



E-Documents March 2011, Issue 3

■ Electronic Journals – all e-journals



■ IIP Books – all publications



■ Ask America

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 [Ask America HomePage](#) to see upcoming ones, and read the transcripts of the previous webchats.

■ Podcasts

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcast.html>

Audio files and transcripts from America.gov

■ Videos

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html>

Video files on foreign policy, American life, economy, global challenges, international relations.

■ Videos on Youtube

This channel delivers videos on American life, culture and politics. Produced by the U.S. Department of State for international audiences, the videos illustrate values that underlie U.S. policies and explore interests shared by Americans and people around the world.

<http://www.youtube.com/america.gov>

■ Communities

<http://www.america.gov/communities.html>

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.

Social Networks of America.gov goes where the conversation is. Follow us on your favorite social networking sites.

JOIN AMERICA.GOV ONLINE COMMUNITIES

 **FACEBOOK**

 **TWITTER**

 **YouTube**

 **Flickr**

■ **GOVFRESH** IS A LIVE FEED OF OFFICIAL NEWS FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT TWITTER, YOUTUBE, RSS, FACEBOOK, FLICKR ACCOUNTS AND MORE, **ALL IN ONE PLACE.**

■ Today's Web Picks

Article Alert is a free aggregation and digest service that links readers to interesting and informative periodical literature (magazine and other journal articles) on a variety of topics including (1) American Life, (2) Economy, (3) Global Challenges, and (4) International Relations. We also offer (5) Top Ten Lists and Other Cool Stuff. We hyperlink to the original texts and supply a short "teaser." There's a lot of great reading on the web and not enough time to find it all. We can help!

<http://www.america.gov/publications/article-alert.html>

 **Facebook Page of U.S. Embassy Ankara / You may become a fan and follow posts about media, cultural and educational events sponsored by the US Embassy in Ankara.**

 **Twitter Page of U.S. Embassy Ankara**

 **YouTube Page of U.S. Embassy Ankara**

SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTS

Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2010. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Paul Holtom et al. March 2011.

The five biggest suppliers in 2006-10 were the United States, Russia, Germany, France and the United Kingdom. The five biggest recipients were India, China, South Korea, Pakistan and Greece. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://books.sipri.org/files/FS/SIPRIFS1103.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve and Refined Product Reserves: Authorization and Drawdown Policy. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Anthony Andrews and Robert Pirog. March 11, 2011.

Congress authorized the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA, P.L. 94-163) to help prevent a repetition of the economic dislocation caused by the 1973-1974 Arab oil embargo. The Department of Energy (DOE) manages the SPR, which comprises five underground storage facilities, solution-mined from naturally occurring salt domes in Texas and Louisiana. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct) authorized SPR expansion to a capacity of 1 billion barrels, but physical expansion of the SPR has not proceeded beyond 727 million barrels — its inventory at the end of 2010. In addition, a Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve (NHOR) holds 2 million barrels of heating oil in above-ground storage. The Government Accountability Office recently observed that the proportion of crude oil grades in the

SPR has been growing less compatible with the heavier grades of crude oil that U.S. refineries have been upgrading to handle. This finding has raised questions about the SPR's effectiveness during a long-term oil disruption involving heavy oil.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41687.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages].

IDA at 65: Heading Toward Retirement or a Fragile Lease on Life? Center for Global Development. Todd Moss and Benjamin Leo. March 10, 2011.

As the concessionary lending window of the World Bank, the International Development Association (IDA) has provided grants and low-interest loans to the world's poorest countries for over 50 years. IDA funds projects that address many of the problems associated with slower growth in developing countries related to primary education, basic health services, clean water supply and sanitation, environmental safeguards, business-climate improvements, infrastructure, and institutional reforms. However, looking to the future, IDA's operations will likely be substantially altered by the transformation of its membership. Even under conservative assumptions, IDA will likely face a wave of country graduations by 2025. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424903/> [HTML format with links].

Instances of Use of United States Armed Forces Abroad, 1798-2010. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Richard F. Grimmett. March 10, 2011.

The report lists hundreds of instances in which the United States has used its armed forces abroad in situations of military conflict or potential conflict or for other than normal peacetime purposes. It was compiled in part from various older lists and is intended primarily to provide a rough survey of past U.S. military ventures abroad, without reference to the magnitude of the given instance noted. The listing often contains references, especially from 1980 forward, to continuing military deployments especially U.S. military participation in multinational operations associated with NATO or the United Nations. Most of these post-1980 instances are summaries based on Presidential reports to Congress related to the War Powers Resolution. A comprehensive commentary regarding any of the instances listed is not undertaken here.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R41677.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages].

Middle East and North Africa Unrest: Implications for Oil and Natural Gas Markets. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Michael Ratner and Neelesh Nerurkar. March 10, 2011.

Political unrest in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has contributed to higher oil prices and added instability to energy markets. Supply disruptions and fears about the possible spread of unrest to major exporters have pushed prices higher. Even if the crisis abates, some risk premium may persist to the degree that market participants fear such an event could occur again.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R41683.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

U.S. Military Aid and Sales to Egypt. Center for the Strategic & International Studies. March 15, 2011.

The recent popular protests in Egypt, and the concurrent images of U.S.-made tanks and tear gas canisters, have brought scrutiny upon the historical and remarkably constant U.S. military assistance to Egypt. The crisis may have passed and the military council ruling Egypt has promised to oversee a transition to civilian government, but the future makeup of Egypt's

government remains unclear. This issue reviews U.S. military aid and sales to Egypt and assesses what any changes might mean to the U.S. defense industrial base. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://csis.org/files/publication/110315_DIIG_Current_Issues_23_Egypt_Arms_Aid.pdf [PDF format, 2 pages].

Republicans Are Losing Ground on the Deficit, But Obama's Not Gaining. Pew Center for the People & the Press. March 16, 2011.

As the budget debate moves into a crucial phase, far fewer Americans say that Republicans in Congress have the better approach to the budget deficit than did so in November, shortly after the GOP's sweeping election victories. The GOP has lost ground on the deficit among political independents and, surprisingly, among key elements of the Republican base, including Tea Party supporters. However, the public is no more supportive of Barack Obama's approach to the budget deficit than it was in November. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/717.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

Westward Ho: Asians March Into Africa - Part I. YaleGlobal. Johan Lagerkvist. March 16, 2011.

