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEF: VENEZUELA. Energy Information Administration. January 26, 2009.

Venezuela is one of the world's largest exporters of crude oil and the largest in the Western Hemisphere. In 2007, the country was the seventh-largest net oil exporter in the world. The oil sector is of central importance to the Venezuelan economy: it accounts for more than three-quarters of total Venezuelan export revenues, about half of total government revenues, and around one-third of total gross domestic product (GDP). In addition, as a founding member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Venezuela is an important player in the global oil market. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Venezuela/Background.html> [HTML format, various paging].

COST SHARING FOR HEALTH CARE: FRANCE, GERMANY, AND SWITZERLAND. Kaiser Family Foundation. January 12, 2009.

As policymakers in the United States weigh options for reform to the nation's health care system, the level of cost sharing that consumers face when they receive services covered by their health plans is a major consideration, especially for those with serious health conditions. The brief examines how three European countries, France, Germany, and Switzerland, have dealt with cost sharing in their health systems. It provides an overview of each country's health care system, its cost-sharing policies, and the cost-sharing exemptions and limits that help protect people with low incomes, certain medical conditions or high medical costs, and other characteristics from burdensome, excessive costs. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://kff.org/insurance/upload/7852.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages].

COURSE CREDIT ACCRUAL AND DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, BY STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS. National Center for Education Statistics. February 2009.

The study examines the number of credits earned by high school students and the relationship between course credit accrual and dropping out. Findings indicate that high school dropouts earned fewer credits than did on-time graduates within each year of high school, and the cumulative course credit accrual gap increased with each subsequent year. The pattern of dropouts earning fewer credits than on-time graduates remained across all examined student and school characteristics, student sex, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, school location, and sophomore class size. However, the size of the cumulative course credit accrual gap between on-time graduates and dropouts varied within academic years for males versus females, Blacks and Hispanics versus Whites, and students attending city high schools versus students attending suburban, town, and rural high schools. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009035.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

CRISIS WITHOUT LIMITS: HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF POLITICAL REPRESSION IN ZIMBABWE. Human Rights Watch. January 22, 2009.

Zimbabwe is in a humanitarian crisis that is the result of a political crisis. A cholera epidemic has, as of January 12, 2009, left over 39,000 people infected and at least 2,000 dead, with the disease spreading to neighboring countries. The country is experiencing the sharpest rise in infant mortality in its history, and maternal mortality rates have tripled since the mid-90s. Repeated political interference in the work of humanitarian agencies hampers international efforts to help tackle these multiple crises. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/zimbabwe0109webwcover.pdf> [PDF format, 38 pages].

DEFENDING LIFE 2009 PROVEN STRATEGIES FOR A PRO-LIFE AMERICA: A STATE-BY-STATE LEGAL GUIDE TO BIOETHICS, AND THE END OF LIFE. American United for Life. Clarke D. Forsythe et al. Web posted January 23, 2009.

Americans United for Life (AUL) reports its sixth annual ranking of the most and least pro-life states. Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and South Dakota top the ranking, while California, Hawaii, and Vermont ranked lowest. While AUL's criteria cover states' treatment of all life issues, final rankings depend largely on each state's enactment of prudent and well-supported laws. Such laws fence in the abortion license granted by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1973 decision, *Roe v. Wade*. Among the laws AUL looks for are informed consent, parental involvement for minors, medically-supported regulation of abortion providers, and limitations on the use of taxpayer dollars for abortion. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://dl.aul.org/your-state/> [HTML format, various paging].

DIGITAL MUSIC REPORT 2009. International Federation of Phonographic Industries. John Kennedy. January 2009.

The music industry has transformed its business models, offering consumers an increasing range of new services with leading technology partners. However, generating value in an environment where 95 per cent of music downloads are illegal and unpaid for is still the biggest challenge for music companies and their commercial partners.

The digital music business internationally saw a sixth year of expansion in 2008, growing by an estimated 25 per cent to US\$3.7 billion in trade value. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.ifpi.org/content/library/DMR2009.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].  
<http://www.ifpi.org/content/library/DMR2009-key-statistics.pdf> Key Statistics. [PDF format, 2 pages].

DO LOWER CONTRIBUTION LIMITS DECREASE PUBLIC CORRUPTION? Center for Competitive Politics. January 2009.

The analysis shows that campaign contribution limits do not produce less corruption by public officials. The author compares Department of Justice data on public corruption convictions to information on contribution limits in all 50 states. The analysis found no correlation at all between contribution limits and the corruption of public officials, undermining a frequent claim by supporters of campaign finance restrictions that lower contribution limits will somehow inhibit corruption and create good government. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.campaignfreedom.org/docLib/20090122\\_issueanalysis5.pdf](http://www.campaignfreedom.org/docLib/20090122_issueanalysis5.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages].

DOMESTICS TRENDS IN THE UNITED STATES, CHINA, AND IRAN: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. NAVY STRATEGIC PLANNING. RAND Corporation. John Gordon IV et al. January 23, 2009.

How well the U.S. Navy prepares for a high-end future conflict against a powerful, well-armed opponent versus the so-called Long War against rogue nations and terrorist organizations depends on the evolution of U.S. relations with China and Iran. The report examines emerging nonmilitary trends in each of the three countries. The authors investigate current and projected domestic developments in the areas of demographics, economics, energy consumption, the environment, and education. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND\\_MG729.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG729.pdf) [PDF format, 234 pages].

DOUBLE JEOPARDY: WHAT THE CLIMATE CRISIS MEANS FOR THE POOR. Brookings Institution. Vinca LaFleur et al. Web posted February 3, 2009.

More than fifty preeminent policymakers, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the world convened at the Aspen Institute to explore the links between global climate change and poverty alleviation. According to the report, the roundtable sought to shape a common agenda to tackle two of the greatest challenges, climate change and poverty, of our time. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/02\\_climate\\_change\\_poverty/02\\_climate\\_change\\_poverty.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/02_climate_change_poverty/02_climate_change_poverty.pdf) [PDF format, 44 pages].

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT. Council of Economic Advisors. January 2009.

The report contains current/foreseeable trends and annual numerical goals concerning topics such as employment, production, real income, and Federal budget outlays. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.gpoaccess.gov/eop/2009/2009\\_erp.pdf](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/eop/2009/2009_erp.pdf) [PDF format, 419 pages].

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN THE UNITED STATES: 2007. Current Population Reports, U.S. Census Bureau. January 2009.

A larger percentage of foreign-born than native-born residents had a master's degree or higher in 2007, according to the report. Nationally, 11 percent of foreign-born — people from another country now living in the United States, and 10 percent of U.S.-born residents had an advanced degree.  
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p20-560.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

THE EFFECT OF REGULATION ON PHARMACEUTICAL REVENUES: EXPERIENCE IN NINETEEN COUNTRIES. RAND Corporation. Neeraj Sood et al. Web posted January 28, 2009.

The report describes pharmaceutical regulations in nineteen developed countries from 1992 to 2004 and analyzes how different regulations affect pharmaceutical revenues. First, there has been a trend toward increased regulation. Second, most regulations reduce pharmaceutical revenues significantly. Third, since 1994, most countries adopting new regulations already had some regulation in place. The report finds that incremental regulation of this kind had a smaller impact on costs. However, introducing new regulations in a largely unregulated market, such as the United States, could greatly reduce pharmaceutical revenues. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/2009/RAND\\_RP1381.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/2009/RAND_RP1381.pdf) [PDF format, 14 pages].

ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY 2007: YEAR IN REVIEW. Energy Information Administration. January 21, 2009.

In 2007, average retail electricity prices increased 2.6 percent from 8.9 to 9.1 cents per kilowatthour (kWh) This followed a 3-year period during which average fossil fuel prices for electricity generation increased a cumulative 30.2 percent. As fuel prices increased 30.2 percent,

the National average retail price of electricity increased 17.0 percent from 7.6 cents per kWh in 2004 to 8.9 cents per kWh in 2006. Fossil fuel prices increased an additional 7.0 percent in 2007, contributing to the 2.6 percent average retail electricity rate increase.

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epa/epa\\_sum.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epa/epa_sum.html) [HTML format, various paging].

ENHANCING CHILD SAFETY & ONLINE TECHNOLOGIES. Internet Safety Technical Task Force. January 13, 2009.

The scope of the Task Force's inquiry was to consider those technologies that industry and end users, including parents, can use to help keep minors safer on the Internet. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/sites/cyber.law.harvard.edu/files/ISTTF\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/sites/cyber.law.harvard.edu/files/ISTTF_Final_Report.pdf) [PDF format, 278 pages].

EUROPE, THE UNITED STATES, AND MIDDLE EASTERN DEMOCRACY: REPAIRING THE BREACH. Saban Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings Institution. Tamara Wittes and Richard Youngs. January 2009.

Tensions between the United States and the European Union since the 2003 war in Iraq affected many arenas of Middle East policy, but perhaps none has come to encapsulate those tensions as much as the quest to advance democracy in the region. The study looks beyond the Iraq-related deterioration in the transatlantic relationship in order to assess the real similarities and differences in the two actors' democracy promotion strategies in the Middle East. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/01\\_middle\\_eastern\\_democracy\\_wittes/01\\_middle\\_eastern\\_democracy\\_wittes.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/01_middle_eastern_democracy_wittes/01_middle_eastern_democracy_wittes.pdf) [PDF format, 34 pages].

EUROPEAN WORRIES ABOUT RELIANCE ON RUSSIAN ENERGY WERE ALREADY HIGH. Pew Global Attitudes Project. Erin Carriere-Kretschmer and Katie Holzwart. January 15, 2009.

As Russian and Ukrainian leaders squabbled over gas supplies in late 2008 and early 2009, Eastern Europeans farther down the pipeline went without heat. In 2006, just as today, a price and payment dispute between Russia and Ukraine led to gas supplies being cut off to Ukraine. Both Eastern and Western Europeans are vulnerable to these disputes because they rely heavily on Russian gas supplies, most of which are pumped through Ukraine. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1083/europeans--worries-about-reliance-on-russian-energy-were-already-high> [HTML format, various paging].

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH TELECOMMUTING. Information Technology & Innovation Foundation. Wendell Cox. January 20, 2009.

The report shows that the number of jobs filled by telecommuters could grow nearly four-fold to 19 million and deliver substantial economic, environmental and quality of life benefits for the United States over the next 12 years. Spurred by advances in IT, especially the spread of broadband, telecommuting is already the fastest growing mode of getting from home to work. The report calls for government to pursue policies to accelerate and maximize telecommuting, including spurring the deployment and adoption of broadband, which is an essential facilitator of telecommuting. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.itif.org/files/Telecommuting.pdf> [PDF format, 24 pages].

FEDERAL HUMAN CAPITAL SURVEY 2008. U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Web posted January 10, 2009.

The survey finds that 91 percent of federal employee respondents say the work they do is important (up 1 percent from 2006) and 84 percent like what they do in the workplace (up 1 percent). In addition, 82 percent believe they are held accountable for achieving results (up 3 percent). More than 210,000 federal employees, from a survey sample of more than 417,000 employees, responded.

[http://www.fhcs.opm.gov/2008FILES/2008\\_Govtwide\\_Report.pdf](http://www.fhcs.opm.gov/2008FILES/2008_Govtwide_Report.pdf) [PDF format, 62 pages].

**FINANCIAL REGULATION: A FRAMEWORK FOR CRAFTING AND ASSESSING PROPOSALS TO MODERNIZE THE OUTDATED U.S. FINANCIAL REGULATORY SYSTEM.** U.S. Government Accountability Office. January 2009.

The United States and other countries are in the midst of the worst financial crisis in more than 75 years. While much of the attention of policymakers understandably has been focused on taking short-term steps to address the immediate nature of the crisis, these events have served to demonstrate that the current U.S. financial regulatory system is in need of significant reform.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09216.pdf> [PDF format, 107 pages].

**A FIRST LOOK AT THE FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS.** Foundation Center. January 2009.

The report is an examination of foundation and corporate support in response to the current economic crisis. It is part of a research series intended to shed light on the impact of the economic downturn on the nonprofit sector. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/researchadvisory\\_economy\\_200901.pdf](http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/researchadvisory_economy_200901.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages].

**THE FUTURE OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM: A NEAR-TERM OUTLOOK AND LONG-TERM SCENARIOS.** World Economic Forum. January 2009.

The report explores a near-term industry outlook characterized by an expanded scope for regulatory oversight, back to basics in the banking sector, some restructuring by alternative investment firms and the emergence of a new set of winners and losers. Over the long-term, the report finds that a range of external forces and critical uncertainties have the power to significantly shape the industry. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/scenarios/TheFutureoftheGlobalFinancialSystem.pdf> [PDF format, 88 pages].

**GLOBAL ECONOMIC SLUMP CHALLENGES POLICIES.** World Economic Outlook, International Monetary Fund. January 28, 2009.

World growth is projected to fall to 1.2 percent in 2009, its lowest rate since World War II. Despite wide-ranging policy actions, financial strains remain acute, pulling down the real economy. A sustained economic recovery will not be possible until the financial sector's functionality is restored and credit markets are unclogged. To do so, the study claims that the international cooperation will be critical in designing and implementing these policies. As the outlook is uncertain, the timing and pace of the recovery depend critically on strong policy actions. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2009/update/01/pdf/0109.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

**GLOBAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS JANUARY 2009.** International Labour Organization. Web posted January 28, 2009.

