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SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS

NATIONALITY RIGHTS FOR ALL: A PROGRESS REPORT AND GLOBAL SURVEY ON STATELESSNESS. Refugees International. March 11, 2009.

The world community is no longer silent about statelessness. In recent years, countries such as Bangladesh, Estonia, Mauritania, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have made significant strides to protect the rights of stateless persons. The response of the United Nations (UN) has improved. Non-governmental agencies, legal experts, affected individuals, and others are joining forces to gather more accurate information and reduce the incidence of this often overlooked global phenomenon. Nonetheless, some 12 million people around the world are still stateless, and progress toward ending the problem is limited and slow. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.refugeesinternational.org/sites/default/files/RI%20Stateless%20Report_FINAL_031109.pdf [PDF format, 68 pages].

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD FOR 2008. International Narcotics Control Board, United Nations. February 19, 2009.

The report provides an analysis of the drug control situation worldwide to help governments keep in touch with existing and potential situations that could endanger the objectives of international drug control treaties. The report draws the attention of governments to gaps and weaknesses in national control and treaty compliance. It also sets out recommendations for improvements at both national and international level. [Note: contains copyright material].
http://www.incb.org/pdf/annual-report/2008/en/AR_08_English.pdf [PDF format, 150 pages].

SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE: HOW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE COPING WITH THE GLOBAL CRISIS. World Bank. March 8, 2009.

Developing countries face a financing shortfall of \$270-700 billion this year, as private sector creditors shun emerging markets, and only one quarter of the most vulnerable countries have the resources to prevent a rise in poverty, the World Bank said.

The international financial institutions cannot by themselves currently cover the shortfall, which includes public and private debt and trade deficits, for these 129 countries, even at the lower end of the range. A solution will require governments, multilateral institutions, and the private sector. [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/NEWS/Resources/swimmingagainstthetide-march2009.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

THE EUROPE SYNDROME AND THE CHALLENGE TO AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM. American Enterprise Institute. Charles Murray. March 16, 2009.

The author sees President Obama and his leading intellectuals as the American equivalent of Europe's social democrats. The report discusses pros and cons of the European way and argues that "America's elite must once again fall in love again with what makes America different." [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://american.com/archive/2009/march-2009/the-europe-syndrome-and-the-challenge-to-american-exceptionalism> [HTML format, various paging].

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS: IMPACT ON AND RESPONSE BY THE EUROPEAN UNION. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. March 9, 2009.

Both the European Union (EU) and the United States are attempting to resolve the financial crisis while stimulating domestic demand to stem the economic downturn. Within the U. S., Congress has appropriated funds to help recapitalize financial institutions, and adopted several economic stimulus measures. Unlike the U.S., however, where the federal government can legislate policies that are consistent across all 50 States, the EU process gives each EU member a great deal of discretion to decide how they will regulate and supervise financial markets within their borders. The limits of this system may well be tested as the EU and others search for a regulatory framework that spans a broad number of national markets.
http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40415_20090309.pdf [PDF format, 36 pages].

RESOLVING THE CRISIS OVER CONSTITUTIONAL INTERPRETATION IN AFGHANISTAN. U.S. Institute of Peace. John Dempsey and J. Alexander Thier. March 2009.

According to the authors, the current political crisis over elections in Afghanistan stems, in part, from a fundamental gap in Afghanistan's legal and political system. Without a clear path to settling constitutional disagreements, the system becomes deadlocked as dispute arise, exacerbating tensions between Afghanistan's fragile institutions and factionalized political elite. Filling this gap in Afghanistan's constitutional system is of paramount importance to stabilizing the

political system. [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://library.usip.org/articles/1012134.1066/1.PDF> [PDF format, 11 pages].

INFORMATION, EXTERNALITIES AND SOCIOECONOMICS OF MALARIA IN HONDURAS: A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS. Inter-American Development Bank. Maria Victoria Aviles and Jose Cuesta. Web posted March 2009.

The paper explores how different levels of knowledge correlate with desirable preventive and curative practices against malaria in Honduras. It also analyzes “information externalities” associated with non-specific malaria health services, communicational campaigns and organized community networks. Differences in behavior across groups with different levels of proficiency were found statistically significant. While information externalities exist, they nonetheless do not deliver adequate levels of knowledge proficiency to induce desirable anti-malaria behavior.

[Note: contains copyright material].
<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=1904479> [PDF format, 19 pages].

