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SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTS

Department of State's Report to Congress and U.S. Oversight of Civilian Assistance to Pakistan Can Be Further Enhanced. U.S. Government Accountability Office. February 17, 2011.

Pakistan is a key U.S. ally in the effort to combat terrorism and violent extremism. Taliban, al Qaeda, and other terrorists have used parts of Pakistan to plan and launch attacks on Afghan, U.S., and NATO security forces in Afghanistan, as well as on Pakistani citizens and security forces in Pakistan. Enhancing the effectiveness of civilian assistance to Pakistan is one of the U.S. government's top foreign policy and national security priorities. Foreign assistance is vital to help the government of Pakistan overcome the political, economic, and security challenges that threaten Pakistan's long-term stability.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11310r.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

Health, United States, 2010. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. February 16, 2011.

Health, United States presents national trends in health statistics on such as birth and death rates, infant mortality, life expectancy, morbidity and health status, risk factors, use of ambulatory and inpatient care, health personnel and facilities, financing of health care, health insurance and managed care, and other health topics.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm> [HTML format with individual links].

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus10.pdf> Full Report [PDF format, 563 pages].

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus10_InBrief.pdf In Brief [PDF format, 20 pages].

Social Media Ponder the Patriot Act. Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism. February 17, 2011.

In a very rare confluence of events, the same subject led the conversation on both blogs and Twitter last week. While the mainstream press focused on the resignation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, social media galvanized around a vote in the House of Representatives on whether to extend the Patriot Act. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
http://www.journalism.org/index_report/social_media_ponder_patriot_act [HTML format, various paging].

Shaking the Heavens and Splitting the Earth: Chinese Air Force Employment Concepts in the 21st Century. RAND Corporation. Roger Cliff et al. February 17, 2011.

Less than a decade ago, China's air force was an antiquated service equipped almost exclusively with weapons based on 1950s-era Soviet designs and operated by personnel with questionable training according to outdated employment concepts. Today, the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) appears to be on its way to becoming a modern, highly capable air force for the 21st century. The study describes the concepts for employing forces that the PLAAF is likely to implement in the future, analyzes how those concepts might be realized in a conflict over Taiwan, assesses the implications of China implementing these concepts, and provides recommendations about actions that should be taken in response. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2011/RAND_MG915.pdf [PDF format, 308 pages].

Global Rebalancing: The Dangerous Obsession. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Uri Dadush. February 17, 2011.

The current emphasis on global rebalancing, which aims to reduce trade deficits and surpluses, is misguided. Trade deficits and surpluses narrowed significantly during the Great Recession, can be financed and eased over time, and are largely the result of domestic forces, making further global rebalancing unlikely. While the obsession with global rebalancing stokes currency and protectionist tensions, it diverts attention from what is really needed, reforms at home. Rather than focusing on global rebalancing, countries should concentrate more on fixing their domestic problems and expanding their domestic demand at the maximum sustainable rate, says the author. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
http://carnegieendowment.org/files/global_rebalancing.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

Advancing Aeronautics: A Decision Framework for Selecting Research Agendas. RAND Corporation. Philip S. Anton et al. February 17, 2011.

What aeronautics research should be supported by the U.S. government? What compelling and desirable benefits drive that research? How should the government make these decisions? The authors develop a unified decisionmaking approach for addressing these questions. This framework quantifies the social and economic reasons for the research, balances competing perspectives, and enables transparent explanation of the resulting decisions. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2011/RAND_MG997.pdf [PDF format, 161 pages].

Eighteen Days That Shook the Middle East - Part II. YaleGlobal. Rami G. Khouri. February 16, 2011.

Governments that avoid rigid ideological rules for their citizens and allow new ideas to flourish can wield great influence. The series suggests that Egypt, the largest of Arab nations,

transformed by the uprising, will in turn transform governments and politics throughout the Middle East. By embarking on a wave of democratization, Egypt could reclaim its historic role as the political and cultural epicenter of the Arab world, writes author Rami G. Khouri. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/eighteen-days-shook-middle-east-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].

Democracy Also Means Opportunity: An Economic Growth Agenda to Foster Democracy in Egypt. Center for American Progress. Neera Tanden. February 17, 2011.

The economic difficulties facing young, well-educated Tunisians and Egyptians fueled, at least in part, their desire for change and their willingness to risk personal harm to protest their governments. Rising costs coupled with fewer opportunities perhaps sparked the revolutionary change Egypt experienced these past several weeks, but just as economic pressure can destabilize regimes, broad-based, sustainable economic growth can foster stability. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/02/egypt_opportunity.html [HTML format, various paging].

The Case for State Food Action Plans. Center for American Progress. Joel Berg and Joy Moses. February 16, 2011.

School lunch bureaucracy reduction and hunger and obesity reduction efforts would be greatly advanced through better utilizing direct certification procedures, expanding the use of universal meal programs, improving the quality of meals, and easing access for homeless students, according to the report. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/02/pdf/hunger_report.pdf/ [PDF format, 58 pages].

Estimating the Size of the H-1B Population in the U.S. Center for Immigration Studies. David North. February 2011.

Debate over the H-1B foreign worker program often focuses on the number of visas issued each year for one sub-category, 65,000. But that number, while accurate, is misleading; to understand the full impact of this, or any other, long-term non-immigrant program, there is a need to know not just the annual admissions -- the "flow" -- but also the "stock," the number of people in the U.S. in that status at any given time. There is no official estimate of the size of the total H-1B population; our estimate is 650,000 as of September 30, 2009, 10 times larger than the flow number usually referred to, says the report. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cis.org/articles/2011/estimating-h1b-population-2-11.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

Implications of Egypt's Turmoil on Global Oil and Natural Gas Supply. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Michael Ratner. February 11, 2011.

The change in Egypt's government will likely not have a significant direct impact on the global oil and natural gas markets. There may be some short-term movements in price, mostly caused by perceived instability in the market place, but these would most likely be temporary. However, prolonged instability that raises the specter of spreading to other oil and natural gas producers in the region would likely add to upward price pressures. Although Egypt is considered an energy producer or net exporter overall, its oil and natural gas exports are not large enough to affect regional or global prices.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R41632.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

Egypt: The January 25 Revolution and Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jeremy M. Sharp. February 11, 2011.

On Friday, February 11, President Hosni Mubarak resigned from the presidency after 29 years in power. For 18 days, a popular peaceful uprising spread across Egypt and ultimately forced Mubarak to cede power to the military. How Egypt transitions to a more democratic system in the months ahead will have major implications for U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and for other countries in the region ruled by monarchs and dictators.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33003.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].

Indonesia's Lessons for Egypt. Council on Foreign Relations. Karen Brooks. February 17, 2011.

From the early days of the Egypt protests, the White House quietly reached out to a number of Indonesia experts, to better understand the story of Indonesia's democratic transformation. President Barack Obama's own experience, having lived in Indonesia during some of his formative childhood years. But there are good reasons beyond nostalgia why Indonesia's success might provide inspiration, and lessons, for Egypt. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cfr.org/indonesia/indonesias-lessons-egypt/p24156> [HTML format, various paging].

Women at the Center of Climate-friendly Approaches to Agriculture and Water Use. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. Shiney Varghese. February 2011.

Shiney Varghese examines women-centered approaches to dealing with the climate and water crises in India through a case study of the Tamilnadu Women's Collective. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.iatp.org/iatp/publications.cfm?refID=107914> [PDF format, 20 pages].