The global economic crisis is expected to lead to a dramatic increase in the number of people joining the ranks of the unemployed, working poor and those in vulnerable employment,



according to the report. Based on new developments in the labor market and depending on the timeliness and effectiveness of recovery efforts, the report says global unemployment in 2009 could increase over 2007 by a range of 18 million to 30 million workers, and more than 50 million if the situation continues to deteriorate. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_101461.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_101461.pdf) [PDF format, 54 pages].

GLOBAL RISKS 2009: A GLOBAL RISK NETWORK REPORT. World Economic Forum. January 2009.

The report identifies deteriorating fiscal positions, a hard landing in China, a collapse in asset prices, gaps in global governance and issues relating to natural resources and climate as the pivotal risks facing the world this year. It bases on a qualitative assessment of global risks, workshops and input from business leaders and experts. The report predicts that massive government spending to support financial institutions is threatening the already precarious fiscal positions in countries such as the U.S., United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain and Australia. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/globalrisk/2009.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

GLOBAL SEMICONDUCTOR SALES FELL BY 2.8 PERCENT IN 2008. Semiconductor Industry Association. February 2, 2009.

Global sales of semiconductors were severely impacted by the world-wide economic turmoil in 2008 resulting in the first year-on-year drop in sales since 2001, the report says. Total sales for 2008 were \$248.6 billion compared to \$255.6 billion in 2007, a decrease of 2.8 percent. Sales fell from \$22.3 billion in December 2007 to \$17.4 billion in December 2008, a decline of 22 percent. December sales declined by 16.6 percent from November 2008 when sales were \$20.9 billion. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.sia-online.org/cs/papers\\_publications/press\\_release\\_detail?pressrelease.id=1534](http://www.sia-online.org/cs/papers_publications/press_release_detail?pressrelease.id=1534) [HTML format, with links to PDF format data table].

HANDBOOK ON PLANNING AND ACTION FOR CRIME PREVENTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONS. Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations. January 14, 2009.

Drawing on lessons from 40 crime prevention programs, the handbook explores the extent to which lessons can be drawn, and where evidence is lacking. The handbook seeks to identify suggestions for further action, either for research or experimentation. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/CPhandbook-120109.pdf> [PDF format, 130 pages].

HARD LESSONS: THE IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE. Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. Web posted February 2, 2009.

The Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) reviews the Iraq reconstruction experience from mid-2002 through the fall of 2008. Like SIGIR's previous lessons learned reports, it is not an audit. Rather, it arises from the congressional mandate to provide "advice and recommendations on policies to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness" in programs created for Iraq's relief and reconstruction."  
[http://www.sigir.mil/hardlessons/pdfs/Hard\\_Lessons\\_Report.pdf](http://www.sigir.mil/hardlessons/pdfs/Hard_Lessons_Report.pdf) [PDF format, 378 pages].

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS OVER U.S. IMPORTS OF CHINESE PRODUCTS: AN OVERVIEW. Congressional Research Service, RS22713, Library of Congress. Wayne M. Morrison. Web posted January 29, 2009.

China is a major source of United States imports of consumer products, such as toys, and an increasingly important supplier of various food products. Reports of unsafe seafood, pet food, toys, tires, and other products imported from China over the past year or so have raised concern in the U.S. over the health, safety, and quality of imported Chinese products. The report provides an overview of this issue and implications for U.S.-China trade relations and will be updated as events warrant.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22713\\_20090113.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22713_20090113.pdf) [PDF format, 10 pages].

HEALTHIER OCEANS, HEALTHIER ECONOMIES. Oceana. January 2009.

The report shows how the World Trade Organization (WTO) is in a key position to help ensure the long-term viability of the world's fisheries. It establishes the need and urgency for the WTO to produce a successful agreement in its ongoing fisheries subsidies negotiations.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/dirty\\_fishing/Reports/ICTSD\\_Oceana\\_Jan09\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/dirty_fishing/Reports/ICTSD_Oceana_Jan09_FINAL.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

THE HIDDEN COSTS OF CLEAN COAL: THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN DISASTER OF LONGWALL MINING. Center for Public Integrity. January 13, 2009.

Longwall mining is a highly productive underground process employed to quickly and cheaply extract coal, but the practice comes with a steep environmental price, as documented in a year-long investigation by the Center for Public Integrity. The report turns a spotlight on a devastating mining method that most Americans outside northern Appalachia have never heard of. An estimated 10 percent of all U.S. electricity now depends on coal from longwall mining, which has grown over the years in Appalachia and in the states of Illinois, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/longwall/> [HTML format with multiple links, various paging].

IMMIGRANTS AND THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS: RESEARCH EVIDENCE, POLICY CHALLENGES, AND IMPLICATIONS. Migration Policy Institute. Demetrios G. Papademetriou and Aaron Terrazas. January 2009.

The report finds that the recession may produce differing results for legal and illegal immigration flows. It cites a growing body of evidence suggesting there has been a measurable slowdown in the historic growth of immigration in the United States, largely because there has been no significant growth in the unauthorized immigrant population since 2006. The report examines the effects of the economic crisis and factors such as immigration enforcement on the immigrant population already in the United States. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/imi\\_recessionJan09.pdf](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/imi_recessionJan09.pdf) [PDF format, 35 pages].

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS: 2007. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. December 2008.

The report presents information on the apprehension, detention, return and removal of foreign nationals during fiscal year 2007.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/enforcement\\_ar\\_07.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/enforcement_ar_07.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages].

IMMUNITY OF STATE OFFICIALS FROM FOREIGN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION: MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARIAT. International Law Commission, United Nations. Web posted January 28, 2009.

The Secretariat issues a study for the International Law Commission on the Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction. The study examines the main legal issues that arise in connection with the topic, both from classical and contemporary perspectives, also taking into account developments in the field of international criminal law that might have produced an impact on the immunities of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/CN.4/596](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CN.4/596) [PDF format, 206 pages].

THE IMPACT OF FOOD INSECURITY AND HUNGER ON GLOBAL HEALTH: ISSUES FOR CONGRESS. Congressional Research Service, R40127, Library of Congress. Tiaji Salaam-Blyther and Charles E. Hanrahn. Web posted January 29, 2009.

The study reports that world food prices spiked dramatically in the first half of 2008 and declined somewhat in the latter part of the year. The food spikes had negative social and economic impacts, especially in low income and least developed countries. Although food prices have stabilized somewhat, they remain higher than they have been over the past decade. The report analyzes the direct and indirect effects of food insecurity and hunger on global health, reviews elements of the U.S. government response to global hunger, and identifies policy areas that Congress might examine as it debates how best to address the health needs of the millions threatened by high food prices in the 111th Congress.  
[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40127\\_20090112.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40127_20090112.pdf) [PDF format, 34 pages].

IMPACT OF THE 2008 HURRICANES ON THE NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY. Energy Information Administration. January 26, 2009.

The report provides an overview of the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season and its impacts on the natural gas industry, including production shut-ins in the Federal Gulf of Mexico, pipeline damage as a result of the storms, and shut-downs of natural gas processing plants in the Gulf coast region. Furthermore, the report discusses natural gas market response to the 2008 Hurricanes. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil\\_gas/natural\\_gas/feature\\_articles/2009/nghurricanes08/nghurricanes08.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil_gas/natural_gas/feature_articles/2009/nghurricanes08/nghurricanes08.pdf) [PDF format, 9 pages].

IMPACT OF THE WIC PROGRAM ON THE INFANT FORMULA MARKET. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. David Betson. January 30, 2009.

The infant formula purchases through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program account for roughly half of all infant formula purchased in the United States. Beginning in the late 1980s, WIC agencies, in an effort to contain rising program costs, secured rebates from formula manufacturers through sole-source contracts for the infant formula they purchase. The findings show that providing free formula to low-income families is the primary factor in the growth in real wholesale prices of formula and that sole-source contracts not only have reduced the cost of formula to the government but also have retarded wholesale price growth.  
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/CCR51/CCR51.pdf> [PDF format, 141 pages].

INFORMATION RESOURCES ON PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AT SEA. Maritime Knowledge Center, International Maritime Organization. January 21, 2009.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has a new information resource on piracy. The document includes references to key IMO Assembly resolutions, as well as other IMO documents related to the topic. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.imo.org/includes/blastDataOnly.asp/data\\_id%3D24423/Piracy\\_21January2009\\_.pdf](http://www.imo.org/includes/blastDataOnly.asp/data_id%3D24423/Piracy_21January2009_.pdf)  
[PDF format, 23 pages].

IRAN: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ASSOCIATION IN THE KURDISH REGIONS. Human Rights Watch. January 9, 2009.

The report documents how Iranian authorities use security laws, press laws, and other legislation to arrest and prosecute Iranian Kurds solely for trying to exercise their right to freedom of expression and association. The use of these laws to suppress basic rights, while not new, has greatly intensified since President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad came to power in August 2005. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/iran0109.pdf> [PDF format, 45 pages].

IRAN AND THE FUTURE OF AFGHANISTAN. Backgrounder, Council on Foreign Relations. Greg Bruno and Lionel Beehner. February 6, 2009.

In crafting a new approach to the war in Afghanistan, U.S. military and political leaders say Iran could play a key role. Despite ongoing concerns over Iran's nuclear program and allegations of arming militants in the region, Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of U.S. forces in the region, says Washington and Iran could coalesce around stabilizing Afghanistan. Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, echoed the sentiment. NATO partners, too, have sought to include Iran in Afghan strategy decisions. German lawmakers have called for the creation of a "contact group" of nations to chart a new regional course. "Such an initiative, that would include Iran, would benefit if it came to direct talks between Washington and Tehran," Andreas Schockenhoff, vice chairman of Germany's Christian Democratic Party, said in a statement reported by German media. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/13578/iran\\_and\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_afghanistan.html?breadcrumb=%2F](http://www.cfr.org/publication/13578/iran_and_the_future_of_afghanistan.html?breadcrumb=%2F)  
[HTML format, various paging].

IRAQ'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE. Council on Foreign Relations. Greg Bruno. January 29, 2009.

Iraq has held multiple national and local elections since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion ousted Saddam Hussein, but ethnic and sectarian violence has impeded political progress. Although there have been scattered assassinations and reports of intimidation leading up to elections, most experts agree the emergence of hundreds of new parties and thousands of candidates illustrate the maturation of the Iraqi political system. Unlike polls in 2005, major Sunni parties are participating, increasing expectations that as the United States ramps up its troop drawdown plan, a stable Iraqi political scene will emerge. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/18411/iraqs\\_political\\_landscape.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fbackgrounder](http://www.cfr.org/publication/18411/iraqs_political_landscape.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder) [HTML format, various paging].

ISLAMIC PEACE MAKING SINCE 9/11. U.S. Institute of Peace. David Smock and Qamar-ul Huda. January 2009.

Muslims in general and Muslim leaders particularly have often been severely criticized for not more energetically condemning the violent acts of Muslim extremists. Violent extremists are on one edge of the Muslim community. They are counter-balanced by a growing movement of Muslim peacemakers. Equally as notable as Islamic militancy but less noted are Muslims' 1) widespread condemnation of terrorism and other violent acts; 2) promotion of interfaith dialogue; 3) education of Muslim youth and reeducation of extremist Muslims; and 4) promotion of peaceful conflict resolution. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr218.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

ISRAEL AND HAMAS: CONFLICT IN GAZA (2008-2009). Congressional Research Service, R40101, Library of Congress. Jim Zanotti et al. Web posted January 29, 2009.

On December 27, 2008, Israel launched a major military campaign dubbed Operation Cast Lead against the Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip in order to counter Palestinian rocket fire and, more broadly, to significantly weaken all aspects of Hamas rule in Gaza. On January 3, 2009, Israel began a ground offensive into Gaza intended to eliminate Hamas's willingness or capability to launch rockets at Israeli towns and cities. Although the ground attack might endanger its rule in Gaza, Hamas may welcome it in the hopes of miring Israeli forces in close-quarters combat to strip away their advantages in technology and firepower and in hopes of heightening perceptions that Palestinians are being victimized. [http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40101\\_20090115.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40101_20090115.pdf) [PDF format, 37 pages].

IT'S DIFFERENT WORLD OUT THERE, AND FRAUDSTERS KNOW IT. Global Fraud Report, Kroll. Web posted February 1, 2009.

The report covers vast areas where frauds are active, from frauds contributing to today's financial crisis to legal pitfalls of transnational internal investigations. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://198.170.76.7/MARKETING/Jan09Prem\\_FraudReport.pdf](http://198.170.76.7/MARKETING/Jan09Prem_FraudReport.pdf) [PDF format, 15 pages].

JAPAN'S DECISION FOR WAR IN 1941: SOME ENDURING LESSONS. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College. Jeffrey Record. February 9, 2009.

The author takes a fresh look at Japan's decision for war in 1941, and concludes that it was dictated by Japanese pride and the threatened economic destruction of Japan by the United States. He believes that Japanese aggression in East Asia was the root cause of the Pacific War, but argues that the road to war in 1941 was built on American as well as Japanese miscalculations and that both sides suffered from cultural ignorance and racial arrogance. He believes that the failure of deterrence was mutual, and that the descent of the United States and Japan into war contains lessons of great and continuing relevance to American foreign policy and defense decisionmakers. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=905> [HTML format with link to PDF file, 78 pages].