STATEMENT OF TOM DIAZ AT THE HEARING “MONEY, GUNS, AND DRUGS: ARE U.S. INPUTS FUELING VIOLENCE ON THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER?” Violence Policy Center. Tom Diaz. March 12, 2009.

Weak regulation of the U.S. civilian gun market and the gun industry’s focus on increasingly lethal military-style firearms have combined to fuel the drug war in Mexico and violence in the United States, Tom Diaz told a Congressional subcommittee. Diaz pointed out that officials of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) have stated that Mexican drug lords increasingly seek military-style weapons easily available on the U.S. civilian market.

[Note: contains copyright material].
<http://www.vpc.org/diaztestify.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].

CHARACTERISTICS OF MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS, 2008. Bureau of Labor Statistics. March 11, 2009.

According to Current Population Survey estimates for 2008, 75.3 million American workers age 16 and over were paid at hourly rates, representing 58.2 percent of all wage and salary workers. On July 24, 2008, the Federal minimum wage increased to \$6.55 per hour from \$5.85 per hour. Data in the report reflect the average number of workers earning the prevailing Federal minimum wage or less for the year (those who earned \$5.85 or less from January 2008 through July 2008 and those who earned \$6.55 or less from August 2008 through the end of the year).

<http://www.bls.gov/cps/minwage2008.htm> [HTML format, Various paging].

CONTAMINATED COAL WASTE. Natural Resources Defense Council. March 12, 2009.

Proposed coal plants across the United States would produce nearly 18 million tons of dangerous waste, including toxic metals, each year, says the report. Nearly 130 million tons of coal waste from existing plants is being produced annually, most of which is disposed of in largely unregulated landfills, ponds and other locations, posing serious public health and environmental risks. The 15 states that would be the biggest polluters have proposals for 54 coal plants and would create nearly 14 million tons of dangerous waste.

[Note: contains copyright material].
<http://www.nrdc.org/energy/coalwaste/> [HTML format, various paging].

ENGLISH LITERACY OF FOREIGN-BORN ADULTS IN THE UNITED STATES: 2003. National Center for Education Statistics. Siri Warkentien et al. Web posted March 17, 2009.

The brief draws on data from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) to explore the English literacy of foreign-born adults living in households in the United States. It presents the

English literacy scores of foreign-born adults age 16 and older by race/ethnicity, age of arrival in the United States, years spent in the United States, highest level of educational attainment, and language spoken before starting school. Scores are reported on three literacy scales: prose, document, and quantitative. Findings indicate that English literacy scores of foreign-born adults varied across a variety of background characteristics.

[Note: contains copyright material].

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009034.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].

HEALTH CARE, HEALTH INSURANCE, AND THE RELATIVE INCOME OF THE ELDERLY AND NONELDERLY. Center for Retirement Research, Boston College. Gary Burtless and Pavel Svaton. March 2009.

Most American families are covered by an insurance plan that pays for some or all of the health care they consume. Only a comparatively small percentage of families pay for the full cost of insurance out of their cash incomes. As health care has claimed a growing share of consumption, the percentage of care that is financed out of household incomes has declined. Because health care consumption is more important for some groups in the population than others, the growth in spending and changes in the payment system for medical care have reduced the value of standard income measures for assessing relative incomes across age groups and across the income distribution. More than a seventh of total personal consumption now consists of health care that is purchased with government insurance and employer contributions to employee health plans. Standard income measures imply that households with an aged household head have significantly lower average and median incomes than households with a head who is less than 55. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Working_Papers/wp_2009-10.pdf [PDF format, 60 pages].

THE IMPACT OF LAWS REQUIRING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT FOR ABORTION: A LITERATURE REVIEW. Guttmacher Institute. Amanda Dennis et al. March 2009.

Laws requiring parental involvement in minors' abortions, promoted by their proponents as a way of encouraging parent-child communication and lowering the teen abortion rate, appear to do little to reduce teen abortion or pregnancy rates, according to the report. The new analysis suggests that while having little impact on the abortion rate, these laws force many teens to navigate complicated judicial bypass systems to obtain waivers or to seek abortions in a state without parental involvement requirements. These barriers delay access to the procedure, reducing safety and resulting in later, more costly abortions.

[Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/ParentalInvolvementLaws.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages].

INFORMING DECISIONS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE. National Research Council. March 2009.

Many state and local officials and private organizations are basing decisions, such as how to build bridges or manage water supplies, on the assumption that current climate conditions will continue, but that assumption is no longer valid, according to the report. The report recommends six principles that all agencies should follow in supporting decision makers who are facing the effects of climate change. For example, agencies' efforts should be driven by the needs of end users in the field, not by scientific research priorities. And agencies should create close ties between the scientists who produce climate change information and the practitioners who use it.

[Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12626 [HTML format with links to PDF files].

INTEGRATING U.S. CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND TRANSPORTATION POLICIES: PROCEEDINGS OF THREE WORKSHOPS. RAND Corporation. Liisa Ecola et al. March 2009.

The three workshops brought together representatives of government, industry, advocacy groups, and the research community who hold different perspectives on what the goals of climate change mitigation policy should be and which strategies should be implemented to achieve them. Addressing the interconnection of climate change mitigation policy with the key sectors of energy and transportation will be major challenges for the United States in the coming years. The report organizes the key themes of the workshops by topic, in particular, pointing out areas of agreement as well as disagreement. [Note: contains copyright material].
http://www.rand.org/pubs/conf_proceedings/2009/RAND_CF256.pdf [PDF format, 54 pages].

THE JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT DEMONSTRATION: CULMINATING REPORT ON THE EVALUATION. National Institute of Justice. February 2009.

The Judicial Oversight Demonstration (JOD) was designed to test the feasibility and impact of a coordinated response to intimate partner violence (IPV) that involved the courts and justice agencies in a central role. A national evaluation of JOD began in 2000 with the start of demonstration activities and continued throughout and beyond the intervention period. The report presents an overview of the entire evaluation and presents specific findings from the three JOD sites and from comparison sites.
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/224201.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

MANY WOULD SHRUG IF THEIR LOCAL NEWSPAPER CLOSED. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Andrew Kohut and Michael Remez. March 12, 2009.

As many newspapers struggle to stay economically viable, fewer than half of Americans (43%) say that losing their local newspaper would hurt civic life in their community “a lot.” Even fewer (33%) say they would personally miss reading the local newspaper a lot if it were no longer available. Not unexpectedly, those who get local news regularly from newspapers are much more likely than those who read less often to see the potential shutdown of a local paper as a significant loss. [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/497.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

A NEW CHARTER FOR AMERICAN CITIES: 10 RIGHTS TO RESTRAIN GOVERNMENT AND PROTECT FREEDOM. Goldwater Institute. March 11, 2009.

There are almost 90,000 local governments in America, with an average of one new local government born each day. Few are models of limited government restrained by a system of checks and balances. Often they are unaccountable, and special interest-driven, according to the study. Facing a maze of regulations and powerful local bureaucracies, ordinary citizens often can't fight City Hall. The study recommends enacting a “Local Liberty Charter” consisting of 10 judicially enforceable rights to rein-in out-of-control local governments. [Note: contains copyright material].
<https://www.goldwaterinstitute.org/Common/lmg/031109%20Local%20Liberty%20Charter.pdf> [PDF format, 91 pages].

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. March 10, 2009.

Dioceses spent more than \$23 million nationwide in 2008 to prevent child sexual abuse, an increase of two million dollars from 2007. The report also found that virtually all U.S. dioceses and eparchies are compliant with the 17-point Charter, which was adopted by the U.S. bishops in 2002. Most recent reports of abuse concerned alleged offenses from 1965-74, 35 to 40 years ago and most alleged offenders are dead or out of the ministry [Note: contains copyright material].
http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/audit_report_2008t.pdf [PDF format, 87 pages].

RURAL BROADBAND AT A GLANCE: 2009 EDITION. U.S. Department of Agriculture. March 2009.

Three-quarters of U.S. residents used the Internet to access information, education, and services in 2007. Broadband Internet access is becoming essential for both businesses and households; many compare its evolution to other technologies now considered common necessities, such as cars, electricity, televisions, microwave ovens, and cell phones. Although rural residents enjoy widespread access to the Internet, they are less likely to have high-speed, or broadband, Internet access than their urban counterparts. Circumstantial evidence suggests that the difference in access may lie in the higher cost and limited availability of broadband Internet in rural areas. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB47/EIB47.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

STATE OF THE NEWS MEDIA. Pew Project for excellence in Journalism. March 2009.

The study provides both aggregated and original research on the eight major sectors of media—newspapers, online, network; cable, local and network TV; magazines; radio and ethnic. It also includes special reports on the Year in the News, lessons from the 2008 election, an analysis of citizen media sites and more. [Note: contains copyright material]. <http://www.stateofthenewsmedia.org/2009/index.htm> [HTML format with PDF links].