UNEP Year Book: Emerging Issues in Our Global Environment 2011. United Nations Environment Programme. February 17, 2011.

Phosphorus pollution, along with other uncontrolled discharges, such as nitrogen and sewage, are linked with a rise in algal blooms which in turn harm water quality, poison fish stocks and undermine coastal tourism. At the same time there is also growing concern over the impact of billions of pieces of plastic, both large and small, on the health of the global marine environment. The research suggests that the plastic broken down in the oceans into small fragments, alongside pellets discharged by industry, may absorb a range of toxic chemicals linked to cancer and impacts the reproductive processes of humans and wildlife. also calls for phasing in changes in the collection, recycling and re-use of plastics. "If plastic is treated as a valuable resource, rather than just a waste product, any opportunities to create a secondary value for the material will provide economic incentives for collection and reprocessing," the Year Book points out. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.unep.org/yearbook/2011/> [HTML format with links].

http://www.unep.org/yearbook/2011/pdfs/UNEP_YEARBOOK_Fullreport.pdf [PDF format, 92 pages].

Somalia: The Transitional Government on Life Support. International Crisis Group. February 21, 2011.

If Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) - incompetent, corrupt and hobbled by weak leadership - does not reform within six months, the international community should withdraw support and concentrate on more effective local administrations, recommends the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/africa/horn-of-africa/somalia/170%20Somalia%20The%20Transitional%20Government%20on%20Life%20Support.ashx> [PDF format, 39 pages].

Saving Oil and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through U.S. Federal Transportation Policy. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Cynthia J. Burbank and Nick Nigro. February 2011.

The U.S. consumes over 10 million barrels of oil per day moving people and goods on roads and rail throughout the country. Surface transportation generates over 23 percent of U.S. anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Transportation is the primary cause of U.S. oil dependence with its attendant risks to U.S. energy security. Contributions from this sector will be necessary in any effort to maintain a sustainable and secure economy in the future. There are many opportunities to save oil and reduce GHG emissions under existing federal law and possibly in the next surface transportation reauthorization legislation in the U.S. Congress, while increasing the mobility of people and goods in the U.S. economy. The paper identifies opportunities possible in transportation reauthorization legislation and using existing legislative authority that will save oil and reduce GHG emissions. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*]. <http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Saving-Oil-and-Reducing-GHG-Emissions.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

Primer on Federal Surface Transportation Authorization and the Highway Trust Fund. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Cynthia J. Burbank and Nick Nigro. February 2011.

Today, travel on roads and rail in the United States requires 10 million barrels of oil per day and is the source of over 23 percent of the nation's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Faced with a real threat to national security from both climate change and oil dependence, the 112th Congress has an opportunity to achieve significant oil savings and GHG reductions from the U.S. transportation sector. The paper provides a primer on both federal surface transportation authorization and the main recipient of funding from the legislation, the federal highway trust fund (HTF). [*Note: contains copyrighted material*]. <http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Reauthorization-and-HTF-Primer.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

The Value of the Visegrad Four. Atlantic Council. Adrian Basora. February 14, 2011.

In the issue brief, former U.S. Ambassador to Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic Adrian Basora examines the recently reinvigorated Visegrad Group, a regional grouping of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, as a possible channel for U.S.-Central European relations. Basora identifies four issues that could affect whether a "special relationship" can be cultivated between the V4 and the United States. He discusses the advantage to the Central European countries of talking to Washington as a group rather than on an individual, bilateral basis. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*]. http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/403/021411_ACUS_Basora_VisegradFour.pdf [PDF format, 6 pages].

At a Crossroads: Human Rights in Iraq Eight Years after the U.S.-Led Invasion. Human Rights Watch. February 21, 2011.

The report calls on the government to protect the rights of vulnerable groups and to amend its penal code and all other laws that discriminate against women and violate freedom of speech. The report also urges Baghdad to open independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of abuse against detainees, minorities, and journalists. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*]. <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2011/02/21/crossroads> [HTML format with links].

The Next Supreme Leader: Succession in the Islamic Republic of Iran. RAND Corporation. Alireza Nader et al. February 21, 2011.

As the commander in chief and highest political authority in Iran, the current Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has played a critical role in the direction of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The study identifies three key factors that will shape succession of the next Supreme Leader and outlines five alternative scenarios for the post-Khamenei era. It situates all of this within the context of the June 2009 election. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].
http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2011/RAND_MG1052.pdf [PDF format, 125 pages].

The Looming Food Crisis: Extreme Weather, Economic Forces of Rising Demand and Speculation Threaten Global Food Security. YaleGlobal. David Dapice. February 18, 2011.

In wealthy nations as well as in poor ones, consumers express alarm about fast-rising food prices, and their governments are well aware that shortages can quickly translate into unrest and political crisis. Complaints today may be mild compared with those looming ahead unless governments take steps to curb policies that encourage speculation, warns David Dapice. Price hikes are less noticeable for wealthiest consumers whose products carry high marketing and packaging costs, but for the poor it's a question of survival. Research and technology advances in the agriculture industry may sustain a growing population for only so long. Failure to address the needs of the poor could risk security for all. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].
<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/looming-food-crisis> [HTML format, various paging].

Pakistan and the Bomb. YaleGlobal. Bruce Riedel. February 21, 2011.

The international community's questions about Pakistani control over its growing nuclear arsenal rankles the nation. Military leaders maintain control over weapons, while democratically elected civilian leaders have nominal authority, explains Riedel. The assassination of the governor of Punjab, Pakistan's largest province, by an elite bodyguard adds to the questions about vetting of personnel in sensitive positions and unauthorized technology transfers. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].
<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/pakistan-and-bomb> [HTML format, various paging].

The Deep Roots of Bahrain's Unrest. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Michele Dunne. February 18, 2011.

The current protests in Bahrain result from longstanding political tensions that have been rising dangerously in the country for at least the last six months and were building for several years before that, says the author. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].
<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=42677&prog=zgp&proj=zme> [HTML format, various paging].

Belarus: Time for Creative Thinking. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Olga Shumylo-Tapiola. February 21, 2011.

While the EU and the United States enacted strong repercussions for the violent crackdowns following Belarus' December presidential elections, long-term stability will require moving beyond the current political stalemate, says the author. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].
<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=42682&prog=zgp> [HTML format, various paging].

Asia's Rise, Western Anxiety: Leadership in a Tripolar World. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Brad Glosserman. February 17, 2011.

This is an age of anxiety for the West, according to the report. Economic insecurity and an accelerating pace of change have contributed to mounting uncertainty and a sense of increasing instability. But these are manifestations of another, more deeply rooted unease among Westerners: a feeling, a fear, that they are losing control. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*]. <http://csis.org/files/publication/pac1112.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

A Continuation of Politics by Other Means: The "Politics of a Peacekeeping Mission in Cambodia (1992-1993). Strategic Studies Institute. Boraden Nehm. February 18, 2011.

The author departs from conventional wisdom that addresses factors such as mandates, spoilers, and the like, and ignores political factors. He explores Cambodian conflict and peace operations as a complex and interactive situation in which local political conditions were paramount and directly challenged UN peacekeeping principles of neutrality. He observes that UN peacekeeping missions can be too tied to theory and doctrine while ignoring reality. The author argues for missions that understand the inherent complexity of peacekeeping, recognize emerging realities, and adapt accordingly.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1045> [HTML format with links].

ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

NEW STUDY SHOWS OVER ONE-FIFTH OF THE WORLD'S PLANTS ARE UNDER THREAT OF EXTINCTION (Physorg.com, September 29, 2010)

A new study shows that the world's plants are as threatened as animal species, with one in five plant species threatened by extinction. The study, conducted by the Kew Gardens, the London Natural History Museum and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, reveals for the first time the true extent of the threat to the world's estimated 380,000 plant species. The main cause is human-induced habitat loss, mostly conversion to agricultural or livestock use; the most threatened habitat are tropical rain forests, though flora in temperate regions, such as conifers, are equally threatened. The study notes that "plants are the foundation of biodiversity and their significance in uncertain climatic, economic and political times has been overlooked for far too long." Currently available online at <http://www.physorg.com/news204955099.html>

Brubaker, Bill IN HAITI, THE ART OF RESILIENCE (Smithsonian, vol. 41, no. 5, September 2010, pp. 36-48)

Haitians have had to contend with more than their share of hardships, both natural and manmade, notes the author. One victim of these calamities has been Haitian culture: even before the January 2010 earthquake that devastated this Caribbean island nation, there was no publicly owned art museum or even a single movie theater. Thousands of paintings and sculptures, valued in the tens of millions of dollars, were destroyed or badly damaged in museums, galleries, collectors' homes, government ministries and the National Palace. This past May, the Smithsonian Institution launched an effort to help restore these damaged Haitian treasures; working with private and other public organizations, the Smithsonian established a "cultural recovery center" at the former headquarters of the U.N. Development Program near Port-au-Prince. Across the United States, institutions such as the American Visionary Art Museum (Baltimore), galleries such as Indigo Arts (Philadelphia) and Haitian-Americans such as Miami-based artist Edouard Duval Carrie were organizing sales and fundraisers. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/In-Haiti-the-Art-of-Resilience.html>

Campo-Flores, Arian HIDING BEHIND THE WEB (Newsweek, posted online October 1, 2010)

The bloody drug wars in Mexico are getting little coverage in mainstream media there, largely because the press doesn't report what the drug cartels don't want people to know. In many parts of Mexico, especially the north, the media effectively have ceased to function; more than 30 journalists have been murdered or have gone missing since 2006, according to a report released last month by the Committee to Protect Journalists. Media offices have been targeted by gunfire, grenades, and bombs; the attackers aren't only cartel hitmen but also law-enforcement officers on their payroll. But citizens can get an idea of what is going on by logging on to Blog del Narco, the go-to web site for cartel-related news in Mexico. Drawing about 3 million hits per week, Blog del Narco followers include not just ordinary citizens, but also members of the military, police, and trafficking organizations locked in a four-year war that has cost some 28,000 lives. Described by one observer as a "technological yard sale," the blog site includes useful inside information about potential perils as well as bravado and graphic gore provided by traffickers who seem to enjoy broadcasting their brutality. A computer-science student at a university in northern Mexico administers the site and posts whatever e-mail, photos or videos he receives. Strict anonymity has protected him so far, along with his agnostic attitude toward the cartels. Currently available online at <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/10/01/the-go-to-blogger-on-mexico-s-drug-wars.html>

Farhi, Paul TRAFFIC PROBLEMS (American Journalism Review, vol. 32, no. 3, Fall 2010, pp. 46-51)

One of the Internet's profound effects on U.S. newsrooms is the ability to measure traffic for a given story, blog or video. This has led some newspapers, such as the Washington Post, to play "the traffic game" with breaking news. In the race to put a breaking story on a news web site as fast as possible, the chances for inaccuracy rise, Farhi, a Post reporter, says. But visitor loyalty and "engagement" as well as the type of visitor, Farhi argues, may be more valuable to news agencies and their advertisers than mere numbers of visitors. Currently available online at available online at: <http://www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4900>

Gellman, Barton THE SECRET WORLD OF EXTREME MILITIAS (Time, September 30, 2010)

Radical militias – armed groups of civilians ready to go to war against the U.S. government or anyone else they see as a threat to their ideas about freedom and patriotism – are making a comeback in the U.S. Within a complex web of ideologies, the most common conviction is that the Second Amendment — the right to keep and bear arms — is the Constitution's cornerstone. The militias subscribe to the long-held belief that only a well-armed populace can enforce its rights; any form of gun regulation, therefore, is a sure sign of intent to crush other freedoms. A few groups embrace white-supremacy ideology; others are fueled by violent or fundamentalist versions of Christianity. None of these movements are entirely new, but most were in sharp decline by the late 1990s. Their resurgence now is widely seen among government and academic experts as a reaction to the tectonic shifts in American politics that allowed Barack Obama to reach the White House. Obama's ascendancy unhinged the radical right, offering a unified target to a range of extremist groups. Although they are capable of violence and bloodshed and are being watched closely by authorities, most so far have never acted upon their threats. Currently available online at <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2022516,00.html>

Grant, James THE RISE OF JURISTOCRACY (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 34, no. 2, Spring 2010, pp. 16-22)

The American political institution most widely replicated around the world is its "most undemocratic one," the judiciary, according to the author, who traces the evolution of modern judicial activism into a "juristocracy" -- where constitutional reforms take power away from elected officials, and transfer it to unelected judges, "an expression of the old belief that democracy must be tempered by aristocracy." He compares the U.S. system to parliamentary systems such as

Britain's, where protection of human rights still rests largely on a democratically elected parliament, rather than judicial review. While the author writes the judiciary has an important guardian role, to hold the executive branch to account, he sides with Thomas Jefferson and other believers in judicial restraint. Currently available online, under the title THE SCOURGE OF JURISTOCRACY, at <http://www.wilsonquarterly.com/article.cfm?AID=1566&AT=0>

Havens, Andy; Storey, Tom THE FUTURE OF PUBLISHING (NextSpace, no. 16, August 2010, pp. 4-9)

From newspapers to popular magazines to scholarly journals to e-books to print-on-demand "vending" machines, publishing is more complicated than what it once was. What do the changing roles of consumers and published products mean for libraries? According to a 2010 R.R. Bowker study, 764,448 self-published and micro-niche titles came out in 2009, more than twice the number of traditional books published. The Internet has created new patterns of using information, both in terms of creating content as well as consuming it. Publishers are now blending their print business with new digital brands, adding a new level of engagement. Thousands of individuals, companies, schools, and businesses have taken the tools of literary and scholarly production into their own hands. Currently available online at http://www.oclc.org/uk/en/nextspace/016/download/nextspace_016.pdf

Lehrer, Jonah UNDER PRESSURE: THE SEARCH FOR A STRESS VACCINE (Wired, Vol. 18, no. 8, August 2010, pp. 130//146)

In the observation of baboons, in an evaluation of refugee children, and in a study of British civil servants, the findings are consistent: stress is not merely a state of mind, it kills. This article describes the work of an anthropologist who has been studying baboons since the 1970s, and first began observing the adverse health effects of the stressful lives led by the low-ranking members in the baboon troop hierarchy. Now, the evidence is clear – stress affects the body down to the cellular level, and can be linked to ailments from the common cold to heart attack to Alzheimer's. "For so many conditions, stress is the major long-term risk factor," anthropologist Robert Sapolsky tells the author; "everything else is a short term fix." Sapolsky is working to develop a vaccine-like treatment for chronic stress, which Lehrer describes as "a genetic therapy that can prevent the struggles of life from wrecking brain and body." With bioengineering techniques, Sapolsky and his team have modified a virus that can trigger the release of soothing brain chemicals in tests on rats. These chemicals can limit the cellular damage caused by stressful events; however, like those low-ranking baboons, many people are born into difficult circumstances. The effects of stress might be treatable, but the body will still induce the damaging stress response to life's hardships. Available online at http://www.wired.com/magazine/2010/07/ff_stress_cure/