New trade routes are taking hold, linking Africa's rich resources with the industrial needs in Asia and South America, and the series analyzes the emerging economic, political and security partnerships. The 2008 global economic crisis and slow recovery for the U.S. and Europe have only reinforced the South-South partnerships, shifting trade relations and fueling economic growth throughout the hemisphere, explains Lagerkvist. China took the lead as Africa's major trading partner in 2009, he notes, and this year Chinese loans to Africa will exceed those from the World Bank. There's some wariness among Africans about an onslaught of new foreign investors, but as Lagerkvist concludes, Africans are more empowered than in previous centuries to monitor their foreign relations and chart their destiny. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/asians-march-africa-part-i> [HTML format, various paging].

The Internet and Campaign 2010. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Aaron Smith. March 17, 2011.

54% of adults used the internet for political purposes in the last cycle, far surpassing the 2006 midterm contest. They hold mixed views about the impact of the internet: It enables extremism, while helping the like-minded find each other. It provides diverse sources, but makes it harder to find truthful sources. Fully 73% of adult internet users (representing 54% of all US adults) went online to get news or information about the 2010 midterm elections, or to get involved in the campaign in one way or another. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2011/Internet%20and%20Campaign%202010.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].

To What Extent Are High-Quality Logistics Services Trade Facilitating? Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Jane Korinek and Patricia Sourdin. March 16, 2011.

Trade can be impeded by inefficient transport infrastructure, border procedures or information flows. Better logistics services reduce trade costs for businesses and improve the competitiveness of a country's exports, according to the study. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/fulltext/5kggdthrj1zn.pdf?expires=1300364913&id=0000&accname=guest&checksum=DB90C079372464B6B2DD968772E1E60B> [PDF format, 42 pages].

Russian Military Politics and Russia's 2010 Defense Doctrine. Strategic Studies Institute. Stephen J. Blank. March 15, 2011.

The report consists of three probing essays into the genesis of Russia's 2010 defense doctrine, the political struggle behind it, and the actual content of the doctrine. The essays reveal a highly politicized minefield of struggle comprising leading actors in the military, the government, and in Russian security policy as a whole. They illuminate the ongoing struggles between and among these sets of military and civilian elites and therefore cast a light on critical aspects of Russian policy that all too often are left in darkness.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB1050.pdf> [PDF format, 196 pages].

Valuing Water: How Can Businesses Manage the Coming Scarcity? Knowledge @ Wharton. March 16, 2011.

Water is a paradoxical commodity: It seems free and plentiful, yet its supply is under tremendous strain. Use of fresh water has more than doubled in the past 50 years, and many fear that we are coming close to a frightening breaking point, a world where chronic water shortages for farmers, businesses and people are the norm. Some experts even see international conflict emerging over access to dwindling supplies. Recognizing these concerns, companies are undertaking major programs to realign their water use with core business and humanitarian interests, according to the report. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/papers/download/031611_valuingwater.pdf [PDF format, 26 pages].

How Will Egypt's Political Upheaval Impact Israel? The View from Jerusalem. Knowledge @ Wharton. March 16, 2011.

The world has watched in awed amazement as an unprecedented wave of popular political protest has swept North Africa and the Middle East during recent months. For Israel, situated at the heart of the region stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Persian Gulf, the potential implications of these developments go far beyond the price of oil. The emergence of a new crop of governments in many Arab countries and of a new generation of politically involved young people carries the potential for massive changes in the attitude toward Israel of these countries and their leaders, changes that could be fraught with danger, or laden with opportunity. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/articlepdf/2735.pdf?CFID=19715258&CFTOKEN=24443992&jsessionid=a830a9d06c816ee4fdcc383656394b611537> [PDF format, 6 pages].

Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness: Lessons Learned from High-Performing Systems. Alliance for Excellent Education. March 16, 2011.

The issue of teacher effectiveness has risen rapidly to the top of the education policy agenda, and the federal government and states are considering bold steps to improve teacher and leader effectiveness. One place to look for ideas is the experiences of high-performing education systems around the world. Finland, Ontario, and Singapore all have well-developed systems for recruiting, preparing, developing, and retaining teachers and school leaders, and all have attained

high levels of student performance and attribute their success to their teacher-effectiveness policies. This brief examines lessons from these high-performing systems that the U.S. can apply. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/TeacherLeaderEffectivenessBrief.pdf> Issue Brief [PDF format, 9 pages].

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/TeacherLeaderEffectivenessReport.pdf> Full Report [PDF format, 54 pages].

Japan's Economic Aftershocks. Council on Foreign Relations. Sebastian Mallaby. March 16, 2011.

Japan's recent earthquake, tsunami, and unfolding nuclear crisis have put global financial markets on edge. Yet, while output will fall in the short term, Japan's economy--the world's third-largest--will rebound, driven by a boost in reconstruction, says Sebastian Mallaby. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cfr.org/japan/japans-economic-aftershocks/p24391> [HTML format, various paging].

Japan's Triple Disaster: Governance and the Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Crises. Brookings Institution. Daniel Kaufmann. March 16, 2011.

In the wake of its triple disaster, Japan finds itself at the center of its most dramatic crisis since World War II. But governance shortcomings may be imperiling the response. In the coming months, the extent of Japan's disaster-preparedness will be fully scrutinized, as will its handling of the response, relief and reconstruction efforts. While it is early to provide a full analysis, it is possible to identify salient challenges that may warrant closer attention. In particular, the report explores Japan's governance in an international context and its impact on the country's crisis response. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0316_japan_disaster_kaufmann.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

The Possibilities for Global Poverty Reduction Using Revenues from Global Carbon Pricing. National Bureau of Economic Research. James B. Davies, Xiaojun Shi, and John Whalley. March 2011.

Global carbon pricing can yield revenues which are large enough to create significant global poor redistributive opportunities. The authors analyze alternative multidecade growth trajectories for major global economies with carbon tax rates designed to stabilize emissions in the presence of both continued country growth and autonomous energy use efficiency improvement. In the case analysis, revenues from globally internalizing carbon pricing rise to 7% and then fall to 5% of gross world product. High growth in India and China is the major equalizing force globally over time, but the incremental redistributive effects that can be achieved using global carbon pricing revenues are large both in absolute and relative terms. Revenues from carbon pricing depend on growth and energy efficiency improvement parameters as well as on the price elasticity of demand for fossil fuels. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w16878.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages].

Broadband Electricity and the Free-Market Path to Electric Cars. Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. Peter W. Huber. March 2011.