STATUS VERSUS GROWTH: THE DISTRIBUTIONAL EFFECTS OF SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY. Urban Institute. Helen F. Ladd and Douglas L. Lauen. March 2009.

Using a ten-year student-level panel dataset from North Carolina, the authors examine how school-specific pressure related to two school accountability approaches, status and growth, affects student achievement at different points in the prior-year achievement distribution. The report finds little or no evidence that schools in North Carolina ignore students far below proficiency under either approach. Further, the status, but not the growth, approach reduces the reading achievement of higher performing students, with the losses in aggregate exceeding gains at the bottom. The distributional effects of accountability pressure depend on the type of accountability pressure and on the tested subject. [Note: contains copyright material]. http://www.caldercenter.org/PDF/1001260_status_vs_growth.pdf [PDF format, 53 pages].

ARCTIC NATIONS TAKE IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARDS SAVING POLAR BEARS. World Wildlife Federation. March 19, 2009.

Five nations committed by treaty to conserve polar bears have come up with a resolution linking the future of the species to urgent global action on climate change. “We are very encouraged by the final declaration from this meeting,” says Geoff York, polar bear coordinator for WWF International’s Arctic Programme. [Note: contains copyright material]. <http://www.panda.org/?159441/Arctic-nations-take-important-first-step-towards-saving-polar-bears> [HTML format, various paging].

THE EFFECTS OF POPULATION STRUCTURE ON EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Herve Boulho. March 17, 2009.

The paper assesses the quantitative importance of the working-age population broken down by age, gender and education in explaining differences in employment and productivity levels across countries. [Note: contains copyright material]. [http://www.oilis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000EB2/\\$FILE/JT03261355.PDF](http://www.oilis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000EB2/$FILE/JT03261355.PDF) [PDF

MEDIA PORTRAYALS OF SUICIDE. PLoS Medicine. March 17, 2009

The available evidence suggests that media portrayals are more likely to be associated with suicidal behavior when they are prominent on the page, appear in multiple places, report celebrity deaths, and are based on real rather than fictional suicides. To reduce the risk of copycat suicides, several organizations, such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Samaritans, have issued guidelines to the media on safe reporting of suicides. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://medicine.plosjournals.org/archive/1549-1676/6/3/pdf/10.1371_journal.pmed.1000051-S.pdf [PDF format, 2 pages].

“OIL-FOR-FOOD” WHEN OIL IS DOWN (AND THE RUBLE IS WEAK). American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Leon Aron. March 17, 2009.

Although it contains millions of acres of some of the world's most fertile soil and has implemented the world's largest land privatization reform, Russia imports food in amounts that are inordinately high for a country of its size and per-capita GDP. The reliance on imported meat and poultry is especially large. Already under strain from rampant inflation, a very significant proportion of Russia's population will find its access to food further diminished by deep depreciation of the ruble as well as such inevitable consequences of the crisis as unemployment and still higher inflation. While widespread hunger is not likely, the constraints on food consumption could add yet another perilous dimension to a political crisis that is bound to unfold alongside the economic one. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.aei.org/docLib/20090317_23947ROWinter2009_g.pdf [PDF format, 7 pages].

BURMA: CAPITALIZING ON THE GAINS. Refugees International. March 18, 2009.

In the past year, humanitarian assistance to Burma has been primarily focused on victims of Cyclone Nargis, which struck the Irrawaddy delta on May 2, 2008. Though the initial delivery of assistance was hampered by government obstruction, the aid programs that have since developed in the delta have benefited from an ease of operations unseen in other parts of the country. Relief work in the delta is progressing smoothly, but attempts to expand access to the rest of the country are struggling. Nonetheless, to capitalize on the existing gains, the U.S. should provide significant funding for programs throughout the country, the report suggests.

<http://www.refugeesinternational.org/sites/default/files/Burma031809.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEF: MEXICO. Energy Information Administration. March 2009.

In 2008, Mexico was the seventh-largest oil producer in the world, and the third-largest in the Western Hemisphere. State-owned Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) holds a monopoly on oil production in the country and is one of the largest oil companies in the world. However, oil production in the country has begun to decrease, as production at the giant Cantarell field declines. The oil sector is a crucial component of Mexico's economy: while its relative importance to the general Mexican economy has declined, the oil sector still generates over 15 percent of the country's export earnings. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Mexico/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

LAND TITLES AND CONFLICTS IN GUATEMALA. Inter-American Development Bank, Johns Hopkins University. March 2009.