Palser, Barb THE HAZARDS OF HYPERLOCAL (American Journalism Review, vol. 32, no. 3, Fall 2010, p. 68)

News organizations around the U.S. are betting that hyperlocal news sites will solve the needs of consumers and advertisers, but the move is proving to be expensive. The unanswered question is: how much consumer demand exists for neighborhood news? According to a survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, only 20 percent of American adults reported using digital tools to communicate with their neighbors or stay informed about community issues at least once in the past year. Only one in 10 reported reading a community blog at least once in the past year. Advertisers, too, must decide where to spend their marketing dollars – locally, or in a broader geographic arena. New technology applications such as Foursquare, which enables local businesses to send special offers to consumers at exactly the right moment, seem to indicate that hyperlocal news sites may end up being labors of love rather than income generators. Currently available online at <http://www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4902>

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: FACING THE CONSEQUENCES (Economist, vol. 397, no. 8710, November 27-December 12, 2010, pp. 85-88)

Even with global successes in limiting carbon emissions, the world will still be a significantly warmer place at the end of this century than it was at the start of the industrial revolution. Along with efforts to reduce emissions, the world must also look for ways to live with global warming. Analysts who have long been arguing that more work needs to be done on adapting to climate change “are starting to see their day in the uncomfortably hot sun,” note the authors. They say that even if such measures cannot protect everyone from harm caused by climate change, “it does not mean that they should be ignored -- on the contrary, they are sorely needed.” The cost of adaptation will have to be borne by wealthy, industrialized countries, not only because they are better positioned to afford it but also because they have contributed more to the problem. This was recognized in the Copenhagen Accord, which proposed that \$100 billion per year should flow from the rich to the poor for mitigation as well as adaptation. Currently available online at <http://www.economist.com/node/17572735>

Amos, Deborah RISE OF EDUCATION LIFTS ARAB YOUTHS' EXPECTATIONS (National Public Radio, February 18, 2011)

Amos notes that widespread youth unemployment is a major cause of unrest in the Arab world. The region has among the highest rates of unemployment among youth in the world; at the same time, there are more educated young people in the Arab world than ever before, creating a tide of rising expectations. In Saudi Arabia, most of the available jobs go to foreign workers who get paid less than Saudis expect. One expert says that the lack of jobs is the “biggest national security challenge” facing the Middle East. Available online at <http://www.npr.org/2011/02/18/133779699/rise-of-education-lifts-arab-youths-expectations>

Fields, Helen BEFORE THERE WAS LIFE (Smithsonian, Vol. 41, No. 6, October 2010, pp. 49-54)

Bob Hazen, a scientist with the Carnegie Institution of Science, is attempting to learn how molecules swirling through the gaseous clouds of an infant universe first collided to form substances that could lead to life. Contrary to the standard metaphor of a “primordial soup” in which molecules bubbled and blended to form proteins and microscopic life, Hazen envisions an early universe where molecules were rare and unlikely to find each other to form “building blocks.” Hazen is exploring a theory that rocks served as a handmaiden to evolution by providing adherent surfaces that attracted free-floating molecules, which then in turn bonded to form the first proteins and amino acids that became the baseline for life. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/The-Origins-of-Life.html> under a different title.

Gjelten, Tom THE IMPACT OF RISING FOOD PRICES ON ARAB UNREST (National Public Radio, February 18, 2011)

One of the major challenges facing many governments in the Arab world is addressing spiraling global food prices. The author notes that people in developing countries spend a much larger portion of their income on food, which is exacerbated by high rates of unemployment in many Middle East countries. There is not enough food to go around to meet world demand; unfavorable weather during the past year has adversely affected crop yields in many countries, and arable land devoted to biofuel production has further cut into food production. The demand for food in many countries has been growing; a significant percentage of the world’s supply of many staples are being shipped to China. Available online at <http://www.npr.org/2011/02/18/133852810/the-impact-of-rising-food-prices-on-arab-unrest>
Hammer, Joshua SEARCHING FOR BUDDHA (Smithsonian, Vol. 41, no. 8, December 2010, pp. 46-53)

In early 2001, two giant statues of Buddha, which had dominated the remote Bamiyan Valley in Afghanistan for 1,500 years, were destroyed by the Taliban, who had decreed them to be un-Islamic. Now that the Taliban's hold over the valley has been broken, archaeologists and cultural historians are carefully examining the site. Based on the sixth-century writings of a Chinese monk who visited the valley, one archaeologist believes that there is a third, reclining Buddha statue, almost 40 meters long. The team has learned more about the culture that built the statues. Several proposals have been considered on the future of the site. Some suggest leaving the giant niches empty in the cliff wall, as testament to a time when "folly triumphed over reason in Afghanistan." Others advocate reconstruction of the statues, but Hammer reports that some fear the Taliban, dispersed and defeated though it is, would find a way to destroy replacement statues. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/Searching-for-Buddha-in-Afghanistan.html>

Johnson, Ian THE RISE OF THE TAO (New York Times Magazine, November 7, 2010, pp. 52-57)

Johnson, a correspondent based in Beijing, notes that China is now in the midst of a religious revival. For much of the 20th century, reformers and revolutionaries looked down on religion as holding the country back, and a key reason for China's "century of humiliation." However, Johnson wonders if China can handle the return of Taoism, its most venerable faith. Taoism, which emphasizes respect for spirits of ancestors, roughly translates as "path" or "way" of life; its propriety and ethics highlight the Three Jewels of the Tao: compassion, moderation and humility. The revival of ancient religious practices in China is now partly about belief and partly about money, as construction of holy sites is seen by Chinese officials as a boon for the tourism industry. However, the downside is that with its fast growth, both clergy members and the public are poorly acquainted with the tenets of Taoism, many treating it like a business. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/07/magazine/07religion-t.html>

Longman, Phillip THINK AGAIN: GLOBAL AGING (Foreign Policy, November 2010, pp. 52-58)

The author, a fellow at the New America Foundation, warns against the monumental graying of the planet, which is already proceeding at dramatic pace and rewriting world politics and economics in numerous ways. Longman notes that it's not just America's aging "baby boomers" who are turning everything associated with retirement into a booming business; the aging of Asia and the revolutionary drop in birth rates in the Middle East portend even more significant global changes. This very real threat of global population decline, the myth of "geriatric peace," and the worldwide failure of governments to address the aging problem has become a gray tsunami that is sweeping the planet. Currently available online at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/10/11/think_again_global_aging

McKibben, Bill ALL PROGRAMS CONSIDERED (New York Review of Books, November 11, 2010)

Radio commands large audiences in the United States. The author examines the shows and production values that draw loyal listeners to public radio, highlighting the richly nuanced "This American Life," the creation of Ira Glass. The larger news shows of National Public Radio (NPR) have become more homogenized and less provocative over the 40 years of NPR's existence, leaving room for more innovative shows. Despite cheaper production technology, the biggest problem in an era of free podcasting is money to fund the innovators. Currently available online at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2010/nov/11/all-programs-considered/>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Freeland, Chrystia THE RISE OF THE NEW GLOBAL ELITE (Atlantic Monthly, vol. 307, no. 1, January/February 2011, pp. 44-55)