LEARNING SCIENCE IN INFORMAL ENVIRONMENTS: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND PURSUITS. National Research Council. Philip Bell et al. January 2009.

Millions of Americans, young and old, choose to learn about science in informal ways, by visiting museums and aquariums, attending after-school programs, pursuing personal hobbies, and watching TV documentaries, for example. The report notes that experiences in informal settings can significantly improve science learning outcomes for individuals from groups which are historically underrepresented in science, such as women and minorities. Evaluations of museum-based and after-school programs suggest that these programs may also support academic gains for children and youth in these groups. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12190](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12190) [HTML format with links to PDF files].

THE LESSONS OF MUMBAI. RAND Corporation. Angel Rabasa et al. January 2009.

The Mumbai terrorist attacks in India suggest the possibility of an escalating terrorist campaign in South Asia and the rise of a strategic terrorist culture, according to the study. It identifies the operational and tactical features of the attack, evaluates the response of Indian security forces, and analyzes the implications for India, Pakistan and the United States. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional\\_papers/2009/RAND\\_OP249.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2009/RAND_OP249.pdf) [PDF format, 30 pages].



LET THE GAMES BEGIN: A NEW PLATFORM FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING AND SKILL ENHANCEMENT. Deloitte. January 2009.

The increasing shortage of a skilled work force is a concern worldwide across most fields. Traditional learning methods have proven to be inadequate to produce the cutting-edge knowledge and complex skills needed to perform 21st century jobs; so savvy businesses are turning to gaming technology to fill the gap. Early successes, such as the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' move to launch game based learning (GBL), indicate gaming solutions could address one of the world's most pressing business needs of nurturing existing talent swiftly and vigorously. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us\\_consulting\\_The%20future%20platform%20of%20virtual%20learning%20and%20skill%20enhancement\\_10.04.08%281%29.pdf](http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us_consulting_The%20future%20platform%20of%20virtual%20learning%20and%20skill%20enhancement_10.04.08%281%29.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages].

LIFE (EVALUATION), HIV/AIDS, AND DEATH IN AFRICA. National Bureau of Economic Research. Angus Deaton et al. January 2009.

The data from the Gallup World Poll and the Demographic and Health Surveys are used to investigate how subjective wellbeing (SWB) is affected by mortality in sub-Saharan Africa, including mortality from HIV/AIDS. The Gallup data provide direct evidence on Africans' own emotional and evaluative responses to high levels of infection and of mortality. A life evaluation measure is relatively insensitive to the deaths of immediate family, which suggests a low value of life. There are much larger effects on experiential measures, such as sadness and depression, which suggest much larger values of life. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.nber.org/tmp/90720-w14637.pdf> [PDF format, 46 pages].

LIGHTS OUT FOR THOMAS EDISON. National Center for Policy Analysis. Sterling Burnett and Amanda Berg. Web posted January 11, 2009.

Although touted by many as the smart energy choice, compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs are not suitable for many common uses and should not be required by the government, according to the report. The authors argue: "For many uses, compact fluorescent bulbs may be more costly and troublesome than they're worth." The report concludes that despite manufacturer claims, many CFLs don't come close to lasting the 10,000 hours they are supposed to last. In addition, CFLs also contain potentially toxic mercury, therefore, CFL disposal and breakage presents numerous health and environmental concerns. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba/ba637/> [HTML format, various paging].

MAPPING NEW DIRECTIONS: HIGHER EDUCATION FOR OLDER ADULTS. American Council on Education. Web posted January 16, 2009.

Despite successful efforts by some colleges and universities to create lifelong learning programs for adults aged 55 and older, many institutions remain stuck in outmoded, one-dimensional views of this population, according to the report. It offers recommendations to colleges and universities for broadening the participation of older adults who will comprise one-third of the nation's overall population by 2030. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ProgramsServices/CLLL/Reinvesting/MapDirections.pdf> [PDF format, 48 pages].

MAPPING THE ZONE: IMPROVING FLOOD MAP ACCURACY. National Research Council. January 2009.

Significant loss of life, destroyed property and businesses, and repairs to infrastructure could be avoided by replacing Federal Emergency Management Agency flood maps with ones that contain

high-accuracy and high-resolution land surface elevation data, says the study. The benefits of more accurate flood maps will outweigh the costs, mainly because insurance premiums and building restrictions would better match the actual flood risks. Coastal region flood maps could also be improved by updating current models and using two-dimensional storm surge and wave models. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12573#toc](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12573#toc) [HTML format, with links to PDF files].

MATH: WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? National Science Foundation. Web posted January 27, 2009.

International assessments show U.S. math students outperformed by those in many other countries. The research illuminates the role of teaching, curriculum and technology in math education, and demonstrates the importance of math education to all citizens. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.nsf.gov/news/special\\_reports/math/index.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/math/index.jsp) [Multimedia format, various paging].

MEASURING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN IRAQ: DECEMBER 2008. U.S. Department of Defense. January 14, 2009.

A major evolution in the strategic partnership between the United States and Iraq, which is defined by the Strategic Framework and Status of Forces Agreements ratified by the Presidency Council on December 8, 2008, is underway. The Council of Representatives' (CoR) approval of these agreements demonstrates the growing maturity of the Iraqi political system and is testimony to the democratic development of Iraq.

[http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/9010\\_Report\\_to\\_Congress\\_Dec\\_08.pdf](http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/9010_Report_to_Congress_Dec_08.pdf) [PDF format, 68 pages].

MEETING MULTIFAMILY HOUSING FINANCE NEEDS DURING AND AFTER THE CREDIT CRISIS: A POLICY BRIEF. Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University. January 2009.

The study contends that the policymakers must recognize the important differences between single-family and multifamily financing and take steps to ensure an adequate supply of capital to the multifamily sector during and after the economic crisis. The paper details the growing importance of rental apartments and points to a looming liquidity crisis that could seriously impair the sector, leading to a critical housing shortage. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/finance/multifamily\\_housing\\_finance\\_needs.pdf](http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/finance/multifamily_housing_finance_needs.pdf) [PDF format, 28 pages].

MIGRATION AND THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN: WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION. Migration Policy Institute. Demetrios G. Papademetriou et al. January 2009.

As unemployment rises and household budgets shrink across the European Union, policymakers, analysts, and the public are beginning to ask what the consequences will be with respect to immigration. The authors make clear that the implications of the recession should not be underestimated. The downturn is likely to affect the kind of immigrants that arrive and leave, with implications for labor supply in certain sectors, for integration, and for the host communities.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.migrationpolicy.org/transatlantic/EU\\_Recession\\_background.pdf](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/transatlantic/EU_Recession_background.pdf) [PDF format, 19 pages].

MILITARY ENLISTMENT OF HISPANIC YOUTH: OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES. RAND Corporation. Beth J. Asch et al. January 2009.

Lower high school graduation rates and higher rates of obesity are two of the reasons that many Hispanics are denied entry into the U.S. military, according to the study. Although Hispanics do well once in the military, they are underrepresented in all branches of the nation's armed forces,

primarily because they often fail to meet eligibility requirements. The U.S. Congress has said that the U.S. military should closely mirror the racial and ethnic makeup of the nation, creating the need to enlist more Hispanics. "Hispanics who do join the military tend to serve longer and be promoted faster than their white counterparts," said Beth Asch, [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND\\_MG773.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG773.pdf) [PDF format, 224 pages].

MOUNTAIN IN RECOVERY – QINGMUCHUAN'S FIRST MONITORING PATROL SINCE THE MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> EARTHQUAKE. World Wildlife Fund. January 2009.

Six months have passed since the devastating May 12th earthquake struck western China's Sichuan Province. Though there are still aftershocks, locals are trying to break away from horrible memories and get back into a normal daily life. And so is the wildlife. The Qingmuchuan Nature Reserve is the only corridor for giant pandas between the Qinling and Minshan mountains, but Qinling Mountain was also hit hard by the quake. The report looks at how the reconstruction work is going and how much has been restored naturally. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.panda.org/news\\_facts/newsroom/features/?154641/Mountain-in-recovery---Qingmuchuans-first-monitoring-patrol-since-the-May-12th-earthquake](http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/features/?154641/Mountain-in-recovery---Qingmuchuans-first-monitoring-patrol-since-the-May-12th-earthquake) [HTML format, various paging].

NANOTECHNOLOGY: THE SOCIAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Pew Charitable Trusts. Ronald Sandler. Web posted January 27, 2009.

The report emphasizes ways in which developments in nanotechnology intersect with governmental functions and responsibilities, including science and technology policy, as well as research funding, regulation and work on public engagement. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Nanotechnologies/Nano\\_PEN16\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Nanotechnologies/Nano_PEN16_FINAL.pdf) [PDF format, 63 pages].

NATIONAL COASTAL CONDITION REPORT III. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Web posted January 2, 2009.

The report assesses America's coastal conditions using five indicators of condition: water quality, sediment quality, benthic community condition, the health of the water's bottom-dwelling invertebrate species, coastal habitat loss as indicated by changes in wetland area, and fish tissue contaminants. The overall condition of America's coasts is rated as "fair," based on these five indicators.

[http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/nccr3/pdf/nccr3\\_entire.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/nccr3/pdf/nccr3_entire.pdf) [PDF format, 329 pages].

THE NEW POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. Green Alliance. Stephen Hale. January 10, 2009.

The pamphlet outlines a new approach to persuading politicians to act on climate change. It contends that only governments have the power to avert catastrophic climate change. However, despite initiatives and commitments from government, the progress is slow. It is crucial to mobilize the broad range of organizations that make up the other sector. Commitment and action across the sector, from the local to the international level, is critical to securing the political action that is needed to tackle climate change. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/uploadedFiles/Publications/reports/The%20new%20Politics%20of%20climate%20change%202008.pdf> [PDF format, 36 pages].

THE “NEW” TUBE: A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF YOUTUBE – THE MOST POPULAR ONLINE VIDEO DESTINATION. Parents Television Council. Web posted on January 8, 2009.

Children are consuming more and more of their video entertainment outside the traditional confines of a television set. While most parents might not be surprised to learn that search terms employing words like “sex” and “porn” are likely to yield YouTube video content containing graphic sexual themes and portrayals, most would be stunned to know that seemingly “innocent” search terms are also likely to generate profane material. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://www.parentstv.org/PTC/publications/reports/YouTube/NewTube.pdf> [PDF format, 23 pages].

NO TIME TO VOTE: CHALLENGES FACING AMERICA’S OVERSEAS MILITARY VOTES. Pew Center on the States. Kil Huh et al. Web posted January 8, 2009.

One-third of all U.S. states do not provide enough time to vote for military personnel stationed overseas and as many as half of all states need to improve their absentee voting process to ensure that the votes of servicemen and women abroad will be counted, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Election\\_reform/NTTV\\_Report\\_Web.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Election_reform/NTTV_Report_Web.pdf) [PDF format, 47 pages].

NORTH KOREA AFTER KIM. Council on Foreign Relations. Jayshree Bajoria. January 28, 2009.

Speculation over Kim Jong-Il’s health has prompts discussion about the future of the isolated country and its nuclear weapons program. Most experts believe a post-Kim North Korea regime would remain a tough nuclear negotiator. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.cfr.org/publication/17322/north\\_korea\\_after\\_kim.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fbackgrounder](http://www.cfr.org/publication/17322/north_korea_after_kim.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder) [HTML format, various paging].

NFTC CAUTIONS AGAINST GLOBAL PROTECTIONISM IN RESPONSE TO FINANCIAL CRISIS. National Foreign Trade Council. Jennifer Cummings. January 28, 2009.

In response to a report released late last week by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which revealed that key U.S. trading partners are imposing higher tariffs on exports, National Foreign Trade Council issues a response statement. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://www.nftc.org/newsflash/newsflash.asp?Mode=View&articleid=2025&Category=All> [HTML format, various paging]. <http://www.nftc.org/default/trade/2009/DG%20report%20Jan%202009.pdf> Report to the TPRB from the Director-General on the Financial and Economic Crisis and Trade-Related Developments. [PDF format, 14 pages].

NUCLEAR SECURITY SPENDING: ASSESSING COSTS, EXAMINING PRIORITIES. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Stephen I. Schwartz. January 2009.

The United States spent over \$52 billion on nuclear weapons and related programs in fiscal year 2008, but only 10 percent of that went toward preventing a nuclear attack and slowing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and technology. According to the report, the United States has never tracked nuclear weapon-related spending comprehensively, hindering effective oversight and public understanding of the government’s nuclear priorities. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=22601&prog=zgp&proj=znpp> [HTML format, various paging].

OBAMA'S INAUGURAL WEEK: HEAVY MEDIA FOCUS TURNS FROM SYMBOLS TO SUBSTANCE. Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism. Mark Jurkowitz. January 28, 2009.

Due to nearly non-stop coverage of a historic inauguration held amid major foreign and domestic crises, the new Obama administration dominated the news agenda last week, overwhelming every other story. Coverage of Obama's transformation from president-elect to president filled 45% of the time on TV and radio and space in print and online the week of Jan. 19-25. In the weeks following the election, the media's attention had been fairly evenly divided among a number of top stories, including the Obama transition, the financial crisis, the Rod Blagojevich scandal and the fighting in Gaza. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1094/obama-inauguration-media-style-and-substance> [HTML format, various paging].