The free-market path to getting grid electricity to wheels hinges on giving every company that already owns, or cares to invest in, any part of the electron pipeline, electric utilities certainly included, the freedom and flexibility to invest new capital, set prices, recover costs, and earn profits commensurate with the risks, while working closely with car companies, car owners, municipalities, employers, mall owners, parking garages, individual homeowners, and others, according to the author. The free-market policies that will mobilize private capital to deliver broadband electricity to our wheels will, by and large, resemble those that unleashed private capital to deliver broadband bits to our computers, PDAs, and wireless phones. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/eper_07.pdf [PDF format, 24 pages].

Resource Management and Transition in Central Asia, Azerbaijan, and Mongolia. Peterson Institute for International Economics. Richard Pomfret. March 2011.

The paper presents a comparative analysis of the resource-rich transition economies of Mongolia and the southern republics of the former Soviet Union. For Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, the ability to earn revenue from cotton exports allowed them to avoid reform. Oil in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan was associated with large-scale corruption, but with soaring revenues in the 2000s their institutions evolved and to some extent improved. Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia illustrate the challenges facing small economies with large potential mineral resources, with the former suffering from competition for rents among the elite and the latter from lost opportunities. Overall the countries illustrate that a resource curse is not inevitable among transition economies, but a series of hurdles need to be surmounted to benefit from resource abundance. Neither the similar initial institutions nor those created in the 1990s are immutable. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.piie.com/publications/wp/wp11-8.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages].

Egypt's Revolution Struggles to Take Shape. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Nathan J. Brown. March 17, 2011.

As Egyptians move toward a referendum on suggested amendments to the country's constitution, the country faces an opportunity for the first time in its history to write a constitution its citizens want rather than one drafted for them by deeply entrenched incumbents. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=43106&prog=zgp&proj=zme> [HTML format, various paging].

Healthcare Technology Co-operatives: Filling a Niche in the English R&D Landscape. RAND Corporation. David Kryl et al. March 15, 2011.

The evaluation of the pilot Health Technology Cooperatives (HTCs), part of England's research infrastructure, explored how the HTCs fit into the health innovation landscape and recommended how best to support core HTC activities in the future. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2011/RAND_TR932.pdf [PDF format, 84 pages].

Twitter Responds to Japan's Disaster. Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism. March 17, 2011.

Shortly after 12:46 am EST on February 11, when a massive 8.9 magnitude earthquake hit off the coast of northeast Japan, Twitter began to reverberate with posts about the catastrophe. The response to the earthquake illustrated the different ways in which Twitter functions as a social media tool. Initially, the site served as a way to get breaking information from a variety of official and unofficial sources, including some eyewitness accounts. It also acted as an electronic bulletin board, passing on tips about everything from the location of bathrooms to ways of tracking loved ones. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.journalism.org/index_report/twitter_responds_japanese_disaster [HTML format, various paging].

Measuring Disaster Preparedness: FEMA Has Made Limited Progress in Assessing National Capabilities. U.S. Government Accountability Office. March 17, 2011.

According to the report, DHS and FEMA have implemented a number of efforts with the goal of measuring preparedness by assessing capabilities and addressing related challenges, but success has been limited. DHS first developed plans to measure preparedness by assessing capabilities, but did not fully implement those plans. GAO reported in October 2010 that FEMA had enhanced its plan with milestones in response to GAO's prior recommendation and that officials said they had an ongoing effort to develop measures for target capabilities--as planning guidance to assist in state and local assessments, rather than as requirements for measuring preparedness by assessing capabilities; FEMA officials had not yet determined how they plan to revise the list.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11260t.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

Deconstructing Structural Unemployment. Center for Economic and Policy Research. John Schmitt and Kris Warner. March 2011.

Some economic observers argue "structural unemployment" has increased in the wake of the Great Recession, but the paper finds little support for either of two arguments that suggest that structural unemployment has been on the rise. The first argument focuses on the large increase in unemployment among construction workers. The second argument is that falling house prices have reduced the mobility of unemployed workers, creating a "house lock" in which unemployed workers, who would otherwise relocate to regions with jobs, are stuck in high unemployment areas. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/dws-2011-03.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages].

President Obama's Visit to a Rio Favela. Brookings Institution. Vanda Felbab-Brown. March 17, 2011.

A prominent media event during President Barack Obama's visit to Brazil will be an outing to one of Rio de Janeiro's favelas, a slum neighborhood often ridden by drug-gang violence. The *favelas*, containing a million people, a sixth of Rio's population, have been neglected for decades, even though they are scattered throughout the city, including in some of its prime sections. Inhabited by descendents of slaves and manual laborers brought to Rio for construction and other menial jobs, *favela* residents were not given an opportunity to break out of their condition of marginalization, poverty, and intense crime. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0317_obama_favelas_felbabbrown.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Improving the Lives of Young Children: Meeting Parents' Health and Mental Health Needs through Medicaid and CHIP So Children Can Thrive. Urban Institute. Olivia Golden and Karina Fortuny. March 15, 2011.

Many young children have developmental or behavioral problems that could be addressed or prevented with the right early response but that are not identified or treated, compromising children's ability to perform up to their potential in school and leading to more costly interventions later. Because the quality of parenting is so critical to children's development, parental or family difficulties, including maternal depression, can endanger children's development. Yet, parents often do not receive needed medical or mental health care. The brief discusses state Medicaid and CHIP choices that can enhance delivery of medical, mental health, and related services to parents. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412315-Meeting-Parents-Health.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

The NRC and Nuclear Power Plant Safety in 2010: A Brighter Spotlight Needed. Union of Concerned Scientists. David Lochbalm. March 2011.

The crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami is a stark reminder of the risks inherent in nuclear power. One of its consequences has been heightened concern about the safety of nuclear power facilities in the U.S. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the federal agency responsible for ensuring that U.S. nuclear plants are operated as safely as possible, gets mixed reviews in the report. The report examines 14 "near-misses" at U.S. nuclear plants during 2010 and evaluates the NRC response in each case. The events exposed a variety of shortcomings, such as inadequate training, faulty maintenance, poor design, and failure to investigate problems thoroughly. The report offers examples of both effective and ineffective responses: [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/nuclear_power/nrc-2010-full-report.pdf [PDF format, 64 pages].

Putting America Back to Work with Clean Energy. Center for American Progress. Richard Caperton and Adam Hersh. March 17, 2011.