The author writes that the present-day global elite consists mostly of first-and second-generation wealth; its members are hardworking, highly educated, jet-setting meritocrats who feel they are the deserving winners of a tough, worldwide economic competition. Many of them have little sympathy for the world's less successful populace, and are a transglobal community of peers who have more in common with one another than with their countrymen back home. The global market and its associated technologies have enabled the creation of a class of international business megastars. But for U.S. workers, the same forces that have enriched the plutocratic elite have ravaged their savings, employers and professions. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/01/the-rise-of-the-new-global-elite/8343/>

Gilley, Bruce THE END OF THE AFRICAN RENAISSANCE (Washington Quarterly, vol. 33, no. 4, October 2010, pp. 87-101)

Bruce Gilley, author of THE RIGHT TO RULE: HOW STATES WIN AND LOSE LEGITIMACY, contends that the "African renaissance is at an end, and that the looming reversal requires deep-rooted changes." The African renaissance proclaimed by African leaders and intellectuals twenty years ago was "an attempt to have a fruitful encounter with modernity after decades of self-destructive ones." For about ten years, the trends were positive, but since the early 2000s, the situation has deteriorated with tyranny, stagnation, and conflict on the rise again in the 48 countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Africa's share of global GDP is the same as in 1980 and 1990 – about 2.4 percent. Democracy has declined in the region every year since 2005. Attempts to strengthen regionalism in order to support peace and increase the continent's role in global politics have faltered; plans for a regional free trade area and common currency are dead. As the situation has deteriorated, "vultures have moved in," with China buying off governments in pursuit of natural resources and allies, and Latin American drug barons exploiting the same weaknesses to develop new trafficking routes to Europe. Gilley argues that the first thing to be done is to "speak plainly" and address the problems with "smart aid" policies such as the MCA rather than supporting "big-man rulers." Other steps include establishing a zero-tolerance policy regarding stolen elections and supporting policies that "give women politicians a better chance." Perhaps most important is accelerating the move away from patterns of social and political organization which "revolve around paternalistic ties to village chiefs." Currently available online at http://www.twq.com/10october/docs/10oct_Gilley.pdf

Kristof, Nicholas D.I.Y. FOREIGN-AID REVOLUTION (New York Times Magazine, October 24, 2010, pp. 48-53)

The author notes that while women around the world enjoy opportunities that simply didn't exist a few decades ago, the women "exerting the greatest pressure for change often aren't the presidents and tycoons but those toiling further down the pyramid, driven by a passion to create a better world." One such individual, Elizabeth Scharpf, was interning in the summer of 2005 for the World Bank in Mozambique, helping local entrepreneurs, when she discovered that many women were reluctant to come to work during their menstrual periods. She joined a revolution, about what might be called Do-It-Yourself Foreign Aid, because it starts with the proposition that it's not only high-ranking officials who chip away at global challenges -- passionate individuals with great ideas who can do the same, especially in the age of the Internet and social media. Jennifer Staple founded Unite for Sight, which provides eye care to more than one million people around the world. Kyle Zimmer, a corporate lawyer who tutored inner-city school children on the side, created First Book, which over nearly 20 years has delivered more than 70 million books to book-deprived children in the United States and Canada. One of the world's largest grass-roots organizations is India's Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), founded in 1972 by a lawyer named Ela Bhatt, who helped people living on the margins, such as textile workers and later peasants and small vendors, by organizing them so that they could improve their health,

start businesses and even bank among themselves. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/24/magazine/24volunteerism-t.html>

Morgan, Tim et al. DANGEROUS EXPONENTIALS: A RADICAL TAKE ON THE FUTURE (Tullett Prebon Strategy Insights, No. 5, June 2010, 39 pp.)

“Have you ever had the uncomfortable feeling that we are losing control of our financial system?” The authors, with the research department of a major United Kingdom-based bank, suggest that this sense of unease may be correct. They contend that the global economy is in the grip of a number of exponential factors – population, energy and resource consumption, the expansion of the money supply and seemingly out-of-control sovereign debt – that are simultaneously approaching the near-vertical phase of growth. They argue that a global economic system that must grow is about to hit an “energy ceiling”, a resource base that ultimately cannot grow. Money, they note, is merely an artificial derivative of an energy-based economy, that has grown without precedent in human history, due to the colossal energy surplus in fossil fuels. We have reached a point, they write, where a cessation of the “energy exponential” may throw our complex civilization in reverse. Our single biggest blind spot is the lack of understanding of the concept of net energy returns, which are declining rapidly as the high-quality energy sources are used up. Available online at http://www.tullettprebon.com/Documents/strategyinsights/tp0510_TPSI_report_005_LR.pdf

FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITIES (Economist, vol. 397, no. 8708, November 13-19, 2010, pp. 69-70)

The authors note that people trust charities far more than they do other institutions, such as business and government; however, they question whether if that level of trust is deserved. While polls show faith in non-government organizations, “what is less clear is how far the do-gooders’ status is deserved and how far their efficiency can be measured.” Most NGOs operate with little transparency and there is little analysis of their charitable activities, the magazine says. Government regulators rarely devote resources to monitoring NGOs, stepping in only when scandal arises. This may be changing, the story notes, as the Internet is giving both donors and watchdogs new tools to scrutinize charities’ performance. Proper scrutiny “will necessarily mean shattering some illusions,” the authors conclude. Currently available online at http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=17461445

FOLLOWING THE MONEY TRAIL (Unipath, vol. 2, no. 1, 2010, pp. 48-51)

Extremists have learned to use the financial system to their advantage, and are able to exploit businesses and charities to launder money because of a lack of oversight. Money laundering consists of four steps: placement of “dirty” money into a legitimate financial institution; layering of money by circulating it into different forms and amounts, and wiring money transfers; integration, the purchase of luxury goods; and the appearance of “clean” money, which can be accessed by extremist groups. The article describes the various legitimate and criminal sources of cash, and some of the ruses extremist groups use to launder cash. Although officials are better able to track down and thwart terrorist financing schemes, financial institutions must accept their obligation to collect and to share information. Unipath Magazine is a publication of the U.S. Central Command.

SPECIAL FEATURE: AFRICA AT 50 (Africa Renewal, vol. 24, nos. 2-3, August 2010, pp. 10-36)

Fifty years ago, seventeen African countries gained their independence; this “Golden Jubilee” has spurred debate across the African continent over what the continent has achieved over the past half century. In this special series, the U.N. publication Africa Renewal examines African hopes and disappointments, as well as ideas for unlocking the continent’s vast potential. Available online at <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol24no2-3/index.html>

Inskeep, Steve MUSLIM MIDDLE CLASS PLAYS ROLE IN EGYPT UPRISING (National Public Radio, February 18, 2011)

In this interview, Vali Nasr, Tufts University professor and author of *THE RISE OF ISLAMIC CAPITALISM*, says that the growing middle class in Egypt played a large role in the recent uprising. Nasr says this new technologically savvy middle class wants more economic opportunities and the political freedoms that go with it. He notes that Tunisia and Egypt are better positioned to face what happens when an existing regime falls, because both countries have a very large middle class. Says Nasr, "Egyptians look not to the United States or Europe necessarily as a model; they look to places like Brazil and South Korea. This class in Egypt would like to see an Egypt that is playing at that level in the global economy." He notes that Egypt has set the tone, in that the public is demanding change from a secular rather than a religious viewpoint. Available online at <http://www.npr.org/2011/02/18/133860407/The-Middle-East-Middle-Class>