OBAMA'S JOB CREATION PROMISE: A MODEST PROPOSAL TO GUARANTEE THAT HE MEETS AND EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS. Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Pavlina R. Tcherneva. January 2009.

Job creation is once again at the forefront of policy action, and for advocates of pro-employment policies, President Obama's Keynesian bent is a most welcome change. However, there are concerns that Obama's plan simply does not go far enough, and that a large-scale public investment program may face shortages of skilled labor, put upward pressure on wages, and leave women and minorities behind. Both concerns can be addressed by a simple amendment to the Obama plan that will bring important additional benefits, suggest the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.levy.org/pubs/pn\\_09\\_01.pdf](http://www.levy.org/pubs/pn_09_01.pdf) [PDF format, 7 pages].

OBAMA'S ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES II: IF YOU BUILD IT, WILL THEY LOG ON? Pew Internet & American Life Project. January 2009.

Investment in broadband has become part of the broader discussion about President Obama's economic stimulus package. Even though the size of the stimulus and the share that might be devoted to broadband are still unspecified, it seems likely that the new Administration will take steps to encourage investment in broadband infrastructure. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP\\_Broadband%20Barriers.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Broadband%20Barriers.pdf) [PDF format, 3 pages].

ONE THIRD OF EUROPEAN MOBILE SOCIAL NETWORKING USERS ACCESS SOCIAL MEDIA EXCLUSIVELY. comScore. January 29, 2009.

The comScore, Inc. reports that social networking is drawing new users into the mobile Web. In November, 34 percent of mobile phone owners in Western Europe who visited social networking sites accessed social media exclusive of all other mobile Web content.

With 12.1 million users in Western Europe, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the U.K., mobile social networking is a rapidly-expanding category that grew 152 percent from November 2007 to November 2008. The U.K. has the highest penetration of mobile social networking, at 9 percent, nearly triple that of Germany, where the activity is the least popular. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.comscore.com/press/release.asp?press=2708> [HTML format, various paging].

OPEC OIL EXPORT REVENUES. Energy Information Administration. January 2009.

Based on projections from the January 2009 Short Term Energy Outlook (STEO), members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$387 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and \$526 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned \$972 billion in net oil



export revenues, a 42 percent increase from 2007. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earning reached \$2,691, a 40 percent increase from 2007. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC\\_Revenues/Factsheet.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/Factsheet.html) [HTML format, various paging].

OPENING THE ARCTIC SEAS: ENVISIONING DISASTERS FRAMING SOLUTIONS. Coastal Response Research Center, University of New Hampshire. January 29, 2009.

The existing infrastructure for responding to maritime accidents in the Arctic is limited and more needs to be done to enhance emergency response capacity as Arctic sea ice declines and ship traffic in the region increases, according to the report. The report details findings from a panel of experts and decision-makers from Arctic nation governments, industry and indigenous communities convened by the Coastal Response Research Center. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.crrc.unh.edu/workshops/arctic\\_spill\\_summit/arctic\\_summit\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.crrc.unh.edu/workshops/arctic_spill_summit/arctic_summit_report_final.pdf) [PDF format, 88 pages].

OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION IN SOUTH EAST ASIA: LAO PDR, MYANMAR, THAILAND. Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations. Web posted February 2, 2009.

The report shows that the region, once notorious as heroin's Golden Triangle, has a limited opium problem that is concentrated in just one region of Myanmar. South-East Asia accounts for 424 tons of opium, down from 472 tons a year earlier. This is around 5 per cent of the world's total illicit opium, down from 33 per cent in 1998 and more than 50 per cent in 1990. Thailand and Laos are almost opium free. Myanmar remains the world's second biggest source of opium, accounting for 28,500 hectares in 2008, a 3 per cent rise over last year. Cultivation is mostly limited to the Shan State, which accounts for 89 per cent of the national total. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/East\\_Asia\\_Opium\\_report\\_2008.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/East_Asia_Opium_report_2008.pdf) [PDF format, 126 pages].

PERFORMANCE 2009: PRODUCTIVITY, EMPLOYMENT, AND GROWTH IN THE WORLD'S ECONOMIES. The Conference Board. January 22, 2009.

Despite a slowdown in world productivity in 2008, output per hour worked in the United States increased slightly by 1.7 percent, up from 1.5 percent in 2007, according to the latest annual. The most recent productivity advances have been realized, however, through rapid layoffs, suggesting that the productivity of remaining workers and firms is actually strengthening. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.conference-board.org/pdf\\_free/Productivity2009.pdf](http://www.conference-board.org/pdf_free/Productivity2009.pdf) [PDF format, 20 pages].

A PLAN TO EXTEND SUPER-FAST BROADBAND CONNECTIONS TO ALL AMERICANS. Century Foundation. John Windhausen, Jr. Web posted January 29, 2009.

Few doubt that broadband communications are increasingly vital to our social and economic well-being. The universal availability of affordable high-speed access to the Internet has become essential not only for business, but also for public safety, research, education, health care, and protecting the environment. Broadband communications are the future, yet the U.S. government has no national broadband policy, and does not treat broadband as a form of infrastructure and does not regard broadband as an "essential" service. The U.S. currently lags behind other nations both in terms of connection speeds and the number of citizens who have access to broadband. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.tcf.org/Publications/mediapolitics/windhausen.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO A NUCLEAR DETONATION: FIRST EDITION. Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President. Web posted January 29, 2009.

It is incumbent upon all levels of government, as well as public and private parties within the United States, to prepare for any nuclear detonation through focused nuclear attack response planning. Nuclear explosions present substantial and immediate radiological threats to life. Local and State community preparedness to respond to a nuclear detonation could result in life-saving on the order of tens of thousands of lives.

The guidance provides emergency planners with nuclear detonation-specific response recommendations to maximize the preservation of life in the event of an urban nuclear detonation.

<http://www.afrrri.usuhs.mil/outreach/pdf/planning-guidance.pdf> [PDF format, 97 pages].

POLICIES OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION, 2001-2009. The White House. January 14, 2009.

The policies of the Bush Administration, 2001-2009 are covered.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/bushrecord/documents/Policies\\_of\\_the\\_Bush\\_Administration.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/bushrecord/documents/Policies_of_the_Bush_Administration.pdf) [PDF format, 44 pages].

PRESIDENT OBAMA DELIVERS YOUR WEEKLY ADDRESS. The White House Blog. January 24, 2009.

In his first weekly address since being sworn in as the 44th president of the United States, President Barack Obama discusses how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan will jump-start the economy. "This is not just a short-term program to boost employment," he said. "It's one that will invest in our most important priorities like energy and education; health care and a new infrastructure that are necessary to keep us strong and competitive in the 21st century."

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/president-obama-delivers-your-weekly-address/> [HTML format, various paging].

THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS: TRADITION, FUNCTION, AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS. Congressional Research Service, R40132, Library of Congress. Colleen J. Shogan and Thomas H. Neale. Web posted January 29, 2009.

The State of the Union (SOTU) address is a communication between the President and Congress in which the chief executive reports on the current conditions of the United States and provides policy proposals for the upcoming legislative year. In recent decades, the President has expanded his State of the Union audience, addressing the speech to both the nation and Members of Congress. Over time, the State of the Union address has evolved considerably. The format and delivery of the speech has changed, and its length has fluctuated widely. Technology has also influenced the delivery of the address, with the advent of radio, television, and the Internet playing significant roles in the transformation.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40132\\_20090112.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40132_20090112.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages].

PRODUCING LIQUID FUELS FROM COAL: PROSPECTS AND POLICY ISSUES. RAND Corporation. James T. Bartis et al. January 2009.

The federal government can spark the creation of a commercially competitive coal-to-liquids industry by fostering early development of plants that would produce transportation fuels from coal, according to the study. It finds that a commercially competitive U.S. coal-to-liquids industry could produce as much as three million barrels of high-quality liquid fuels per day by 2030, an

amount equivalent to 15 percent of current U.S. oil demand. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG754.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG754.pdf) [PDF format, 199 pages].

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CONTINUES DOMINANCE OVER BASEBALL AS AMERICA'S FAVORITE SPORT. The Harris Poll. January 27, 2009.

Whether it is the Super Bowl, the World Series, the Bowl Championship Series Championship Game or March Madness, every sport has its fans. But when asked to choose which one sport is America's favorite, pro football tops the list with 31% of those who follow sports, followed by 16% who say baseball is their favorite. Rounding out the top five favorite sports are college football (cited by 12%), auto racing (8%) and Men's pro basketball (6%). [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris\\_poll/pubs/Harris\\_Poll\\_2009\\_01\\_27.pdf](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/pubs/Harris_Poll_2009_01_27.pdf) [PDF format, 5 pages].

PROPOSED FUNDING FOR EDUCATION IN THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Rebecca R. Skinner et al. January 22, 2009.

The primary purposes of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) focus on promoting economic recovery, assisting those most affected by the recession, improving economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health. The report provides a brief overview of the key provisions related to education programs that are or would be administered by ED that were included in the act under Title IX (Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education) and Title XII (State Fiscal Stabilization Fund).

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40151\\_20090122.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40151_20090122.pdf) [PDF format, 34 pages].

PROTECTING WORKERS ON THE JOB: SEVEN PRIORITIES FOR FEDERAL ACTION IN 2009. American Public Health Association. Robert Harrison and Celeste Monforton. Web posted February 1, 2009.

Advocates for worker health and safety provides recommendations for reversing the erosion of protections for the nation's workers. Citing lagging federal enforcement of existing standards and inaction on passing tougher new standards, the American Public Health Association's (APHA) Occupational Health and Safety Section and the National Council on Occupational Safety and Health called for immediate action to minimize work-related injuries and illnesses that can cause serious health problems. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/FCA6DC31-545A-4561-BB58-FD924EA7A37D/0/ProtectingWorkersontheJobJan2009.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

RADICAL ISLAM IN EAST AFRICA. RAND Corporation. Angel Rabasa. February 2009.

While al Qaeda is the primary terrorist/extremist threat in East Africa, the region suffers more broadly from a danger of radical Islamist groups and organizations that the United States and its allies must address to reshape the region's security environment, according to the study. Numerous indigenous radical Islamist groups with varying degrees of affinity to al Qaeda' agenda also populate the region. Of particular concern is the radical Shabaab militia in Somalia that has regrouped and intensified its operations in the wake of the Ethiopian occupation of Mogadishu. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND\\_MG782.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG782.pdf) [PDF format, 111 pages].

READING ON THE RISE: A NEW CHAPTER IN AMERICAN LITERACY. National Endowment for the Arts. Web posted January 12, 2009.

For the first time in more than 25 years, American adults are reading more literature, according to the study. It documents a definitive increase in rates and numbers of American adults who read

literature, with the biggest increases among young adults, ages 18-24. The new growth reverses two decades of downward trends cited previously [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.arts.gov/research/ReadingonRise.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

READY OR NOT? PROTECTING THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH FROM DISEASES, DISASTERS, AND BIOTERRORISM 2008. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Trust for America's Health. Web posted January 11, 2009.

The report finds that on some levels, significant progress has been made in the nation's preparedness. However, it also finds that cuts in federal funding for state and local preparedness since 2005, coupled with the cuts states are making to their budgets in response to the economic crisis, put that progress at risk. A lack of transparency makes it hard for the American people and their elected representatives to know whether their government is protecting them. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/3613.1208.readyornot.tfahrpt.pdf> [PDF format, 124 pages].

REALITY BITES: ECONOMY FOULS MOOD. Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism. February 4, 2009.

In a sign of how quickly the media narrative has shifted from pomp and circumstance to layoffs and bankruptcy, the grim U.S. economy was the overwhelmingly dominant story one week after Barack Obama's festive inauguration. The financial crisis filled 45% of the coverage studied from Jan 26-Feb. 1, as measured by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. A week earlier, it was Obama's move into the White House that consumed most of the media's attention, also accounting for 45% of the newshole, or the time on TV and radio and space in print and online. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1104/economy-hurts-obama-press-coverage> [HTML format, various paging].

RECESSIONS AND OLDER WORKERS. Center for Retirement Research, Boston College. Alicia H. Munnell et al. January 2009.

With the economy in recession, questions arise about how older workers are faring and how their fate relative to younger workers compares to the past. On the one hand, labor force participation among older workers has been rising since the early 1990s, a reversal of the long-standing trend toward ever-earlier retirement. On the other hand, the edge that older workers used to have relative to younger workers when it comes to layoffs seems to have disappeared, so the rise in the unemployment rate for older workers in recessions now looks similar to that for younger workers. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib\\_9-2.pdf](http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_9-2.pdf) [PDF format, 11 pages].

RECRUITMENT OF RULE OF LAW SPECIALISTS FOR THE CIVILIAN RESPONSE CORPS. United States Institute of Peace. Scott Carlson and Michael Dziedzic. January 2009.