Richard Caperton and Adam Hersh explain the benefits of investing in green jobs. Investing in green jobs will immediately address two of our country's most important challenges: lowering unemployment while improving our energy system. For these specific reasons alone, these investments would be worthwhile. But these investments will also significantly improve our economy in the long term, making it more productive and efficient. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/03/pdf/green_jobs.pdf [PDF format, 7 pages].

Risk Management in Agriculture in the Netherlands. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Olga Melyukhina. March 2011.

The report analyzes the agricultural risk management system in the Netherlands, applying a holistic approach that considers the interactions between all sources of risk, farmers' strategies and policies. The policy analysis is structured around three layers of risk that require a differentiated policy response: normal (frequent) risks that should be retained by the farmer, marketable intermediate risks that can be transferred through market tools, and catastrophic risk that requires government assistance. The main risk-related policies in the Netherlands are implemented as part of the EU policy framework. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/fulltext/5kgj0d5lqn48.pdf?expires=1300464062&id=0000&accname=guest&checksum=0FB15C54B1992DB90A65D265FA8DF966> [PDF format, 67 pages].

Clouds Over Japan's Nuclear Response. Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. March 17, 2011.

With the nuclear incident at the Fukushima power plant unabated, Japanese officials have come under fire for failing to control the crisis as concern about radiation grows. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cfr.org/disasters/clouds-over-japans-nuclear-response/p24412> [HTML format, various paging].

Enhancing Use of Clinical Preventive Services Among Older Adults: Closing the Gap. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. March 14, 2011.

Every day in America about 10,000 people turn 65. By the year 2030, roughly one out of every five Americans will be aged 65 years and older. Unfortunately, many older adults currently do not receive vaccinations, screenings, and other preventive services national experts recommend. These important services help detect many diseases, delay their onset, or identify them early in their most treatable stages to ensure healthier, longer, and more productive lives for older adults.

http://www.cdc.gov/features/PreventiveServices/Clinical_Preventive_Services_Closing_the_Gap_Report.pdf [PDF format, 40 pages].

Measuring Perceptions about the Pashtun People. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Robert D. Lamb. March 16, 2011.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are sites of intense conflict and intense international interest. Because the epicenter of the Afghan war is along Afghanistan's southern and eastern border with Pakistan, and because important combatants use Pakistan's tribal areas for sanctuary, there is correspondingly intense interest in better understanding the people who live in this border region. The dominant ethnic group there is the Pashtuns, who have experienced a long series of wars and other major disruptions since the 1970s. The report documents the results of a study about beliefs about the Pashtun people. The purpose was to identify the range of perceptions or misperceptions about Pashtun communities by cataloging "stereotypes" about Pashtuns held by English-speaking policymakers, experts, and other opinion leaders. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://csis.org/files/publication/110316_Lamb_PashtunPerceptions_web.pdf [PDF format, 34 pages].

Westward Ho: Asians March Into Africa - Part II. YaleGlobal. Loro Horta. March 18, 2011.

In terms of natural resources, Africa is one of the richest continents, luring explorers, colonists and investors since the 15th century. Emerging economies, foreign-aid agencies, energy and mining corporations continue that quest today. The second part of the series examines the implications of these engagements for sustainability and sovereignty of the African nations. Mozambique, though not the richest of African nations, attracts competing investments from China, India and Brazil. Mozambique with its ample reserves of coal and other minerals, large tracts of virgin land and a strategic stretch of coast along the Indian Ocean is an attractive target, explains the author. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/asians-march-africa-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].

Japan's Earthquake Will Not Derail Global Recovery. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Uri Dadush and Bennett Stancil. March 18, 2011.

The Japanese earthquake is, first and foremost, an enormous human tragedy. Japan's earthquake precautions are among the most elaborate in the world, but the enormity of the suffering should prompt deep introspection in Japan and in exposed regions across the world about what more can be done to mitigate the effects of such disasters in the future. Although the human impact has been devastating, the author concludes, provided the nuclear incident at Fukushima is controlled, the economic effects of this disaster on the broader Japanese and global economies are likely to be confined and short-lived. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=43129&prog=zch,zgp&proj=zie> [HTML format, various paging].

Egypt's Referendum: Nervous Steps Forward. Council on Foreign Relations. Steven A. Cook. March 21, 2011.

Despite the opposition of the revolutionary youth who led the fight to overthrow president Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian population approved the military-sponsored referendum on changes to the constitution. Cook says "the overwhelming 'yes' vote suggests that the Egyptian military was correct in believing that this package of proposed amendments would be enough for the vast majority of Egyptians." He says that Amr Moussa, the secretary-general of the Arab League, is a leading candidate for the presidency and unlike the young revolutionaries, Moussa is "a member of the establishment, which doesn't necessarily make the military uncomfortable." [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cfr.org/egypt/egypts-referendum-nervous-steps-forward/p24452> [HTML format, various paging].

Libya: When Bombs Fall and Allies Fall Apart. YaleGlobal. Dilip Hiro. March 21, 2011.

Protests in Libya against Muammar Gaddafi, in power for 42 years, began in mid-February. As Gaddafi's repression turned increasingly brutal, calls emerged within the Middle East, Europe and the U.S. for limited intervention, a no-fly zone to stop his forces from launching aerial attacks against civilians and rebels. Decision-makers were divided: Among the concerns was reinforcing the impression that the West is more intent on protecting oil in the Middle East than human rights. On 12 March, the Arab League, though divided, called for a no-fly zone over Libya, with conditions. On 17 March, the UN Security Council, with five abstentions, approved Resolution 1973, with an open-ended authorization "to take all necessary measures...to protect civilians." Disagreement over intervention and the limits show deep divisions within regional and global institutions and governments at every level, explains author Dilip Hiro. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/libya-bombs-fall-allies-fall-apart> [HTML format, various paging].

Measuring Illegal Border Crossing Between Ports of Entry: An Assessment of Four Promising Methods. RAND Corporation. Andrew R. Morral et al. March 18, 2011.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is responsible for controlling the flow of goods and people across the U.S. border, a difficult task that raises challenging resource management questions about how best to minimize illicit flows across the border while facilitating legitimate

ones. The paper describes four innovative approaches to estimating the total flow of illicit border crossings between ports of entry. Each is sufficiently promising to warrant further attention for purposes of supporting reliable, valid, and timely measures of illicit cross-border flow. Successfully implementing each of these approaches will require methodological development and analysis to identify barriers or constraints to using the approach, the cost of data collection, and the amount of error that can be expected in the resulting estimates. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/occasional_papers/2011/RAND_OP328.pdf [PDF format, 26 pages].