Sarkar, Rumu SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUNDS AS A DEVELOPMENT TOOL FOR ASEAN NATIONS: FROM SOCIAL WEALTH TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (Georgetown Journal of International Law, vol. 41, no. 3, Spring 2010, pp. 621-645)

The author, a former adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center, writes that sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) have existed for half a century. Most SWFs have traditionally been formed by those nations generating windfall income from resource exports, such as oil, but those countries with SWFs in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are primarily involved with global trade and export of manufactured goods. The 1997-98 Asian financial crisis convinced ASEAN nations of the utility of an SWF as a stabilization fund. SWFs emerged as a major backstop for the financial downturn that started in 2007-2008, providing liquidity for overextended OECD countries. However, many SWFs are realizing that they can achieve much greater returns in developing countries than in slow-growth OECD economies, making SWFs a growing player in economic development. India, while not an ASEAN member, has considered starting an SWF; some argue that if India were to establish an SWF, it should aim at improving domestic infrastructure or public health, instead of investing in foreign corporations. The author argues that the objectives of an SWF should be established before it is created, so that there is a linkage between profits generated by an SWF and a country's development goals.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Bennoune, Karima NORTH AFRICAN PEOPLE POWER (The Nation, January 17, 2011)

Now that Tunisia's president has been forced from power by popular protests largely fueled by citizens using Twitter and Facebook, questions remain about the future of Tunisia and its immediate neighbors, especially Algeria. What made the largely peaceful, democratic demonstrations by the opposition in Tunisia unique is that it was not led by or inspired by fundamentalist movements that have tried to claim the oppositional space in many Arab and North African countries, as has been the case in recent years. It was instead, by all accounts, a largely secular appeal for real political reform and for social justice. The biggest external impact of events in Tunisia could come in neighboring Algeria, which has also recently experienced extensive youth protests over similar problems such as high unemployment, corruption and skyrocketing prices for food staples. But Algeria maintains emergency laws that justify the banning of public gatherings of all kinds. While these laws are based on the struggle with armed fundamentalism that consumed the country in the 1990s, they also work against peaceful government critics who have nothing to do with terrorist groups. Available online at <http://www.thenation.com/article/157817/north-african-people-power>

Brigham, Lawson THINK AGAIN: THE ARCTIC (Foreign Policy, no. 181, September/October 2010, pp. 70-74)

The author, a professor of geography and Arctic policy at the University of Alaska, refutes the notion that the Arctic is headed for an anarchic future as climate change thaws the frozen pole and countries vie for the vast new mineral and petroleum wealth beneath it. Although there are long-standing sovereign claims in the Arctic and huge economic stakes in the region, Brigham writes that the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea provides the diplomatic framework to resolve disputes. Brigham notes that the Arctic is governed by eight developed Western nations that cooperate more now than they ever have, and are conducting scientific research at unprecedented levels. No country is contesting any other country's sovereignty in the region, says Brigham; the states bordering the Arctic would lose much economically in an Arctic conflict, as would many non-Arctic nations who would benefit from Arctic resources. Unobstructed shipping through the Arctic passage is still a long way off; even though the Arctic ice cap is shrinking, the region is ice-free for only a short period. Currently available online at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/08/16/think_again_the_arctic

Dallek, Robert THE TYRANNY OF METAPHOR (Foreign Policy, no. 182, November 2010, pp. 78-85)

Presidential historian Dallek believes that three historical, and misguided myths, or illusions, have been leading American presidents into folly for nearly a century. Is President Obama wise enough to avoid the same fate when making tough decisions about war and peace? He might if he can study his predecessors' mistakes and learn from those few U.S. presidents who managed to avoid being tyrannized by metaphor, and he will need to understand how we got there. In Dallek's view, the three illusions are: universalism, the misguided faith in America's power to transform the world; that conciliatory talks or the failure to combat every act of international aggression amounts to appeasement; and the belief in containment, the surefire effectiveness of military strength. Currently available online at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/10/11/the_tyranny_of_metaphor

Kaplan, Fred THE TRANSFORMER (Foreign Policy, no. 181, September/October 2010, pp. 92-98)

Kaplan, national security columnist for Slate, chronicles Robert Gates' tenure as Secretary of Defense, notably his decision to stay on in the new administration at Barack Obama's request – the first defense secretary to keep the job after a change of party in the White House. With the defense budget review, Gates was given the leeway to implement many ideas that he'd only talked about under the Bush administration. Then came the Afghanistan review, the results of which would take a while to play out. In summer 2010, he pushed the budget agenda further, including reforms in weapons contracting and drastic cuts in the number of military commands around the world which entail similarly drastic cuts in the number of senior officers. Gates is a paradox in another sense: A self-described protector of institutions, he has changed the way the Pentagon does business and the military fights wars more than any defense secretary since Robert McNamara. Only somewhat less dramatically, Gates has heralded a shift in military planning from the major combat operations anticipated in the Cold War to the asymmetrical conflicts against insurgents and rogue states that plague the 21st-century world. Gates, too, understands that his legacy will be shaped much more by the outcome of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Currently available online at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/08/16/the_transformer

Miklian, Jason; Carney, Scott FIRE IN THE HOLE (Foreign Policy, no. 181, September/October 2010, pp. 104-112)

Miklian, a researcher at Peace Research Institute in Oslo, and Carney, an investigative journalist and contributing editor for Wired, made six trips over three years to the heart of India's 40-year

Maoist uprising. The article focuses on a February 2006 raid by Maoist guerrillas on the Bailadila mining complex in the remote Indian state of Chhattisgarh, in which 20 tons of blasting explosives were stolen, enough to fuel an insurgency for a decade. The explosives have now spread across the country, and have been used in innumerable attacks. The authors note that, for years, the Maoist insurgency “had lived in the shadow of India’s breakneck modernization; now they were thriving off it.” Although it has gotten little attention outside South Asia, for India this is no longer an isolated outbreak of rural unrest, but a full-fledged guerrilla war; some 10,000 people have died and 150,000 more have been driven permanently from their homes by the fighting. Two years ago, the Indian government launched a military surge to quell the insurgency, however it has done little to solve the underlying conditions fuelling the Maoist rebellion – the living conditions of millions of uprooted and desperately poor local residents of the Chhattisgarh and neighboring Jharkhand states who have little left to lose, except to throw their lot in with the rebels. The authors note that the ecological disaster zone and perpetual low-level conflict resulting from mining operations that are attracting foreign investment and fueling India’s economic boom is not just an Indian story, but a global one, occurring in regions such as the Niger Delta. Currently available online at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/08/16/fire_in_the_hole

Stirrup, David; Roberts, Gillian INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE ON CULTURE AND THE CANADA-US BORDER (American Review of Canadian Studies, vol. 40, no. 3, September 2010, pp. 321-325)