The paper analyzes the impact of formal property rights on plot use and credit access in 20 communities in Guatemala, and shows how these impacts differ depending on the community conflict context. The paper proposes a new instrument based on detailed information about the geographic location of the plots and historical titling processes to address the concerns that are common in the property rights literature. The paper sheds light on whether the effect of land titles on plot use and credit access varies with the prevalence of conflicts and different types of conflict resolution mechanisms. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=1917649> [PDF format, 28 pages].

2008 DONORCENTRICS INTERNET GIVING BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS. Target Analytics. Helen Flannery et al. March 2009.

The key findings from the Analysis indicate that over the past few years, online giving has become an increasingly significant source of new donor acquisition, and integrating online and offline fundraising channels is key to long term success. [Note: contains copyright material]. <http://www.blackbaud.com/files/resources/downloads/cam/TargetInternetGivingSummary2008.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

ACROSS THE STATES: PROFILES OF LONG-TERM CARE AND INDEPENDENT LIVING. American Association of Retired Persons. March 2009.

The eighth edition of the state long-term care reference report aims to help inform policy discussions among public and private sector leaders in long-term care throughout the United States. It presents comparable state-level and national data for more than 140 indicators, drawn together from a wide variety of sources into a single convenient reference. [Note: contains copyright material]. http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/d19105_2008_atc.pdf [PDF format, 368 pages].

THE CAPABILITIES THAT MEDIUM-ARMORED FORCES BRING TO THE FULL SPECTRUM OF OPERATIONS. RAND Corporation. David E. Johnson et al. March 2009.

The study assesses the performance of medium-armored forces in 13 past conflicts, to better understand their unique capabilities and inform decisions about the Future Force. [Note: contains copyright material]. http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2009/RAND_RB9416.pdf [PDF format, 5 pages].

CLIMATE LITERACY: THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATE SCIENCE. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. March 2009.

The guide is to help individuals of all ages understand how climate influences them and how they influence climate. "As climate policy is being discussed, it is very important for the citizens of our nation to have an appreciation for some of the fundamental aspects of climate and climate change," said Tom Karl, director of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., and lead for NOAA's climate services. "This guide is a first step for people who want to know more about the essential principles of our climate system, how to better discern scientifically credible information about climate, and how to identify problems related to understanding climate and climate change." <http://climate.noaa.gov/education/pdfs/ClimateLiteracyPoster-8.5x11-March09FinalLR.pdf> [PDF format, 17 pages].

FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO AIG. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Orice M. Williams. March 18, 2009.

The statement provides preliminary findings on (1) the goals and monitoring of federal assistance to American International Group (AIG) and challenges to AIG's repayment of the assistance; and (2) the potential effects of the federal assistance on the U.S. commercial property/casualty insurance market. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09490t.pdf> [PDF format, 23 pages].

IMPROVING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES. Urban Institute. Gina Adams. March 19, 2009.

To improve child care options for working families, federal policymaking must widen its focus to include children from birth to age 5, Gina Adams, an Urban Institute senior fellow, told the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education. Federal attention must also be paid to identifying mechanisms to strengthen service quality. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/901241_ginaadamstestimony03192009.pdf [PDF format, 9 pages].

INNOVATION IN SMALL BUSINESSES: DRIVERS OF CHANGE AND VALUE USE. Office of Advocacy, Small Business Administration. C.J. Isom and David R. Jarczyk. March 2009.

The study examines the patent activity of small businesses. It shows that small businesses outperform their larger counterparts in patent activity, issuance. The study widens the scope of the existing debate by focusing on the effects of drivers of innovation, employee headcount, sales, and R&D expenditures, on small business value.

<http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/rs342tot.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].

MONITORING, VERIFICATION, ACCOUNTING OF CO2 STORED IN DEEP GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS. National Energy Technology Laboratory. Web posted March 2009.

The document examines existing and emerging techniques to monitor, verify, and account for carbon dioxide (CO₂) stored in geologic formations. It is an invaluable tool in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere through geologic sequestration.

http://www.netl.doe.gov/technologies/carbon_seq/refshelf/MVA_Document.pdf [PDF format, 132 pages].

STRANGE BUT TRUE: FREE LOAN FROM SOCIAL SECURITY. Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Alicia H. Munnell et al. March 2009.