Opposition to Nuclear Power Rises amid Japanese Crisis: Support for Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling Rebounds. Pew Center for the People & the Press. March 21, 2011.

Not surprisingly, public support for the increased use of nuclear power has declined amid the ongoing nuclear emergency in Japan. Currently, 39% say they favor promoting the increased use of nuclear power while 52% are opposed. Last October, 47% favored promoting the increased use of nuclear power and the same percentage (47%) was opposed. Opinion about expanding the use of nuclear power has fluctuated in recent years. However, the current measure matches a previous low in support for increased nuclear power recorded in September 2005 (39% favor, 53% oppose). [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1934/support-nuclear-power-japan-gas-prices-offshore-oil-gas-drilling> [HTML format, various paging].

The Iranian Navy's Historic Mediterranean Deployment: Timing is Everything. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Joshua Himes. March 21, 2011.

In an unprecedented maneuver, two ships of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy (IRIN) entered the Mediterranean Sea on February 22, 2011. The Iranian flagship *Arvand*, a corvette, and its supply ship, *Kharg*, transited the Suez Canal en route to Syria, ostensibly for a port visit as part of a midshipmen training deployment. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://csis.org/publication/iranian-navys-historic-mediterranean-deployment-timing-everything> [HTML format, various paging].

Uganda's Uncelebrated Elections Are another Landmark for Africa. Brookings Institution. Ezra Suruma. March 21, 2011.

The upheavals in the Middle East, Northern Africa and Ivory Coast have drowned out the peaceful election in Uganda. It is as if Uganda's peaceful election is a commonplace event that does not deserve congratulations or more than a passing notice. The Ugandan opposition has tried to cry foul and to gain some attention, but they too have been largely ignored by the world and more importantly by the Ugandan people. Of course, Ugandans had already largely ignored the opposition by not voting for them in sufficient numbers, according to the report. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0321_uganda_voting_suruma.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

The Case against Raising the Social Security Tax Max. American Enterprise Institute. Andrew G. Biggs. March 22, 2011.

With Social Security deficits increasing and the US population aging, policymakers today face a choice. If they raise Social Security's maximum taxable wage--a common proposal--individuals will respond by working and saving less, which weakens the economy and does not fix the problem. Instead, we should reduce Social Security benefits for middle- and high-income earners to encourage more working and saving--and free up the government to focus on the daunting challenges of Medicare and Medicaid. *[Note: contains copyrighted material]*.

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/RPO-2011-03-No-1-g.pdf> [PDF format, 7 pages].

Security Transition in Afghanistan. Council on Foreign Relations. Jayshree Bajoria. March 22, 2011.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai announced that local security forces will take over control in the provinces of Bamiyan, Panjshir, and much of Kabul, and in the cities of Herat, Lashkar Gah, Mehterlam, and Mazar-e-Sharif from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) beginning in July. The handover is considered a crucial step toward full assumption of control by Afghan forces, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014. Experts say these areas have been relatively stable compared with the rest of the country. The initial handover will coincide with the start of a drawdown in the one hundred thousand-strong contingent of U.S. troops deployed in Afghanistan, though the number of U.S. soldiers leaving is expected to be a token amount, according to the brief. *[Note: contains copyrighted material]*.

<http://www.cfr.org/afghanistan/security-transition-afghanistan/p24456> [HTML format, various paging].

Violence Instead of Vigilance: Torture and Illegal Detention by Uganda's Rapid Response Unit. Human Rights Watch. March 23, 2011.

The report documents the unit's illegal methods of investigation and serious violations of the rights of the people it arrests and detains. The unit has a history of violent and unlawful operations since it was formed by President Yoweri Museveni in 2002 as Operation Wembley, an ad-hoc security entity commanded by an active member of the Ugandan military. Later, the unit became the Violent Crime Crack Unit and was formally taken under police command. In 2007, it was renamed the Rapid Response Unit. *[Note: contains copyrighted material]*.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2011/03/23/violence-instead-vigilance> [HTML format with links].

Farm Exports and Farm Labor. Economic Policy Institute. Philip Martin. March 21, 2011.

A quarter of the fresh fruit produced in the U.S. and almost a tenth of the fresh vegetables are exported. These exports, largely enabled by technology and transportation revolutions allowing fruits and vegetables to be consumed far from their place of production, are a significant and growing force in the U.S. economy. In 2008, U.S. agricultural exports of \$115 billion exceeded agricultural imports of \$80 billion, generating a \$35 billion farm trade surplus. Between 1989 and 2009, the value of U.S. agricultural exports rose 2.5 times, while exports of highvalue agricultural products, including fruits and vegetables, more than tripled. *[Note: contains copyrighted material]*.

http://epi.3cdn.net/287bc77c65c7415239_onm6b5jy2.pdf [PDF format, 19 pages].

The Situation in Japan. U.S. Department of Energy. March 22, 2011.

The U.S. Department of Energy released data recorded from its Aerial Monitoring System as well as ground detectors deployed along with its Consequence Management Response Teams. The information has also been shared with the government of Japan as part of the United States' ongoing efforts to support Japan with the recovery and response effort.

<http://blog.energy.gov/content/situation-japan/> [HTML format with links to Power Point file].

Beyond the Disaster: A Call for Japanese Leadership in International Disaster Response Law. Brookings Institution. Elizabeth Ferris. March 22, 2011.

In the aftermath of one of the deadliest disasters in the country's history, it would be both appropriate and inspirational for Japan to exercise leadership in developing and supporting a legal framework to expedite international assistance when disaster strikes. The East Japan earthquake could serve as an impetus for countries around the world to make sure that policies are in place to ensure that international assistance can be delivered quickly and effectively when the need arises. According to the author, just as the Kobe earthquake led Japan to a world leadership role in urging disaster risk reduction, it is timely and appropriate that Japan take the lead in developing and promoting a new legal framework on international relief. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0322_japan_leadership_ferris.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Education as a Data-Driven Enterprise: A Primer for Leaders in Business, Philanthropy, and Education. Alliance for Excellent Education. March 22, 2011.

With advances in research, technology, and assessments, and with a focused effort, the U.S. education system can lead the world in becoming a data-driven enterprise. The report provides leaders from business, philanthropy, and education with background on data issues; describes challenges that must be overcome; and makes recommendations for moving forward. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/EdAsDataDrivenEnterprise.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

Americans Under Age 40 are as Likely to Donate to Japan Disaster Relief through Electronic Means as Traditional Means Like the Phone or Postal Mail. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Kristen Purcell and Michael Dimock. March 23, 2011.