The report summarizes the findings of two dialogues held at the United States Institute of Peace to develop guiding principles for the recruitment of police, judges, prosecutors, court personnel, corrections officials and other rule of law specialists for the Civilian Response Corps (CRC). Civilian specialists, with skills essential for stabilization and reconstruction activities, could provide policymakers with a foreign policy instrument that is just as vital to waging peace as a professional armed force is for waging war. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.usip.org/pubs/usipeace\\_briefings/2009/0106\\_rol\\_crc.html](http://www.usip.org/pubs/usipeace_briefings/2009/0106_rol_crc.html) [HTML format, various paging].

REDUCING COSTS WHILE IMPROVING CARE IN THE US HEALTH SYSTEM: THE HEALTH REFORM PYRAMID. Deloitte Center for Health Solutions. January 2009.

According to the report, health care reform efforts have fallen short as a result of two forces: the economics of the status quo make change an uphill battle for reformers and end users have not demanded major changes. Whatever the reasons, momentum to maintain the status quo is generally stronger than the will to change. As a result, incremental changes are the norm.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us\\_chs\\_healthcare\\_pyramiddeck\\_140109%281%29.pdf](http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us_chs_healthcare_pyramiddeck_140109%281%29.pdf) [PDF format, 17 pages].

REPORT CARD FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE. American Society of Civil Engineers. January 28, 2009.

The study is an assessment by professional engineers of the nation's status in 15 categories of infrastructure. In 2009, all signs point to an infrastructure that is poorly maintained, unable to meet current and future demands, and in some cases, unsafe. A healthy infrastructure is the backbone of a healthy economy. In these challenging times, infrastructure is essential to reviving the nation's fortunes, and in maintaining our high quality of life, concludes the study. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.asce.org/reportcard/2009/grades.html> [HTML format, various paging].

REPORT TO CONGRESS PURSUANT TO SECTION 403(a) OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. January 2009.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has produced the first ever report to Congress identifying six nations, France, Italy, Libya, Panama, People's Republic of China, Tunisia, whose fishing vessels were engaged in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in 2007 or 2008. Annual global economic losses due to IUU fishing are estimated to be about \$9 billion, according to an international task force on IUU fishing.

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/biennial\\_report011309.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/biennial_report011309.pdf) [PDF format, 146 pages].

REPOWER AMERICA WITH GREEN EDUCATION, GREEN JOBS, GREEN SCHOOLS. National Wildlife Federation. January 8, 2009.

Economic and education experts join National Wildlife Federation to push for green stimulus investments that would re-power America with green education, green jobs and green schools. Investments in education generate 23.1 jobs per \$1 million in spending, nearly five times more jobs created than oil and natural gas sector spending, according to Robert Pollin, Department of Economics and Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/Education\\_Fact\\_Sheet2.pdf](http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/Education_Fact_Sheet2.pdf) Fact Sheet: Green Education, Green Jobs, Green Schools. [PDF format, 2 pages].

[http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/Campus\\_Report\\_Card\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/Campus_Report_Card_Fact_Sheet.pdf) America's Campuses in 2008 [PDF format, 2 pages].

REVERSING THE DECLINE: AN AGENDA FOR U.S.-RUSSIAN RELATIONS IN 2009. Brookings Institution. Steven Pifer. January 2009.

The policy paper studies how renewing the spirit of cooperation between Russia and the United States might be achieved. The paper is divided into four chapters, including "What Does Russia Want?" and "Implementing the Agenda." Among other recommendations, the author suggests that the new presidential administration might offer a revived nuclear arms control dialogue and also work on expanding commercial links between the two countries. [Note: contains copyrighted



material]

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/01\\_us\\_russia\\_relations\\_pifer/01\\_us\\_russia\\_relations\\_pifer.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/01_us_russia_relations_pifer/01_us_russia_relations_pifer.pdf) [PDF format, 38 pages].

THE RISE OF THE PASDARAN: ASSESSING THE DOMESTIC ROLES OF IRAN'S ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS CORPS. RAND Corporation. Frederic Wehrey et al. Web posted January 8, 2009.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), also known as the Pasdaran (Persian for "guards") was initially created by Ayatollah Khomeini during the 1978–1979 Islamic Revolution as an ideological guard for the nascent regime. Since then, it has evolved into an expansive socio-political-economic conglomerate whose influence extends into virtually every corner of Iranian political life and society. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG821.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG821.pdf) [PDF format, 153 pages].

ROOTS OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS: THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT POLICY. U.S. House of Representatives, Budget Committee, Republicans. Web posted January 10, 2009.

Although failures among private-sector actors and institutions were significant, the roots of the financial crisis can be traced to flawed government policies. The housing sector, where most of the difficulties started, has substantial government components, including the financial and regulatory roles of large government agencies. In short, the current crisis reflects not a failure of the capitalist system, but the ways in which government distorted the functioning of private markets.

[http://www.house.gov/budget\\_republicans/press/2007/pr20090108rootcauses.pdf](http://www.house.gov/budget_republicans/press/2007/pr20090108rootcauses.pdf) [PDF format, 13 pages].

THE SERPENT IN OUR GARDEN: AL-QA'IDA AND THE LONG WAR. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College. Colonel Brian M. Drinkwine. January 26, 2009.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 caused Americans to realize that our sense of invincibility had been shattered. The paper discusses al-Qa'ida and Salafi-Jihadists and recommends new approaches to fighting terrorism. The author explores al-Qa'ida's organization, leaders, doctrine, and their radical ideologies and includes recommendations to assist future planners in the development of a grand national strategy. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?PubID=877> [HTML format with link to PDF file, 83 pages].

SOCIAL NETWORKS GROW: FRIENDING MOM AND DAD. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Amanda Lenhart. January 14, 2009.

The share of adult internet users who have a profile on a social networking site has more than quadrupled in the past four years. While media coverage and policy attention focus heavily on how children and young adults use social network sites, adults still make up the bulk of the users of these websites. Still, younger online adults are much more likely than their older counterparts to use social networks, with 75% of adults 18-24 using these networks, compared with just 7% of adults ages 65 and older. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1079/social-networks-grow> [HTML format, various paging].

SPENDING ON CELL PHONE SERVICES HAS EXCEEDED SPENDING ON RESIDENTIAL PHONE SERVICES. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Web posted January 29, 2009.

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show that cellular phone expenditures increased rapidly from 2001 through 2007. Cellular phone expenditures surpassed spending on residential landline phone services beginning in 2007. Expenditures for residential phone services per consumer unit decreased from \$686 to \$482 over that period, a decrease of 30 percent. <http://www.bls.gov/cex/cellphones2007.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2009: MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH. UNICEF, United Nations. Web posted January 16, 2009.

The report addresses maternal mortality, one of the most intractable problems for development work. It calls attention to the fact that women in the world's least developed countries are 300 times more likely to die in childbirth or from pregnancy-related complications than women in developed countries. The health of these mothers is inextricably linked to the health of their babies, the report points out. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://www.unicef.org/sowc09/docs/SOWC09-FullReport-EN.pdf> [PDF format, 168 pages].

STATEMENT OF POSTMASTER GENERAL/CEO JOHN E. POTTER BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FEDERAL SERVICES, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UNITED STATES SENATE. U.S. Postal Service. January 28, 2009.

The Postmaster General explains the causes of the current financial challenges faced by the U.S. Postal Service. After describing the steps the U.S. Postal Service has taken, he outlines the help it is requesting from Congress, specifically, for flexibility in the number of days the mail is delivered and an eight-year adjustment to our funding schedule for retiree health benefits. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/testimony/2009/pr09\\_pmg0128.htm?from=home\\_newsandannounce&page=PMGSenateTestimony](http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/testimony/2009/pr09_pmg0128.htm?from=home_newsandannounce&page=PMGSenateTestimony) [HTML format, various paging].

STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY: THE UNTAPPED U.S. OIL AND GAS RESOURCES. American Petroleum Institute. Harry Vidas and Bob Hugman. Web posted February 1, 2009.

The development of America's vast domestic oil and natural gas resources that had been kept off-limits by Congress for decades could generate more than \$1.7 trillion in government revenue, create thousands of new jobs and enhance the nation's energy security by significantly boosting domestic production, says the study. The study also estimates that the development of all U.S. oil and natural gas resources on federal lands could exceed \$4 trillion over the life of the resources. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://api-ec.api.org/Newsroom/upload/Access\\_Study\\_Final\\_Report\\_12\\_8\\_08.pdf](http://api-ec.api.org/Newsroom/upload/Access_Study_Final_Report_12_8_08.pdf) [PDF format, 97 pages].

STRONG CONFIDENCE IN OBAMA – COUNTRY SEEN AS LESS POLITICALLY DIVIDED. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. January 15, 2009.

Public confidence in Barack Obama to deal with the nation's most pressing problems is quite high, with about seven-in-ten saying they have at least a fair amount of confidence that he will do the right thing when it comes to mending the economy, preventing terrorism, and in dealing with Iraq. Notably, many Americans not only see the president-elect as a problem-solver, but as a "uniter" as well. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://people-press.org/report/483/confidence-in-obama-country-less-politically-divided> [HTML format, various paging].

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS. U.S. Supreme Court. Web posted January 22, 2009.

The five Supreme Court decisions range from criminal accomplice liability to sentencing.  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/08pdf/07-772.pdf> Waddington v. Sarausad [PDF format, 30 pages].  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/08pdf/07-610.pdf> Locke v. Karass [PDF format, 18 pages].  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/08pdf/07-751.pdf> Pearson v. Callahan [PDF format, 24 pages].  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/08pdf/07-1125.pdf> Fitzgerald v. Barnstable School Committee [PDF format, 16 pages].  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/08pdf/08-5721.pdf> Spears v. United States [PDF format, 11 pages].

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS. U.S. Supreme Court. Web posted January 27, 2009.

Recent Supreme Court decisions ranging from sentencing guidelines to sexual harassment are covered.  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/08pdf/08-5657.pdf> Nelson v. U.S. [PDF format, 4 pages].  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/08pdf/07-854.pdf> Van de Kamp v. Goldstein [PDF format, 15 pages].  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/08pdf/07-1122.pdf> Arizona v. Johnson [PDF format, 12 pages].  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/08pdf/07-1059.pdf> United States v. Eurodif S.A. [PDF format, 19 pages].  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/08pdf/07-636.pdf> Kennedy v. Plan Administrator for DuPont Savings & Investment Plan [PDF format, 22 pages].  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/08pdf/06-1595.pdf> Crawford v. Nashville and Davidson County, Tenn. [PDF format, 14 pages].

SQUEEZE PLAY 2009: THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS ON COLLEGE COSTS TODAY. Public Agenda. February 6, 2009.

Americans see higher education as increasingly unaffordable, at the same time that more Americans view college as essential for middle-class success. In addition, more than half say colleges and universities act more like businesses than educational institutions, according to a national survey of 1,009 adults. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.publicagenda.org/files/pdf/SqueezePlay09\\_FINAL.PDF](http://www.publicagenda.org/files/pdf/SqueezePlay09_FINAL.PDF) [PDF format, 12 pages].

TIMOR-LESTE: NO TIME FOR COMPLACENCY. International Crisis Group. February 9, 2009.

A year after the near-fatal shooting of President José Ramos-Horta, security in Timor-Leste is strikingly improved, according to the report. Armed rebels are no longer at large. The atmosphere on the streets of Dili is far less tense. Nevertheless, the current period of calm is not cause for complacency. Security sector reform is lagging, the justice system is weak, the government shows signs of intolerance towards dissenting voices, and it has not got a grip on corruption. These problems, which have been at the root of the instability facing Timor-Leste since independence, must be tackled if the country is to escape the cycle of conflict. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/asia/timor/b87\\_timor\\_lesle\\_\\_\\_no\\_time\\_for\\_complacency.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/asia/timor/b87_timor_lesle___no_time_for_complacency.pdf) [PDF format, 12 pages].

TOWARD A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRY. Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition. Dustin Mulvaney et al. January 14, 2009.

The report documents and analyzes the environmental and health hazards of solar panel systems in a supposed “win-win” solution to global warming. It covers the health and safety concerns as well as recommendations for building a just and sustainable solar energy industry. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.etoxics.org/site/DocServer/Silicon\\_Valley\\_Toxics\\_Coalition\\_-\\_Toward\\_a\\_Just\\_and\\_Sust.pdf?docID=821](http://www.etoxics.org/site/DocServer/Silicon_Valley_Toxics_Coalition_-_Toward_a_Just_and_Sust.pdf?docID=821) [PDF format, 48 pages].

TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN ARTICLES: THE NEED FOR INFORMATION. Nordic Council of Ministers. Rachel I Massey et al. Web posted February 2009.

The report contends that the use of toxic chemicals in articles is a growing concern for public health and the environment. International trade results in substances being transported among regions. From toys and household items to electronic equipment and automobiles, toxic substances in articles are an increasingly important factor contributing to the global burden of toxic substances. Toxic substances in articles may pose threats at every stage of the product life cycle, production, use, and disposal or recycling. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://norden.org/pub/miljo/miljo/sk/TN2008596.pdf> [PDF format, 92 pages].

TRENDS IN COLLEGE SPENDING: WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM? WHERE DOES IT GO? Delta Cost Project. Jane V. Wellman et al. Web posted January 16, 2009.