The authors, lecturers in North American studies at the Universities of Kent and Nottingham (U.K.) respectively, provide the introduction to this special issue. They note that today, borders are arguably more paradoxical than ever, markers of national territory in an age of globalized networks of information, travel, and trade, simultaneously containing and threatening national cultural identities. The essays included in this issue discuss a number of regional sites along the border, very important now, since after the Sept. 11 attacks, unfounded and since discredited stories circulated that the lengthy Canada–US border facilitated the entry of terrorists into the U.S. Nonetheless, US security concerns in the last nine years have brought about changes in the way that Canadians and Americans cross what has traditionally been the longest undefended border in the world. While the Canada-U.S. border is often portrayed in Canadian Studies as a symbolic line of defense for Anglo-Canadian identity and cultural sovereignty, it has not attracted the attention that the US–Mexico border has generated in American Studies. Available online at <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/section?content=a924958572&fulltext=713240928>

A PLAN B FOR OBAMA (Foreign Policy, No. 182, November 2010, pp. 70-77)

As President Obama finishes his second year in office, he is faced with a stagnant economy, declining American influence, dictators on the march abroad, and a more Republican Congress. *Foreign Policy* asked a group of experts for a plan. Recommendations included: Avoid the double digit of too high taxes and high unemployment; initiate public opinion for his agenda by taking it directly to the people; get off oil; build up the West Bank; stop fawning over America’s Muslim allies; create a South Asia command; rewrite the rules of war; dump the nukes; cut military spending; and give the public a ‘green check’ on climate policy. Currently available online at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/10/11/a_plan_b_for_obama

BULLETS TO BYTES: INTERNET WARFARE ON THE RISE (Asia Pacific Defense Forum, vol. 35, no. 2, Second Quarter 2010, pp. 39-41)

Warfare between nations on the Internet ushers in a new age of conflict -- before bullets are fired, war has already erupted in cyberspace. The ability to disrupt a global social networking site has far-reaching implications. The potential for a terrorist attack on the computer systems and data underpinning the U.S. financial sector was acknowledged in late 2009 by the U.S. director of National Intelligence, Mike McConnell, who found that such an attack would be “an order of magnitude greater” than the September 11 terrorist attack. There are three types of cyber

threats: Cyber crime, in which individuals or small groups steal identities or drain bank accounts for personal gain; cyber terrorism, in which groups use the Internet to plan or to conduct attacks on a nation's or corporation's Internet infrastructure to further a political agenda; and open cyber warfare, in which nations attack each other's Internet infrastructure. Currently available online at [http://forum.apan-info.net/2010-2nd_Quarter/PACOM_ENG_V35N2_042710\[1\].pdf](http://forum.apan-info.net/2010-2nd_Quarter/PACOM_ENG_V35N2_042710[1].pdf)

CYBER TERRORISM: THE MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE (Unipath, vol. 2, no. 1, 2010, pp. 14-19)

Extremists use the Internet to recruit followers and execute plans; what used to be achieved with a bomb can now be done with only a laptop and affect a much larger target area. Terrorists can now find and train young people through online forums and chat rooms, and monitor web sites likely to have relevance to their cause. While few countries, especially in the Middle East, have introduced laws to regulate online activities, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have taken the lead. In 2007, the UAE enacted a law that criminalizes certain terrorist-related targets, and Saudi Arabia, in January 2008, implemented sixteen articles of a new law on the use of technology. Unipath is a publication of the U.S. Central Command.

Clinton, Hillary Rodham LEADING THROUGH CIVILIAN POWER: REDEFINING AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT (Foreign Affairs, vol. 89, no. 6, November-December 2010, pp. 13-24)

Secretary of State Clinton advocates a three-pronged "smart power" approach to facing down daunting global challenges, with diplomacy and development taking their places alongside defense. Citing the U.S. military as a worthy model, Clinton notes that "Foreign Service officers, Civil Service personnel, and local staff at the State Department and USAID form the backbone of our global engagement. By drawing on the pool of talent that already exists in U.S. federal agencies, the United States can build a global civilian service of the same caliber and flexibility as the U.S. military." Clinton writes that leveraging the skills and resources of businesses, philanthropists and citizens' groups would further enhance efforts toward development, which she argues is one of the best tools to enhance international goodwill toward the U.S. and to strengthen fragile or failing states. "With the right balance of civilian and military power, the United States can advance its interests and values, lead and support other nations in solving global problems and force strong diplomatic and development partnerships with traditional allies and newly emerging powers," Clinton concludes.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Baker, Neal THE RISE OF DIGITAL GAME STUDIES (Choice, vol. 48, no. 1, September 2010, pp. 27-34)

The author, a librarian at Earlham College, notes that digital game studies has been identified as "videogame studies," "computer game studies" and just plain old "game studies." A more scholarly definition is the discipline of studying games, their design, their players and the role they play in society and in culture. Studies of digital games, a multi-billion dollar business, is largely a multi- and inter-disciplinary field with researchers and academics from a multitude of other areas such as computer, science, psychology, sociology, anthropology, arts and literature, media studies, and communication. This bibliographical essay explores various aspects of digital game studies, including ontology, single games, single platforms, digital game cultures and society, and digital games on the web.

Bernardin, Susan NATIVE AMERICAN LITERARY STUDIES (Choice, vol. 48, no. 3, November 2010, pp. 429-441)

One of the fastest growing areas of research is Native American literary studies, which is concerned with the shared experiences of indigenous peoples in the U.S., as well as the historically, regionally, and tribally situated experiences of the hundreds of federally recognized tribes, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, and the many tribal communities that remain “unrecognized.” In this bibliographical essay, the author, a professor of English at SUNY College at Oneonta, explores the understudied tradition of writing about Native Americans and its place in academia and notes that this is now changing as the increasing institutional legitimacy of Native American literary studies is also demonstrated by its status as a division within the Modern Language Association. The author evaluates well over 100 print sources and key online journals.

Corbett, Sara GAME THEORY (New York Times Magazine, September 19, 2010, pp. 54//70)

One of the new developments in education is teaching students by having them design and play video games; however, educators question whether keeping children plugged into such games is the best approach to learning. The goal of using video games is to build in repetition to the learning process; one middle school in New York City is teaching its students by this method. Instead of grades, students receive report cards with levels of expertise like “novice” and “master” and faculty include game designers and curriculum specialists. The possibilities of such classes for educators working in a more typically cash-strapped, understaffed school are difficult, according to the author; however, as the federal government focuses more on innovation in education, it may be feasible to implement game-based learning, even modestly, into more schools. Currently available online under a different title at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/19/magazine/19video-t.html>

Rosin, Hanna THE END OF MEN (Atlantic Monthly, vol. 306, no. 1, July/August 2010, pp. 56-72)

New data showing that more women graduated from university than men in the U.S. only underscores a trend that has developed over several decades. This year, women became the majority of the workforce in the U.S. Despite inequitable pay, American women, during the recession, have retained jobs as men have lost them, giving women greater economic clout in the home. Many more women are becoming leaders in business and elsewhere, leading many to wonder if modern, postindustrial society is simply better suited to women. The unprecedented role reversal underway is also reflected internationally, even in traditionally patriarchal societies such as Korea. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/07/the-end-of-men/8135/#>

Shearer, Harry FIVE MYTHS ABOUT NEW ORLEANS AND HURRICANE KATRINA (Vanity Fair online, posted August 26, 2010)

The author notes that, on the fifth anniversary of hurricane Katrina, the American news media maintained misconceptions about the disaster. Media outlets had done a good job of showing the suffering on live television but has failed to focus on why New Orleans suffered so badly in the aftermath of the storm. Shearer notes that what happened to New Orleans in August 2005 was not “a natural disaster.” When Katrina hit that city, it was mostly likely a Category 1 or 2 storm. The catastrophic disaster that followed was mostly manmade – a result of “mistakes, misjudgments, and misfeasance” by federal government agencies that should have done a better job regarding the protection system for the city. The primary government failure in Katrina was the failed hurricane protection system, designed and constructed under previous administrations. Currently available at <http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/features/2010/08/hurricane-katrina-anniversary-201008>