In a striking shift in charitable donations methods, Americans under age 40 are now just as likely to give donations to disaster relief through digital means as they are through traditional means like the phone or postal mail. In the first days after the Japanese disaster, 21% of Americans say they have made a donation to help those affected by the earthquake and tsunami. Another 24% say they plan to make a donation. More than a third of those who have already donated (36%) say they made their contribution digitally - online, through text messages or e-mail. Among those younger than 40, about as many have donated digitally as through more traditional methods. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2011/PIP-Japan%20Donations%20Report.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

Japan's Post-Quake Economic Outlook: Recovery and Reconstruction. National Bureau of Asian Research. William W. Grimes. March 22, 2011.

William W. Grimes, an expert on the political economy of Japan and East Asia, without downplaying the seriousness of events, Grimes explains that the economic repercussions may not be as bad as some had initially feared. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.nbr.org/downloads/pdfs/NBR/NARP_Japan_Post_Quake_Economic_Outlook.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Greenberg, Gary THE BOOK OF WOE: INSIDE THE BATTLE TO DEFINE MENTAL ILLNESS (Wired, vol. 19, no. 1, January 2011, pp. 126-136)

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders might be considered the “holy book” of psychiatry. The DSM, as it is known, is now being revised in what will be its fifth edition, but the process is causing uproar in the profession. Psychiatrists who led the compilation of DSM-3 and DSM-4 are at the forefront of the opposition to the methods being used to draft a fifth edition. The article focuses on Allen Francis, the editor of DSM-4, who worries that the new edition could “take psychiatry off a cliff.” DSM-4 applied descriptions to some syndromes which, Francis now believes, gave drug companies an opportunity to aggressively market medications for the syndrome. As a result, Francis is concerned about an over-medicated public, especially among children and teenagers. Francis and his allies argue that mental illness defies the precise symptomatic descriptions of conventional medicine; a behavior or symptom that might describe the onset of mental illness, they say, could also be an expression of the suffering, confusion and despair that visits every life at some time or another. The profession continues to review the proposed changes. Available online at http://www.wired.com/magazine/2010/12/ff_dsmv/

Halpern, Sue HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT WE KNOW? (New York Review of Books, January 13, 2011)

This review of neurologist Oliver Sacks' THE MIND'S EYE discusses the amazing resilience of the brain, and how it compensate for and even recovers from grave injury or disease -- “impairments might actually be enhancements or ... give rise to them.” The essays are about cases of patients, but the last reveals his process of coping with a tumor on his right eye, his own loss of vision and personal journey of change.

Hammer, Joshua DEFYING THE GODFATHER (Smithsonian, vol. 41, no. 6, October 2010, pp. 36-47)

Sicily is the birthplace of the Mafia, one of the world's most powerful organized-crime syndicates, which became entrenched in Sicily's isolated, largely rural society, and raked in billions through drug trafficking, extortion and rigged construction contracts. The Mafia retaliated against prosecutions and trials in the 1980s with a series of assassinations and car bombings, but this only galvanized the anti-Mafia movement. In recent years, there has been a growing citizens' movement in Sicily called Addiopizzo (Goodbye pizzo) who have organized resistance to the Mafia rackets that have collected pizzo, or protection money. One long-time Italian magistrate

says that the Addiopizzo movement is a “revolutionary development”, a sign of growing fearlessness among the public. Available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/In-Sicily-Defying-the-Mafia.html>

Hull, Jeff PACKED TO THE HILT (Audubon, November-December 2010)

A wintry, snow-covered landscape can seem devoid of wildlife, but in fact it can provide friendly shelter to animals adapted to live in it. Only in the past decade have scientists discovered how alive the snowscape is, from the microbial life under it, to the animals and insects that burrow into it and create shelters within the snowpack. These “subnivean” ecosystems may also have a significant impact on the amount of carbon released into the earth’s atmosphere and thereby on global warming.

Levy, Steven THE A.I. REVOLUTION IS ON (Wired, vol. 19, no. 1, January 2011, pp. 86-97)

When writers and scientists began to envision robots and thinking machines as appliances of the future, writes Levy, they merely modified the human template, turning skin to tin; but when scientists stopped asking machines to reason like humans, they really started making progress. One of the experts interviewed tells Levy, “the computers are in control, and we just live in their world.” A series of companion articles in this special report examines how significant the role of artificial intelligence (AI) has become in our information economy, even though it doesn’t come in a human-like package. “Bull vs. Bear vs. Bot” explores the role of high-speed computers in controlling the movements of financial markets. At their best, the writers say, the programs allow precision and mathematics to govern the markets rather than emotion or judgment; at their worst, they can become “an inscrutable and uncontrollable feedback loop.” Other articles discuss the progress of AI in transportation, medicine and on the Internet. Available online at http://www.wired.com/magazine/2010/12/ff_ai_essay_airevolution/

Monastersky, Richard JAPAN'S GIANT SHOCK RATTLES IDEAS ABOUT EARTHQUAKE BEHAVIOR (Scientific American, March 15, 2011)

Noting that Japan’s March 11 earthquake was a “lesson in humility”, geophysicists want to understand why the Sendai quake was so much stronger than anyone expected, and what this portends for Japan and other seismic regions around the world. Few experts thought the region near Sendai, an older-crust subduction zone, was capable of producing a magnitude-9.0 earthquake; the seawalls along much of the coast were not tall enough to stop the mammoth tsunami that was spawned by the quake. However, the author notes, there were clues that the Sendai region might be subject to severe earthquakes; the 2004 Sumatra quake occurred in older subduction crust. Recent studies show that the Sendai region is getting squeezed by the motion of the tectonic plates -- the Pacific plate was stuck, and not smoothly sliding under Japan, causing strain to build up too quickly to be relieved by recent earthquakes. This is leading experts to more closely study regions such as Tonga and the northeastern Caribbean. Currently available online at <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=japan-giant-shock-rattles-ideas-earthquake>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Foss, Nicole HOW BLACK IS THE JAPANESE NUCLEAR SWAN? (The Automatic Earth, posted March 13, 2011)