The report examines revenue and expenditure data for nearly 2,000 public and private non-profit colleges and universities, representing more than 75 percent of higher education enrollment, and analyzes recent trends, focusing on the period from 2002 to 2006. It is the most up-to-date and comprehensive assessment of higher education finance in the nation. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.deltacostproject.org/resources/pdf/trends\\_in\\_spending-report.pdf](http://www.deltacostproject.org/resources/pdf/trends_in_spending-report.pdf) [PDF format, 48 pages].

UNDERSTANDING IRAN. RAND Corporation. Jerrold D. Green et al. Web posted January 8, 2009.

Iran remains among the most poorly understood countries in the world and, for most Americans, terra incognita. A small community of American analysts in the government, academia, and the country’s think tanks is, of course, working on Iran, but the overwhelming majority of them has never been to Iran or has visited only briefly. The report is the result of a workshop and the authors’ own experience and analysis, is a concise, accessible handbook on the Islamic Republic for U.S. policymakers. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG771.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG771.pdf) [PDF format, 167 pages].

UNEMPLOYED AND UNINSURED IN AMERICA. FamiliesUSA. February 2009.

The study analyzes the health coverage status of unemployed workers with low and moderate incomes, including national and state-level data. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/unemployed-and-uninsured.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].  
<http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/getting-covered.pdf> Getting Covered: Finding Health Insurance When You Lose Your Job. [PDF format, 12 pages].

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION REPORT 2009. UNICEF, United Nations. January 2009.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launches an annual humanitarian funding appeal for children and women affected by protracted emergencies. In 2009, the appeal covers 36 countries. The report includes regional and country chapters, outlines the funding requirements for 2009 in each of the countries and provides an overview of 2008 emergency funding. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.unicef.org/har09/files/HAR\\_2009\\_FULL\\_Report\\_English.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/har09/files/HAR_2009_FULL_Report_English.pdf) [PDF format, 232 pages].

THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL HEALTH: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. Institute of Medicine. January 30, 2009.

The Institute suggests that the U.S. should intensify its commitment to global health in the next four years by increasing funding and placing greater importance on health when setting overall U.S. foreign policy. Improving health is the responsibility of the United States as a global leader, and should be recognized as a goal with significant long-term diplomatic, economic, and security benefits for the U.S.

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12506](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12506) [HTML format, with links to PDF files].

U.S. METRO ECONOMIES: THE ENGINES OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY. U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Council for the New American City. January 2009.

The key findings include: unemployment will rise in metro areas in 2009, shrinking GDP, growing unemployment nationwide, regional impacts, metro areas are essential to national economic recovery. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://usmayors.org/77thWinterMeeting/documents/usmer-report-200901.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages].

U.S. WEAPONS AT WAR 2008. New America Foundation. William D. Hartung and Frida Berrigan. Web posted January 16, 2009.

The report finds that United States arms transfers are undermining human rights, weakening democracy and fueling conflict around the world. U.S. arms sales reached \$32 billion in 2007, more than three times the level obtained when President Bush first took office. The author says, "It's not just the volume of U.S. weapons exports that matters, it is how these weapons are likely to be used." [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.newamerica.net/publications/policy/u\\_s\\_weapons\\_war\\_2008\\_0](http://www.newamerica.net/publications/policy/u_s_weapons_war_2008_0) [HTML format, various paging].

VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES, 2008. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. January 2009.

About 61.8 million people, or 26.4 percent of the population, volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2007 and September 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the level and rate of volunteering were essentially unchanged from the prior year. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

WHO ADOPTS? CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN AND MEN WHO HAVE ADOPTED CHILDREN. National Center for Health Statistics. Jo Jones. Web posted January 28, 2009.

The report presents data from the National Survey of Family Growth concerning the characteristics of those who have adopted children in the United States. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db12.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].



WHO ARE THE MAJOR PLAYERS SUPPLYING THE WORLD OIL MARKET? Energy Information Administration. January 28, 2009.

Governments of oil-rich countries have a major influence on the world supply of oil through ownership of national oil companies and, for some governments, their membership in OPEC.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/energy\\_in\\_brief/world\\_oil\\_market.cfm](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/energy_in_brief/world_oil_market.cfm) [HTML format, various paging].

WIND ENERGY GROWS BY RECORD 8,300 MW IN 2008. American Wind Energy Association. January 27, 2009.

The U.S. wind energy industry shattered all previous records in 2008 by installing 8,358 megawatts (MW) of new generating capacity, enough to serve over 2 million homes, reports the study. The massive growth in 2008 swelled the nation's total wind power generating capacity by 50% and channeled an investment of some \$17 billion into the economy, positioning wind power as one of the leading sources of new power generation in the country today along with natural gas. At year's end, however, financing for new projects and orders for turbine components slowed to a trickle and layoffs began to hit the wind turbine manufacturing sector. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.awea.org/newsroom/releases/wind\\_energy\\_growth2008\\_27Jan09.html](http://www.awea.org/newsroom/releases/wind_energy_growth2008_27Jan09.html) [HTML format, various paging].

WORKING HARD FOR THE MONEY: TRENDS IN WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT 1970 TO 2007. Reports on Rural America, Carsey Institute. Kristin Smith. Web posted January 30, 2009.

Rural married women, mothers and not, are clocking in at work more often today than even their urban counterparts, and since 2000, more married than single women are in the workforce in rural areas, a first. In 2006, 70 percent of married women with children under age 6 in rural areas worked for pay compared with 64 percent in urban areas. The report cites the reasons for this difference. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/Report-Smith-WorkingHard.pdf> [PDF format, 36 pages].

WORKING TIME IN THE EU AND OTHER GLOBAL ECONOMIES – INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN THE EU AND OTHER GLOBAL ECONOMIES 2006-2007. European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. Web posted January 8, 2009.

Globalization is having a profound impact on economies and industrial relations systems all around the world. In the context of global competition, it is increasingly relevant to look at Europe's economic development in a wider perspective. The report explores the main industrial relations developments in the European Union, Japan and the U.S. in the period 2006-2007. It charts the similarities and trends in industrial relations as well as the differences in basic structures and developments between these three major economies. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/docs/eiro/tn0804058s/tn0804058s.pdf> [PDF format, 51 pages].

WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROSPECTS 2009. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations. January 2009.

The world economy is mired in the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. What started as a sub-prime mortgage crack in the United States housing market began widening into deeper fissures across the global financial landscape and ended with the collapse of major banking institutions, precipitous falls on stock markets across the world and a credit freeze. In the baseline

scenario of the United Nations forecast, world gross product growth is expected to slow to a meager 1.0 per cent in 2009, a sharp deceleration from the 2.5 per cent growth estimated for 2008 and well below the more robust growth of previous years. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp2009files/wesp2009.pdf> [PDF format, 188 pages].

A YEAR-END LOOK AT THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN'S IMPACT ON MIDDLE-AGED AND OLDER AMERICANS. American Association of Retired Persons. S. Kathi Brown. January 2009.

Throughout 2008, the economy was battered by falling housing prices and increasing foreclosure rates, record stock market losses, rising unemployment, and weak consumer spending. An overwhelming majority of Americans ages 45+ believe that the economy is in bad shape. As a result of the economic downturn, the majority say that they cut back on entertainment spending (68%) and eating out (64%) during 2008. Additionally, 52 percent had more difficulty paying for essential items such as food, gas, and medicine in 2008, and 44 percent found it more difficult to pay for utilities. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/econ/economic\\_slowdown\\_09.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/econ/economic_slowdown_09.pdf) [PDF format, 34 pages].

YES WE CAN...COVER MORE THAN 4 MILLION UNINSURED CHILDREN. Families USA. January 2009.

The study shows how many children would gain coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia under the CHIP reauthorization bill passed by the House (H.R. 2) [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/yes-we-can-chip-2009.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

## ARTICLES

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### DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Clifford, Frank HOWLING SUCCESS (Smithsonian, Vol. 39, No. 11, February 2009, pp. 76-90)

The 14-year old experiment to reintroduce the gray wolf to the Northern Rocky Mountains is a remarkable success, yet also a cautionary tale about the difficulties of restoring an endangered species. A bane to ranchers and settlers, wolves were ruthlessly hunted in the early 20th century to the point of being wiped out in that region. A program to reintroduce the wolf to Yellowstone Park began in 1995, in part, to restore an ecosystem thrown out of balance by an elk population overgrazing the landscape. The original group of 41 animals imported to Yellowstone from Canada has grown to more than 1,000 in a decade. But the roaming packs could not be restricted to the parklands, and began to raid the herds on neighboring ranchlands; now, however, ranchers, environmentalists, government officials and lawmakers work to find solutions. "Wolves have to be part of the equation," Clifford quotes rancher Robert Lang; "The trick is how to create a détente with them." Currently available online at

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/Howling-Success.html> under a different title.

Doctor, Ken "FRIGHTSIZING" NEWSPAPERS: WHAT DERAILED THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY? (Global Journalist, Vol. 14, no. 3, Fall 2008, pp. 22-27)

The decline of the U.S. newspaper industry has been so dramatic that rather than using terms like “downsizing” or “rightsizing,” Doctor coins the term “frightsizing.” The news remains glum for those inside the industry, with shrinking advertising revenue and share prices and increased job losses. The transition online has been difficult and newspapers are finding that despite their declining audience, it takes an average of 20 online readers to generate the ad revenue of one print reader. Yet, online news sources are easily stepping in to take their place and newsreaders today spend the same amount of time taking in news as they did a decade ago from print sources. In the current confusing phase of transition, questions of journalistic trustworthiness and credibility have arisen, but so has a newfound energy. “We can’t see this new world in great clarity,” Doctor concludes, “but we can see its contours.” Currently available online at [http://www.globaljournalist.org/content/emprint/2008\\_fall.pdf](http://www.globaljournalist.org/content/emprint/2008_fall.pdf)

Goetz, Thomas CANCER AND THE NEW SCIENCE OF EARLY DETECTION (Wired, Vol. 17, no. 1, January 2009, pp. 80-89,121-122)

Early detection of cancer, an afterthought by the cancer research community, is slowly being proven to be a crucial step to save many lives affected by the disease, writes the author, deputy editor of the WIRED magazine and health blogger at decisiontree.com. The Canary Foundation, founded by Don Listwin, is the only organization of its kind in the cancer research field, with the goal to find by 2015 a series of screening techniques that can be widely used across the world in detecting cancer in its early stages, giving patients a 90% chance of survival. The foundation’s realization that “data instead of drugs should be used to reveal a cancer before a cancer reveals itself” is driving the work of some of the nation’s best medical researchers, who are assigned to various teams to concentrate on a specific type of cancer. Among the advances they have made are the use of proteomics and biomarkers, and creating a systematic screening process for tumors with an ultrasound versus a CT scan, which can be more harmful than good. Available online at [http://www.wired.com/medtech/health/magazine/17-01/ff\\_cancer](http://www.wired.com/medtech/health/magazine/17-01/ff_cancer)

Gurwitt, Rob POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (Governing, January, 2009)

Gurwitt discusses the decline of statehouse journalism. As media outlets struggle to stay afloat in a weak economy, coverage of state legislatures faces severe cuts. For example, Gurwitt notes that the Hartford Courant (Connecticut) used to have a dozen reporters covering state agencies, but today they have only one; with such limited staff, coverage of important legislative and budget issues has disappeared. The author talks with current and former statehouse reporters who discuss the current state of statehouse journalism. Currently available online at <http://www.governing.com/articles/0901pressc.htm>

Heath, James; Davis, Mark; Hood, Leroy NANOMEDICINE -- REVOLUTIONIZING THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER (Scientific American, January 2009)

Nanoscale technologies -- those at the scale of molecules and atoms -- can transform how disease is understood, attacked and possibly prevented. A “systems” approach to medicine views the body as a complex network of molecular interactions that can be measured and modeled, revealing causes of disease such as cancer. Extremely miniaturized tools can inexpensively measure and manipulate molecules for systems medicine. Nanoscale therapies deliver precisely targeted treatments to tumors while avoiding healthy tissues. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=nanomedicine-targets-cancer>

Herbert, David AGENCIES STRUGGLING TO MAKE CONNECTIONS ONLINE (National Journal, February 2, 2009)

President Obama wants government agencies to be more transparent and communicate more with their audiences online. Many agencies have been using social-networking media long before Obama’s directives, but with little success, the author says. Bureaucratic inefficiency and

outdated and inflexible laws are partially to blame, Herbert writes, but "the biggest problem facing most agencies isn't the trap of outdated regulations but the failure to attract an audience." The article examines how web managers need to think about how to use Web 2.0 tools, not just to use them for the sake of using them. It also examines how the successful government social networking sites are the ones that allow an open discussion. Currently available online at [http://www.nationaljournal.com/njonline/no\\_20090126\\_4207.php](http://www.nationaljournal.com/njonline/no_20090126_4207.php)

Kelemen, Peter B. THE ORIGIN OF THE OCEAN FLOOR (Scientific American, February 2009)

The deep basins under the oceans are carpeted with lava that spewed from submarine volcanoes and solidified. Scientists have solved the mystery of how all that lava reaches the seafloor -- eighty-five percent of Earth's volcanic eruptions occur deep underwater along mid-ocean ridges. Lava ejected from those narrow chains of seafloor volcanoes produce the rocky underpinnings of all oceans. Until recently, no one understood how the molten lava rises up into the ridges. Scientists now think they have deciphered the process, beginning with the formation of microscopic droplets of liquid rock in regions up to 150 kilometers deep. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-origin-of-the-ocean-floor>

Kerton-Johnson, Nicholas JUSTIFYING THE USE OF FORCE IN A POST-9/11 WORLD: STRIVING FOR HIERARCHY IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY (International Affairs, Vol. 84, no. 5, September 2008, pp. 991-1007)

The author, lecturer at the University of Bristol (UK), argues that, following 9/11, the United States has sought to unilaterally replace the international community as the guarantor and definer of global values. Although President Bush could have sought justification for the war in Afghanistan by using international law arguments, his administration largely used what Kerton-Jones calls an "egoist morality" such as promoting the spread of American freedom and democracy verses the evils of terrorism in the run-up to war. In Iraq, "egoist morality" again was prominent, with statements portraying the United States as standing up to global security threats and assisting those aspiring to greater freedom in contrast to perceived inaction by the United Nations. In both cases, the Bush administration's arguments for war were targeting the American public, rather than seeking international legitimacy. References to human rights abuses by the Taliban and Saddam Hussein were more for the purpose of demonization than justification, Kerton-Johnson argues.