Shorto, Russell FOUNDING FATHER? (New York Times Magazine, February 14, 2010, pp. 32-39, 46-47)

Conservative activists on the Texas Board of Education say that the authors of the Constitution intended the United States to be a Christian nation and they want American history textbooks to say so, too. Following the appeals from the public, the members of what is the most influential state board of education in the country, and one of the most politically conservative, submitted their own proposed changes to the new social-studies curriculum guidelines, that will affect students around the country, from kindergarten to 12th grade, for the next ten years. One reason that Texas school-board members find themselves at the very center of the battlefield is that the state's \$22 billion education fund is among the largest educational endowments in the country; Texas uses some of that money to buy or distribute a staggering 48 million textbooks annually, which inclines educational publishers to tailor their products to fit the standards dictated by Texas school boards. Currently available online under a different title at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/14/magazine/14texbooks-t.html>

Wood, Gordon S. THE WAR WE LOST -- AND WON (New York Review of Books, October 28, 2010)

Eminent historian Alan Taylor's book THE CIVIL WAR OF 1812: AMERICAN CITIZENS, BRITISH SUBJECTS, IRISH REBELS, AND INDIAN ALLIES presents a comprehensive picture of a puzzling war. It divided the new American republic politically, and it created an even sharper division between the United States and its neighbor and British ally Canada. Partly due to the slow communications of the day, the war began and ended wrong-footedly. The conflict was bloody, sometimes inexplicable, but resulted in a clearer sense of nationhood for both the United States and Canada. Currently available online at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2010/oct/28/war-we-lost-and-won/>

Belcher, David SURVIVING THE CRUNCH (Opera News, vol. 75, no. 3, September 2010, pp. 46-49)

Since the economic downturn in 2007, the arts have been hit hard, as philanthropy declined and donors, once the major support of artistic endeavors, have often been in need of assistance themselves. One of the hardest hit is opera; the challenges are forcing opera houses across the country to explore options they might not have considered in more flush times -- whether that means staging a Verdi grand opera with minimal props or commissioning a new work. Belcher writes that opera companies can survive, as other organizations have found, with imagination, streamlined productions and creative productions. The author discusses the experiences of five regional opera companies in San Diego, St. Louis, Memphis, Cincinnati and Tulsa, that have survived after unexpectedly losing millions of dollars from donors. Currently available online at <http://www.operanews.com/operanews/templates/content.aspx?id=16796>

Carlson, Shala RENEWING NEWBURGH (Habitat World, Vol. 27, No. 4, December 2010, pp. 25-29)

The international nonprofit organization Habitat for Humanity has a well-established record of building homes for needy families, and recruiting those families to help build more homes for others. The efforts of Habitat and its volunteers can also help to rebuild and restore an entire community. Newburgh, New York is less than 100 kilometers from New York City, and several decades ago had a thriving manufacturing economy. But factory towns across the United States have suffered in the last quarter of a century, due to shifts in the American economy. By the late 1990s, derelict homes and abandoned buildings dotted the cityscape. The local Habitat for Humanity affiliate took the first steps to rehabilitate the city, and its enthusiasm and success set a trend in motion. Freshly renovated structures encouraged other families and businesses to make investments of their own in refurbishing blighted properties. Newburgh's Habitat for Humanity affiliate has repaired 43 buildings to date, adding more than \$8 million to Newburgh's tax rolls,

with 10 more projects underway. Currently available online at
http://www.habitat.org/hw/field_notes/field_notes_Dec_10.aspx#P0_0

Davis, Kenneth C. GOD AND COUNTRY (Smithsonian, Vol. 41, No. 6, October 2010, pp. 86-96)

Recent controversy over a proposal to locate a mosque in New York City leads historian Davis to revisit earlier occasions when Americans' attitudes toward religion have not lived up to the Constitutional principles advocating freedom of religion and a secular government. In the popular version of U.S. history, the Puritans who first settled in Massachusetts are depicted as refugees in search of a place to practice their faith without persecution. But their "freedom" in the New World expressed itself in the form of "a theocracy that brooked no dissent, religious or political," Davis writes. As more diverse peoples came to the new nation, Davis cites episodes in which Catholics, Jews, Mormons and others were victimized by the prejudices of fellow Americans. Davis advocates the abandonment of the storybook narrative of American history in favor of an acceptance of the "frequently embarrassing and occasionally bloody tale" of religious conflict. Only acknowledgement of this "dark past," he writes, will allow us to establish a state of affairs that is truly free. Currently available online under a different title at
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Americas-True-History-of-Religious-Tolerance.html>

Harvey, Giles BOB DYLAN AFTER THE FALL (New York Review of Books, November 25, 2010)

Two new books about singer-songwriter Bob Dylan prompt this review of his life and art. Quoting liberally from Dylan's work, Harvey recaps the artist's biography and career, with emphasis on his soaring work in the 1960s, and the many fallow years intersected with moments of brilliance: Dylan's paradoxical "plainness and elusive exceptionalism." He is at his strongest when he references American music's folk roots, as in his early work and the more recent *Time Out of Mind* and *Love and Theft*. Currently available online at
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2010/nov/25/bob-dylan-after-fall/>

Nasaw, David THE 'GIVING' SEASON (The Nation, November 17, 2010)

The philanthropic sector, led by the nation's richest individuals, has grown beyond all expectations over the past 25 years; so, too, has their influence over public policy. In 2009, charitable giving totaled more than \$300 billion, or 2.1 percent of the GDP. The tax-deductible charitable donation may not be such a good thing, Nasaw says; most of that money goes to causes that directly or indirectly benefit the donors, such as houses of worship, universities, or museums or cultural institutions the wealthy donors patronize. According to former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, only about 10 percent of charitable giving goes to the poor and needy. Nasaw cautions that "we must not lose sight of the larger global impact of giving and the increasing power accumulated by unregulated, untaxed foundations." Available online at
<http://www.thenation.com/article/156526/giving-season>

Ried, Kimberlee NEW LIFE FOR WPA ART (Prologue, vol. 42, no. 3, Fall 2010, pp. 44-49)

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was the largest New Deal agency, employing millions to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads, and operated large arts, drama, media, and literacy projects. Created by order of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the WPA was funded by Congress with passage of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 on April 8, 1935. One of the lasting effects of WPA projects was the public art pieces that were created in various government buildings, especially post offices. Today, there are efforts underfoot to restore these murals. The U.S. Postal Service headquarters staff in Washington, DC, recently began research on an exhibition of some of these murals in its post offices. In Kansas City, when the National Archives regional office moved to a new location

in the heart of the city's cultural area, it found two murals created by Eduard Ulreich for a post office in Columbia, Missouri.

Ripley, Amanda YOUR CHILD LEFT BEHIND (Atlantic Monthly, December 2010)

For years, the poor academic performance by American students in comparison to those in other countries has been explained away as a consequence of nationwide diversity. But researchers at Stanford University have found that even relatively privileged American students do not compete favorably with average students in other well-off countries. The real reason for underperformance among American students, the Stanford research found, is poorly trained and poorly qualified teachers. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/12/your-child-left-behind/8310/>

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