The author, a power-systems and nuclear-safety expert, argues that the Fukushima nuclear accident can hardly be considered a “black swan,” an event that could not be foreseen; in a country with a long history of seismic activity, this catastrophe could be regarded as Japan’s “Hurricane Katrina moment,” a predictable event that was not adequately prepared for, despite

the possibility of severe consequences. Foss writes that complacency as to risk is widespread in the atomic energy industry – “nuclear insiders in many jurisdictions are notorious for being an unaccountable power unto themselves, and failing to release critical information publicly.” Among the drawbacks Foss sees with nuclear power: scaling it up requires enormous amounts of money and time; uranium reserves, particularly the high-grade ores, are depleting rapidly; the unresolved issue of waste disposal; and, when looking at the full nuclear fuel cycle and the life-cycle of a plant, the net energy gain from nuclear power and the reduction in carbon-dioxide emissions are not impressive. In the author’s view, “nuclear power represents an unjustified faith in the power of human societies to control extremely complex technologies over the very long term ... [it] may allow us to cushion the coming decline in fossil fuel availability, but only at a potentially very high price.” Available online at <http://theautomaticearth.blogspot.com/2011/03/march-13-2011-how-black-is-japanese.html>

Fraser, Caroline JAPAN’S ONCE-POWERFUL NUCLEAR INDUSTRY IS UNDER SIEGE (Yale Environment 360, posted March 17, 2011)

The author writes that the disaster unfolding at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant is prompting close scrutiny of Japan’s nuclear policies. While Japan has first-rate anti-pollution laws, Fraser notes that “the lack of a vigorously independent press and a strong judiciary has enabled Japanese industry to resist legislation to safeguard the environment and human health.” The nuclear industry, a major player in Japan’s politically influential construction industry, has been forging ahead with plans to turn Japan into a “nuclear state”, with a dozen new plants planned or under construction. One planned installation, the Kaminoseki nuclear plant, scheduled to be built on landfill in a national park on the spectacular Inland Sea, has sparked intense local opposition. The Inland Sea has also experienced major seismic activity, and was the epicenter of the 1995 Kobe earthquake. Despite the public protests, the Kaminoseki plant seemed unstoppable – until the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that crippled the Fukushima reactors. Two days later, construction on the plant was ordered to stop. Available online at http://e360.yale.edu/feature/japans_once-powerful_nuclear_industry_is_under_siege/2383/

Klein, Ezra DO WE STILL NEED UNIONS? YES (Newsweek, February 27, 2011)

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker’s effort to end collective bargaining for public employees in his state unexpectedly became the best thing to happen to the union movement in recent memory, writes Klein. In just a few days, Walker did what unions have been failing to do for decades: unite the union movement and bring the decline of organized labor to the forefront of the national agenda. Although fewer than 7 percent of private workers are unionized today, unions still have a crucial role to play in America, says Klein. First, they give workers leverage for higher wages, voicing safety concerns, ideas to improve efficiency and protection from retaliation. Second, unions are concerned with more than quarterly profit reports — what economist John Kenneth Galbraith called a “countervailing power” in an economy dominated by large corporations. Finally, unions bring some semblance of balance to a political system dominated by moneyed business interests. Organized labor has played a major role in promoting landmark legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act and the Affordable Care Act – laws that benefit the general public, not just the unionized. Currently available online at <http://www.newsweek.com/2011/02/27/do-we-still-need-unions-yes.html>

Pollack, Joshua GUARDING AGAINST DISASTER: AS JAPAN’S TRAGEDY BECOMES MORE SERIOUS, SO DOES THE NEED TO LEARN FROM IT (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, posted 15 March 2011)

Pollack, a consultant to the U.S. government, writes that, even as it gets worse, the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant “pales in comparison to Japan’s natural disaster.” One or more full-scale meltdowns could occur, and in a worst-case scenario, spread radiation over a wide area. We have a lot to learn from this calamity, says Pollack, not the least of those lessons are to determine what failed and why, and that the earthquake and tsunami may not be a

statistical freak, that other regions of the world may experience a millennial disaster. He writes, “as hard as it may be to accept at this moment, humanity can expect to live with this technology for many decades, perhaps centuries to come; the needs of growing populations and economies simply cannot be denied, especially in the shadow of the global-warming threat.” Currently available online at <http://thebulletin.org/web-edition/columnists/joshua-pollack/guarding-against-disaster-japans-tragedy-becomes-more-serious->

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Garver, John IS CHINA PLAYING A DUAL GAME IN IRAN? (Washington Quarterly, vol. 34, no. 1, Winter 2011, pp. 75-88)

Garver, professor at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology, notes that, over the past decade, China has cooperated with U.S. efforts at the U.N. to keep Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. At the same time, China has delayed passage of Security Council resolutions, giving Iran valuable time, and has watered down many of the sanctions. Garver writes that China may be playing a dual game in the Persian Gulf, because Beijing has contradictory interests; it wants to maintain amicable relations with the U.S., which it sees as key to China’s continuing economic growth, but at the same time, cultivates a relationship with Iran to obtain access to its energy supplies. Garver believes that there is an “anti-hegemony” aspect to China’s policy, which fits in with the oil explanation; a nuclear-armed Iran would accrue benefits to Beijing, because it would force the U.S. to concentrate its military presence in the Persian Gulf, and not East Asia. He notes there is also a train of thought among Chinese analysts that China sympathizes with Iran, because China itself has been the target of U.S. “interference” and sanctions. Available online at http://www.twq.com/11winter/docs/11winter_Garver.pdf

Marx, Daniel NORTH AFRICA’S CONSTITUTIONS AT THE 50-YEAR MARK: AN ANALYSIS OF THEIR EVOLUTION (Journal of North African Studies, vol. 15, no. 4, December 2010, pp. 481-495)

The author, with the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the Autónoma University of Madrid, notes that the constitutions of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia have undergone myriad changes in the half century since independence. The frequency of the changes give the impression of instability, or the inability of the Maghreb governments to find the correct formula. The changes do not necessarily indicate that the countries are moving on a constitutionalist path, as many of them were made in response to political developments, or to ensure the rulers’ survival. The author remarks that this continual process of revision does point to a surprising respect for the constitutional process by even authoritarian rulers, who feel they must act within a constitutional framework, even if for self-serving purposes. Though constitutional reform has largely been cosmetic and stagnated, the author notes that civil society and the media are playing a growing role in calling for fundamental, large-scale reforms.