Lawler, Andrew BODIES OF EVIDENCE (Smithsonian, Vol. 39, No. 11, February 2009, pp. 18-22)

The jungles and the rice fields of Thailand are yielding discoveries that call for a rewrite of the history of Indochina. The conventional wisdom on the region's history, Lawler writes, is that it was a "late-blooming hybrid of Indian and Chinese civilizations." Recent archaeological finds indicate that the 7th-century Khmer Empire grew out of a sophisticated past, complete with irrigation systems, moated villages, trade networks, and distinctive burial rituals. Archaeologist Charles Higham of the University of Otago in New Zealand has found evidence that the early Indochinese were miners, smelters, and traders of metals in the Bronze Age. "You already have social complexity here at 400 B.C.," Higham tells Lawler; "this was not brought from India -- it was indigenous." Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Digs-Bodies-of-Evidence.html>

Nelson, Anne ARAB MEDIA: THE WEB 2.0 REVOLUTION (Carnegie Reporter, vol. 5, no. 1, Fall 2008, pp. 12-23)

The author, a noted media scholar who consults for a number of major foundations on international media issues, notes that the Internet, cell phones, and other new media are revolutionizing communications in Arab societies. Digital technology is bringing rapid change to Arab nations, and the effects will be felt far beyond regional borders. Nelson notes that the new

media revolution is unfolding in a region in which other forms of expression have long been suppressed. In Egypt, for instance, most of the national news outlets are state-dominated, with political coverage that is almost identical to government press releases. Now, some 6 million Egyptians have Internet access and 70 percent of the country's 78 million people have access to satellite television. Cell phones are ubiquitous, and now come equipped with Facebook as a menu option. A large percentage of Egypt's online community are young people, who are active on social networking sites such as YouTube, Facebook, and its Google parallel, Orkut. So far, much of the U.S. government response to the phenomenon of the Internet in the Arab world has focused on its implications for terrorism and counter-insurgency. In the U.S. and Western Europe, "legacy infrastructure" has slowed the pace of innovations such as cell phones and high-speed Internet. Arab countries, however, are starting from scratch, which makes them high-tech playgrounds for innovation. Flat-screen TVs abound, and Al-Jazeera International was launched as the world's first broadcaster with all-HDTV infrastructure. Available online at <http://www.carnegie.org/reporter/17/amedia2/index.html>

Poole, Gary Andrew BACK TO THE FUTURE (Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 47, no. 5, January/February 2009, pp. 19-21)

Sports, both professional and amateur, have a prominent place in American life. The author, a free-lance sportswriter, writes that the craft of sports writing has declined, but believes that it can recapture its relevance. In the 1920s, the New Yorker published a piece that declared sports a "trivial enterprise" involving "second-rate people and their second-rate dreams and emotions." The magazine went on to concede, however, that the quality of writing in the sports pages was superior to that in the news columns. Since the mid-1990s, two forces have diminished classic sports writing. First, television coverage has expanded, making hype and the sensational aspects of sports dominant. ESPN became a cultural and media juggernaut, rendering game recaps and box scores in the next day's newspapers obsolete. The web, meanwhile, did to sports writing what it has done to journalism more broadly: carved up the audience and exacerbated the "more-faster-better" mindset that cable TV began. Currently available online at [http://www.cjr.org/essay/back\\_to\\_the\\_future\\_1.php](http://www.cjr.org/essay/back_to_the_future_1.php)

Poulson, Theresa 'FATHER OF THE INTERNET' SEEKS EXPANSIVE ROLE FOR CTO (National Journal, December 22, 2008)

Poulson interviews Google Vice President Vinton Cerf about what he envisions a chief technology officer (CTO) could do in the Obama administration. Obama has said he would create this position, the first for a presidential administration, but little specifics are available about what this person would do. Cerf said that while "it's not an easy job to define" he thinks there are a lot of ways a CTO could not only improve American technology but contribute to improving the American economy by creating jobs through investments in infrastructure. Cerf said a CTO could reinvigorate broadband infrastructure, improve cyber security and explore how information technology can improve energy efficiency. Currently available online at [http://www.nationaljournal.com/njonline/ii\\_20081222\\_1389.php](http://www.nationaljournal.com/njonline/ii_20081222_1389.php)

Quart, Alissa MUSIC LESSONS (Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 47, no. 4, November/December 2008, pp. 18-20)

Quart, CJR contributing editor, notes that the most successful journalists have learned a few lessons from rock music stars; for example, prominent journalists and musicians must both devote a great deal of time and effort maintaining a "cross-media relationship with their fan base." Musicians build fan bases by using on-line and CD giveaways; journalists have taken to blogs, which give away information. These activities create an online community spawned by the "personal authenticity" of the musician or journalist who makes himself accessible to his fans/readers. The goal is to build a personal brand by giving away just enough of the product to motivate audiences to buy the product. Currently available online at [http://www.cjr.org/essay/music\\_lessons\\_1.php](http://www.cjr.org/essay/music_lessons_1.php)



Sifry, Micah A SEE-THROUGH SOCIETY (Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 47, no. 5, January-February 2009, pp. 43-48)

The public reaction to the Congressional emergency bailout legislation in September 2008 was overwhelming; an unprecedented number of e-mails crashed the House of Representatives web site, and several independent web sites that track Congressional activity were swamped. That explosion of public engagement online, Sifry says, signals "the beginning of a new age of political transparency. As more people go online to find, create, and share vital political information with one another ... and as the tools for analyzing data and connecting people become more powerful and easier to use, politics and governance alike are inexorably becoming more open. Citizens will have more opportunity at all levels of government to take an active part in understanding and participating in the democratic decisions that affect their lives." City governments are leading the way; the District of Columbia, for example, since 2006 has put online all the raw data it has collected on government operations, education, health care, crime, and other topics on the CapStat online service. The new Obama administration has expressed a commitment to expanding government transparency with online databases. Currently available online at [http://www.cjr.org/transparency/a\\_see-through\\_society.php](http://www.cjr.org/transparency/a_see-through_society.php)

Wolman, David TURNING THE TIDES (Wired, Vol. 17, no. 1, January 2009, pp. 109-113,121-122)

The Netherlands, which has long experience with reclamation and flood protection, is embarking on an ambitious plan to protect the country from floods and rising sea levels due to climate change. The Delta Commission, created by the Dutch parliament, made projections for the next 200 years, based on data submitted by engineers and ocean experts on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; the projects envisioned by the plan will cost \$1.5 billion a year for the next 100 years. The author, a contributing editor to the magazine, notes that the Dutch plan includes extending the coastlines, raising Lake IJssel to above sea level and adding extensive dams & reinforcing levees to control the water coming from both the sea and the Alps. The author notes that the portion of the country to benefit from these measures generates 65 percent of the Netherlands' GDP. Says Wolman, the Dutch "are giving engineers and urban planners from New Orleans to Singapore a preview of what it will take to keep rising waters at bay." Available online at [http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/magazine/17-01/ff\\_dutch\\_delta](http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/magazine/17-01/ff_dutch_delta)

## **ECONOMIC SECURITY**

Dubro, Alec THE MYTH OF THE EFFICIENT CAR (The Progressive, posted February 2, 2009)

Developing fuel-efficient cars may be good for business, job creation and reinvigorating a struggling economy, but it is a myth to think that building more cars, efficient or otherwise, will reduce global pollution, according to Alec Dubro of The Progressive. "Increasing fuel efficiency has never led to an overall reduction in pollutants -- in fact, efficiency has always led to more production and consumption," Dubro writes. He cites the widely-observed paradox that the more efficient machines become, the more energy they use because they are more widely used, noting that "people everywhere are buying more of the better, cheaper, more efficient cars and are driving them more." The only solution is to abandon the personal automobile, the author states. He notes that, because of their mass, "cars don't move people, cars move cars" -- even proposed lightweight hypercars are several times the driver's body weight, and would still require the existing infrastructure of roads, bridges, parking areas and energy distribution. Dubro advocates developing the "20-minute neighborhood" where home, work, shopping and recreation are all within walking distance. Currently available online at <http://www.progressive.org/mag/mpdubro020309.html>

Eberstadt, Nicholas THE POVERTY OF THE OFFICIAL POVERTY RATE (Milken Institute Review, vol. 10, no. 4, Fourth Quarter 2008, pp. 40-49)

Eberstadt, scholar of political economy at the American Enterprise Institute, argues that the reason the official poverty rate fails to quantify the steady improvement in the living standards of America's poor lies in a mistake built into the poverty measure -- that a household's annual spending cannot exceed its annual income. The nation's poverty indicator first emerged in 1965, when the Johnson administration launched the War on Poverty. This measure determined a family's poverty status by comparing its annual income to a federal "poverty threshold" -- set at about three times the cost of a nutritionally adequate food budget and tailored to a family's size. The percentage of people falling below that threshold was deemed the "poverty rate." The threshold is adjusted each year to take into account changing prices. However, those who are counted as poor today have dramatically higher living standards than their counterparts in the 1960s, when the poverty rate was originally devised. The gap between reported income and reported spending has grown over the years, and this phenomenon is not reflected in the official poverty rate, largely due to assistance programs, such as food stamps and the earned income tax credit. Income variability, the swings between periods of unemployment, has grown, and low-income households have become more likely to use credit to maintain their living standards in between periods of employment. Eberstadt notes that this apparent increase in living standards in no way obscures the challenges of low-income households in America -- problems of family dissolution and crime are as great as ever. He notes that there is a growing consensus across the political spectrum of the need to change the existing poverty indicators to reflect present-day realities. Currently available online at [http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.28926/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.28926/pub_detail.asp)

Grunwald, Michael WASTING OUR WATTS (Time, vol. 173, no. 1, January 12, 2009, pp. 32-36)

The author notes that the U.S. "has a renewable-energy resource that is perfectly clean, remarkably cheap, surprisingly abundant and immediately available -- it has astounding potential to reduce the carbon emissions that threaten our planet, the dependence on foreign oil that threatens our security and the energy costs that threaten our wallets." It is energy efficiency, and it's often ignored in the hubbub over alternative fuels, the nuclear renaissance, the T. Boone Pickens plan and the green-tech economy. Grunwald notes that major change is in the works when companies like IBM, GM, Wal-Mart and Chevron run ads touting their energy-saving commitments, and "when cities, universities, supermarkets and hospitals race to reduce their carbon footprints." Experts have identified dozens of attractive targets for eliminating waste, from streetlights to servers. The Department of Energy predicts a 30-percent increase in power demand in America by 2030, and power companies "are keenly aware that the cheapest new plant is the one they don't have to build." Duke Energy has proclaimed efficiency its "fifth fuel," unveiling ambitious plans to help its customers retrofit their homes and buildings and buy more efficient appliances and equipment. Currently available online at <http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1869224,00.html> under a different title.

Kristof, Kathy THE GREAT COLLEGE HOAX (Forbes Magazine, February 2, 2009)

Misguided easy-money policies have encouraged the masses to go into debt to get a higher education, Kristof says. "While the premium that college grads earn over high-schoolers has remained relatively constant over the past five years, the cost of acquiring a degree has risen at twice the rate of inflation, dramatically undermining any value a sheepskin adds," she writes. Many college grads will work for more than a decade to pay off their student loans and many students have fallen victim to fraudulent lending practices. For those young people (and there are many) who don't finish college, the situation is worse: they are stuck with the burden of student loans without benefit of the wages a college degree can provide. Currently available online at <http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2009/0202/060.html>

McKenzie, Francine GATT AND THE COLD WAR: ACCESSION DEBATES, INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE WESTERN ALLIANCE, 1947-1959 (Journal of Cold War Studies, vol. 10, no. 3, Summer 2008, pp. 78-109)

The author, a Canadian historian, challenges the conventional view of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and places it in the context of larger geopolitical conflicts. She notes that the Soviet Union never participated in the conference and the U.S. was skeptical that, given their state monopoly control on foreign trade, if they could participate in a useful way in the tariff negotiations. Scholars often emphasize GATT's role as a negotiating forum for multilateral trade liberalization, but McKenzie notes that this interpretation glosses over the political dimensions of trade diplomacy. McKenzie's revisionism opens the door for other reassessments of GATT orthodoxy, such as assertions that it brought prosperity to the West, helped win the Cold War, and established the legal foundation for the new age of globalization and offshore outsourcing. This ignores the fact that many of the countries, such as China and Japan, that gained the most from the GATT system were the least integrated into it; GATT brought few obvious benefits to the poorest of countries, because the multilateral negotiators never managed to roll back agricultural protectionism in the rich countries. Currently available online at [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_cold\\_war\\_studies/v010/10.3.mckenzie.html#tab01](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_cold_war_studies/v010/10.3.mckenzie.html#tab01)

Nocera, Joe RISK MISMANAGEMENT (New York Times Magazine, January 4, 2009, pp. 24//51)

Nocera notes that stabilizing the U.S. economy is probably the most important issue the Obama administration will face; the risks taken by the U.S. and European investment firms have threatened to bring down the entire financial system. Many have suggested that the cause of the catastrophe was the widespread institutional reliance on a value-at-risk (VaR) financial model that did not take into account the biggest risk of all -- the possibility of a financial meltdown. This was one of Alan Greenspan's primary excuses when he testified about the financial crisis before Congress in 2008. The late 1980s and the early 1990s were a time when many firms were trying to devise more sophisticated risk models because the world was changing around them. Banks, whose primary role was assessing credit risk, were merging with investment banks, which traded stocks and bonds. Derivatives and securitizations -- pools of mortgages or credit-card loans that were bundled by investment firms and sold to investors -- were becoming an important component of Wall Street activity, but were very difficult to value. Nocera notes that at the height of the bubble, there was so much money to be made that any firm that turned away deals because of misgivings about the risk would miss out on huge short-term gains to less-cautious rivals; all the incentives were on the side of taking on more risk. The fact that VaR didn't measure the possibility of an extreme event was a relief to the heads of investment firms, making such a possibility easy to ignore. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/04/magazine/04risk-t.html>

Power, Carla FAITH IN THE MARKET (Foreign Policy, January/February, 2009)

The author, a London-based writer, notes that promoters of Islamic finance are claiming that if Islamic principles had been applied to the Western financial industry, the global economic crisis never would have happened. Sharia-based financial services, limited to no-interest-bearing financial instruments, are one of the world's fastest-growing financial sectors. Major Western banks have entered the field to profit from the trend and many buyers of sharia-compliant securities are non-Muslim. Since Wall Street's implosion, those services have been promoted by the champions of Islamic finance as a safe haven from the ills of the Western financial system. Power refutes those claims, noting that many financial products marketed as sharia-sanctioned are conventional finance in disguise, and sharia-compliant stocks lost almost as much in the first three quarters of 2008 as regular stocks. The claim that Islam has the perfect solution is questionable in economics, just as in politics, says a U.S.-based expert on Islamic finance. Currently available online at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=4596](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4596)

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Brose, Christian THE MAKING OF GEORGE W. OBAMA (Foreign Policy, January/February 2009, pp. 53-55)

The author, speechwriter for former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, says there will be less foreign policy deviation in the Bush-Obama political transition than one might otherwise expect. Brose says there won't be radical departures but there will be differences in energy and climate change policy. He also says the Iraq war will likely wind down while the Afghan war will gear up and the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba will be closed. The author goes on to suggest that there may be considerable continuity between the two administrations in their fight against al-Qaeda. The new president will also continue his predecessor's policy of Middle East engagement. Currently available online at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=4588](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4588)

Champion, Brian SPIES (LOOK) LIKE US: THE EARLY USE OF BUSINESS AND CIVILIAN COVERS IN COVERT OPERATIONS (International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence, Vol. 21, No. 3, September 2008, pp. 530-559)

Business has proven to be an effective cover for spies since ancient times, since merchants are not only privy to trade conditions, mannerisms and customs, but also are more identified in society by their trade rather than their national origin, notes Champion, Librarian in the Department of Social Sciences and Education at the Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. The Greeks and Carthaginians were skillful in exploiting these intelligence sources while the Romans largely abandoned it in favor of receiving covert information from allied tribes. Later on, Muslim merchants were prized for their information gained by their control of commercial traffic between the Mongol empire and the West. The English also became adept at using their merchants, based largely in Paris, to inform the monarchy on intelligence from the Continent and identifying supporters of English Catholicism. Lloyd's Coffee House in London became an unrivalled source of shipping intelligence during the 18th century. The American colonies also used "front" firms to buy European arms during the Revolution, and merchant cover was used to collect intelligence from the Confederacy during the Civil War. The author continues to document similar uses in 19th century European rivalries, the spread of Communism and World War II, but concludes it was not until the Cold War years that "front company" usage actually became a staple in intelligence gathering. Currently available online at <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/section?content=a793512689&fulltext=713240928>

Payne, Kenneth WAGING COMMUNICATION WAR (Parameters, vol. 38, no. 2, Summer 2008, pp. 37-51)

The author, a visiting fellow at Oxford University's Reuters Institute, notes that winning wars cannot be accomplished simply by effective communications; however, it is also impossible to win wars without effective communications. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. is fighting wars where the effective communication of ideas and information is a key part of the struggle. To achieve credible communication, American messages must be grounded in verifiable fact and should be coherent and consistent. The American military should learn from the marketing industry on communicating effectively, particularly utilizing the concepts of branding and audience segmentation. Currently available online at <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/Parameters/08summer/payne.htm>

Rosenthal, Justine A. FOR-PROFIT TERRORISM: THE RISE OF ARMED ENTREPRENEURS (Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, vol. 31, no. 6, May 2008, pp. 481-498)

The sheer volume of counterfeit goods, illicit drugs, illegal aliens and information flowing easily across porous borders has been accompanied by a rise in for-profit terrorism. These are terrorists and terrorist groups less motivated by political ideology than by a bigger bottom-line, says Rosenthal, executive editor of *The National Interest*. Terrorism-for-profit is a criminal activity — such as kidnapping, banditry, looting or smuggling — legitimated by an ideological veneer, notes Rosenthal. These terrorists are not engaging in criminal activities to fund political goals, nor are they criminal groups that occasionally engage in terrorist acts to ensure trade routes and territorial control, Rosenthal says; they also use political ideology to recruit new members. The danger, Rosenthal says, is that terrorists-for-profit make curbing terrorism increasingly difficult. Rosenthal also suggests that traditional counterterrorism measures should be employed to weaken these groups, to disarm them and destroy their infrastructures. Currently available online at [http://pdfserve.informaworld.com/238737\\_731432579\\_794121397.pdf](http://pdfserve.informaworld.com/238737_731432579_794121397.pdf)

Sick, Gary THE REPUBLIC AND THE RAHBAR (*National Interest*, no. 99, January/February 2009, pp. 10-20)

The author, professor of international affairs at Columbia University, writes that Iran is not the most dangerous or pressing problem the Obama administration faces in the Persian Gulf region. Iran's ascendancy in recent years was largely an "unearned gift" from the U.S. dispersal of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. He notes that the Tehran regime is a "largely unpopular and dysfunctional government headed by a firebrand populist president with limited power," and is riven with competing factions. The Iranian economy is in a shambles, with inflation running at an annual rate of 25 percent and widespread unemployment, and a government committed to massive domestic subsidies. After two decades, Iran still has only one non-functional nuclear reactor and a slow-motion enrichment program. Sick argues that Iran's ability to project military power outside its borders is overrated, although its internal defenses are impressive. He believes that the new administration's softening of the U.S. stance toward Iran would be recognized by the Tehran regime as an offer to move away from the current antagonism. Currently available online at <http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=20482>

Zachary, G. Pascal HUMANITARIAN DILEMMAS (*Wilson Quarterly*, vol. 32, no. 3, Summer 2008, pp. 44-51)

The moral necessity of humanitarian action seems no longer self-evident, suggests Zachary, former foreign correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal* and a consultant on African issues to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Many believe that humanitarianism is facing a full-blown identity crisis as a result of nearly two decades of rapid growth in the humanitarian enterprise. According to Zachary's research, after the crackup of humanitarian efforts in the Rwandan crisis, where humanitarian aid actually prolonged the suffering in the refugee camps, the demand for humanitarian assistance called for more robust, self-critical and efficiency-minded humanitarianism. Good intentions are no longer sufficient to meet the demands today, says Zachary -- "even as they confront the tension between their traditional mission to do good and the need to think about all manner of unintended consequences, humanitarians are also weighing a third element: tackling the root causes of humanitarian crises, and delivering the sort of aid that might provide durable 'insurance' against them." Currently available online at [http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay\\_id=478160](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay_id=478160)



## U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Battistella, Edwin GROPING FOR WORDS: A GUIDE TO SLANG AND USAGE RESOURCES (Choice, vol. 46, no. 4, December 2008, pp. 619-631)

In this bibliographic essay, the author, in the department of language, literature, and philosophy, Southern Oregon University, discusses the style and usage of grammar in the United States. By definition, grammar is the field of linguistics that covers the conventions governing the use of any given natural language. It includes morphology and syntax, often complemented by phonetics, phonology, semantics, and pragmatics. Each language has its own distinct grammar. A fully explicit grammar exhaustively describing the grammatical constructions of a language is called a descriptive grammar, as opposed to linguistic prescription, which tries to enforce the governing rules of how a language is to be used. Three of the earliest proponents were Benjamin Franklin, who hoped that Americans would adopt the best British models of speaking and writing; John Adams, who promoted the idea of a national academy for the study of English; and Thomas Jefferson, who was a great collector of dictionaries and stressed an American language and new words as a means of progress. In the 19th century, controlling errors in English became especially important for writers. At the dawn of the 21st, Americans now embrace grammar in unconventional forms, in regional and ethnic varieties, on the web, and as entertainment. In the U.S., the Society for the Promotion of Good Grammar (SPOGG) and MSN has designated March 4 as National Grammar Day.

Gopnik, Adam TWIN PEAKS (Smithsonian, vol. 39, no. 11, February 2009, pp. 50-54)

Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin were born on the same day in February 1809, on opposite sides of the Atlantic and into very different circumstances; in the era in which they were born, people mostly believed that life on Earth as they knew it had been that way since the beginning of time, and that societies without existing order were inherently unstable. By the time Lincoln and Darwin had died, history had changed, and what they had done, written or said had contributed significantly to that change. In the early nineteenth century, democracy was a fringe idea in the minds of a small number of idealists, and the future of democracy in America was far from assured. At the same time, the sciences were changing our view of the earth and how life evolved. The author writes that Lincoln and Darwin not only represent the “two pillars of our society” — liberal democracy and the human sciences — but that they have come to represent that because they wrote so clearly, and that their writings are remarkably fresh even today.

Murata, Mitsuhei TIME TO BUILD A NEW CIVILIZATION (UPI Asia, October 24, 2008)

The author, professor of comparative civilizations at Tokai Gakuen University in Tokyo, and former Japanese ambassador to Switzerland, writes that the deterioration of the environment, and the current economic crisis, are symptoms of a crisis in human civilization, of a world that “has lost its ideals.” He argues that the mantra of economic growth “has eroded the ethics of the present generation, which out of self-interest is building prosperity at the expense of future generations ... this lack of ethical values is rampant on a global scale.” In his view, it is imperative that humanity create a new civilization, based on ethics and solidarity, respectful of the environment and the interests of future generations, and that a new civilization must depart from the present material-centered one to a spiritual-centered one. He believes that we “confronted by three important tasks: establishing global ethics, forming true leaders, and counterbalancing the supremacy of the economy with culture.” A common ground between world cultures is the shared belief in the existence of a greater being, or providence, says Murata; leaders must also be accountable for the future of humankind and for the biosphere, and should be “equipped not only with intellect but also with sensibility.” Despite our unprecedented challenges, he writes that he believes “in the existence of a force that will bring the reality closer to the ideal ... it is this force, transcending human power, that allows us to have hope for the future of humankind and the

world.” Currently available online at  
[http://www.upiasia.com/Society\\_Culture/2008/10/22/time\\_to\\_build\\_a\\_new\\_civilization/9948/](http://www.upiasia.com/Society_Culture/2008/10/22/time_to_build_a_new_civilization/9948/)

Neelakantan, Shailaja A YOUNG UNIVERSITY IN INDIA FOCUSES ON REAL-WORLD INDUSTRY AND SUSTAINABILITY (Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 55, No. 18, January 9, 2009, p. A20)

Rajendra Pachauri, who as chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore, has established a new institution of higher education in India, TERI University. TERI is closely linked to a research institute found by Pachauri in 1974 – the Energy and Resources Institute – and has created academic and research partnerships with Yale, North Carolina State, Michigan State and Brandeis Universities, as well as institutions in Germany and Australia. Although TERI has just 300 students, it has already become known for training specialists who can help companies improve their impact on the environment and adopt sustainable practices. TERI, which offers seven master’s and four doctoral programs and maintains a faculty-student ratio of four to one, puts its students to work on real projects after just one year of course work. Every student during the second year spends a full semester doing a major project in private industry. TERI’s new green campus in New Delhi includes such innovations as a main building cooled by a ventilation tunnel rather than air conditioning. Yale has made a long-term commitment to TERI, backed by multi-million dollar investments to academic partnerships. Currently available online at  
<http://chronicle.com/temp/email2.php?id=MWYtFrsHPRhSHV2nJv6Q9r2VmHMnMDkn>

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