Mearsheimer, John IMPERIAL BY DESIGN (National Interest, January-February 2011)

Mearsheimer, R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, writes that in the early years after the end of the Cold War, the U.S. was optimistic about the future of international politics, having emerged as the most powerful country on earth. For the past two decades, U.S. grand strategy has been to bring democracy to less-developed nations the world over, remaking them in America’s image. The results, he notes, have been “disastrous” — the U.S. is bogged down in two protracted wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, with no end in sight; we have been unable to resolve other foreign-policy challenges, such

as shutting down Iran's uranium-enrichment program or preventing North Korea from obtaining nuclear weapons. In addition, our global military reach has spawned a massive national-security apparatus that has the potential to undermine civil liberties. Mearsheimer writes that our current downward spiral was not inevitable – “we have always had a choice in how to approach grand strategy.” He argues that our interests would be best served by resorting to offshore balancing, the strategy for most of U.S. history, in which our efforts are concentrated in a few strategically important areas, ensuring that rivals elsewhere are forced to concentrate in their respective regions. Currently available online at <http://nationalinterest.org/article/imperial-by-design-4576>

Staniland, Paul CAUGHT IN THE MUDDLE: AMERICA'S PAKISTAN STRATEGY (Washington Quarterly, vol. 34, no. 1, Winter 2011, pp. 133-148)

In the spring of 2009, the Obama administration put Pakistan at the center of its foreign policy agenda, as decisions made by Islamabad will have a major influence on the outcome of U.S. presence in Afghanistan. Staniland, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, notes that, despite significant effort, the strategy pursued by the administration has not accomplished its ambitious goals. He writes that “U.S. policy toward Pakistan remains locked in an uncomfortable limbo awaiting further movement on U.S. commitments to Afghanistan, India—Pakistan relations, and domestic Pakistani politics.” The U.S. is subject to Pakistani influence as long as we have a large combat presence in Afghanistan. Staniland argues that the U.S. should focus its development assistance on engaging democratic leaders and civil society, and improving infrastructure and trade, and not try to fundamentally change Pakistani society. He writes, “It is unrealistic to expect a full escape from this muddle ... [but we] can achieve core goals with a mix of containment, diplomacy, and aid, while avoiding expansive, enervating commitments of dubious value.” Currently available online at http://www.twq.com/11winter/docs/11winter_Staniiland.pdf

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Bingham, Remica L. BETWEEN SUNSHINE & CLAY: AN INTERVIEW WITH LUCILLE CLIFTON (Writer's Chronicle, February 2011)

Eminent African-American poet Louise Clifton, who wrote sensitively and sensuously about history, womanhood and spirituality, died in 2010. In this interview she says that truth-telling is an important part of her poetry, as is using “the most precise, the most responsible word.” The interview, which is accompanied by several of Clifton's poems, reveals a woman who was extraordinary in many ways, while remaining ordinary where it counted.

Brinkley, Douglas FRONTIER PROPHETS (Audubon, November-December 2010)

This biographer of Theodore Roosevelt and his conservationism profiles prescient conservationist William Temple Hornaday and his alliance with Roosevelt to save Alaskan flora and fauna. Hornaday's 1913 book OUR VANISHING WILDLIFE, was an early alert about global species destruction. The Roosevelt-Hornaday crusade had victories and failures in species protection, but it inspired conservationists through the 20th century, and achieved the creation of the Arctic Refuge, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Craig, David J. GRAVE DECISIONS (Columbia Magazine, Winter 2010-2011, pp. 20-25)

Columbia psychologist Sheena Iyengar applies her expertise in human decision making to the most difficult question of all: the way we die. There's considerable debate among bioethicists about whether patients and their families in the U.S. and other industrialized nations receive too

little guidance in making difficult medical decisions. The American medical system, in this regard, is more typical than the French system. In France, doctors adhere to a traditional set of ethical guidelines that date back to the time of Hippocrates and hold that patients are incapable of acting in their best interest. Doctors throughout the West tended to subscribe to this view until the 1960s and 1970s, when the idea took root that patients are in the best position to choose their own treatment. In the U.S. and many European countries, a series of court cases formalized the doctrine of informed consent, requiring doctors to detail all treatment options, along with their potential benefits and risks, and to obtain patient permission before administering care.

DuLac, J. Freedom MUSIC WHERE THEY LIVE (Washington Post Magazine, January 16, 2011, pp. 12-19)

Singer Mary McBride wants to play “for people who might not ordinarily get a chance to hear live music.” The woman has performed at places as diverse as the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, a women’s shelter, a halfway house, a VA hospital and a low-income housing complex for Native Americans in Gallup, New Mexico, all part of what she calls her “Home Tour.” McBride wanted to visit places that are in some way providing shelter to people in need. Outside of a couple of club dates and fundraisers, all of the “Home Tour” concerts are free, with no real potential for merchandise or album sales. Financing is an ongoing issue but McBride believes that she is making a mark in other people’s lives by allowing people to take a pause from their daily struggles.

Liasson, Mara UTAH’S NEW IMMIGRATION LAW: A MODEL FOR AMERICA? (National Public Radio, March 18, 2011)

After the state of Arizona passed tough laws penalizing undocumented immigrants, other states have contemplated similar legislation. However, Utah, one of the most conservative states in the country, recently passed immigration laws that show Republicans can pursue a more moderate course. Utah’s governor Gary Herbert signed a package of laws -- one an enforcement bill milder than Arizona’s, the second a guest-worker bill that would allow undocumented immigrants to work and drive without fear of deportation. While many conservatives decry the guest-worker bill as amnesty, Utah elected officials who drafted the law say they are only trying to deal with reality. The 11 million illegal immigrants who are living in the U.S. have jobs, own property, have financial obligations and are paying taxes; deporting them all is not going to happen. Says one immigration-reform advocate, “the Utah legislation is a very rough draft of what we call comprehensive immigration reform at the national level”, noting that this should spur the Obama administration to do something. Available online at <http://www.npr.org/2011/03/18/134626178/utahs-new-immigration-law-a-model-for-america>

Menéndez, Ana THE BILINGUAL IMAGINATION (Poets & Writers, January/February 2011)

Novelist Ana Menéndez writes of the value and symbolism of language and its significance in cultures beyond being a means of communication. Bilingualism as a path to breadth of understanding and cultural empathy is explored, as is the emotional, political and cultural potency of language. Authors Jorge Luis Bourges and Italo Calvino are referenced as two who envisioned a goal of cataloguing all knowledge well before Google made this its mission, as a lead into Menéndez’ discussion of how their perspectives helped spark enthusiasm for writing after a fallow phase. Her discussion of her own writing process is as interesting as her observations about imagination and language.

**If you have any questions or want to reach the full text, please contact the
American Information Resource Center at 312-4577277.**