Early retirement benefits are lowered by an amount that offsets the longer period for which they will be received. The delayed retirement option offers higher benefits but for a shorter remaining lifetime. Thus, on average, workers will receive the same lifetime benefits regardless of when they claim between the ages of 62 and 70. Recently, several unconventional claiming strategies have come to light, which have the potential to pay higher lifetime benefits to some individuals and increase system costs. The brief focuses on one of these strategies. It outlines the procedure and incentives of employing this strategy and presents estimates of the cost to Social Security under three different scenarios and describes who would gain. It concludes that the estimated annual \$6 billion to \$11 billion cost of allowing free loans from Social Security is likely to increase substantially over time. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_9-6.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

TREATMENT EPISODE DATA SET (TEDS): HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2007. Office of Applied Studies, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. March 17, 2009.

Treatment admissions for prescription pain killer misuse has risen dramatically over the past decade, from constituting 1 percent of all admissions in 1997 to now representing 5 percent, according to the report. It also indicates that although alcohol-related admissions still account for the largest share (40 percent) of the 1.8 million treatment admissions occurring throughout the country during 2007, this reflects a reduction from 50 percent in 1997.

<http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/teds07/tedshigh2k7.pdf> [PDF format, 33 pages].

UNLOCKING CREDIT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES FACT SHEET. U.S. Department of Treasury. March 16, 2009.

The U.S. Department Treasury is taking immediate action to help ensure that credit, the lifeblood of America's small businesses and its economy, gets flowing again to entrepreneurs and

business owners. As another part of the Consumer and Business Lending Initiative, the Treasury Department will, by the end of the month, begin making direct purchases of securities backed by SBA loans to get the credit market moving again, and it will stand ready to purchase new securities to ensure that community banks and credit unions feel confident in extending new loans to local businesses.

<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/tg58.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

FAMILY PLANNING SAVES LIVES. Population Reference Bureau. Rhonda Smith et al. March 2009.

Family planning is a lifesaver for millions of women and children in developing countries according to the report. It provides valuable information to policymakers, program planners, and journalists on the health benefits of family planning. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.prb.org/pdf09/familyplanningsaveslives.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages].

A GOOD TIME FOR MAKING WORK PAY? TAKING STOCK OF IN-WORK BENEFITS AND RELATED MEASURES ACROSS THE OECD. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Herwig Immervoll and Mark Pearson. March 20, 2009.

The paper discusses the rationale for in-work benefits, summarizes the main design features of programs operated in OECD countries, and provides an update of what is known about their effectiveness in terms of reducing inequalities and creating employment. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.oalis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000EF6/\\$FILE/JT03261605.PDF](http://www.oalis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000EF6/$FILE/JT03261605.PDF) [PDF format, 59 pages].

GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION VOLATILITY AND THE SIZE OF NATIONS. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. David Furceri et al. March 19, 2009.

The paper analyzes the relation between the volatility of government consumption and country size. Using a sample of 160 countries from 1960 to 2000 the main findings of the empirical analysis suggests that: 1) smaller countries have more volatile non-discretionary and discretionary government consumption, and also a more volatile government size; 2) the relation between government spending volatility and the size of a country is more negative for more volatile economies; 3) the relation between government consumption volatility and country size is more negative for functions of government spending that are characterized by a high level on non-rivality. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.oalis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000EF2/\\$FILE/JT03261522.PDF](http://www.oalis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000EF2/$FILE/JT03261522.PDF) [PDF format, 35 pages].

CONDUCTING ELECTIONS IN DARFUR: LOOKING AHEAD TO SUDAN'S 2009 ELECTIONS. U.S. Institute of Peace. Stephanie Schwartz. March 2009.

The 2005 Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between North and South Sudan requires elections across all levels, local, state and national, by July 2009. The National Election Act, passed in July 2008, was supposed to be enacted in 2006. The National Election Commission was only appointed in late 2008, and the census, meant to be completed by July 2007, was undertaken in April/May 2008 but results have yet to be released. As the CPA deadline for elections approaches, the question of how Darfur can and should participate remains unclear. The region is still experiencing violent conflict, with millions displaced and living in IDP camps and refugee camps in neighboring Chad. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://library.usip.org/articles/1012138.1072/1.PDF> [PDF format, 13 pages].

SAUDI-IRANIAN RELATIONS SINCE THE FALL OF SADDAM: RIVALRY, COOPERATION, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY. RAND Corporation. Frederic Wehrey et al. March 2009.

The often tense relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran has been at the center of many of the major political shifts that have occurred in the Middle East since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. The study documents how relations between the two powers have unfolded in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine from 2003 through January 2009. It details the complex and multidimensional relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran and its implications for regional stability and U.S. interests. The study concludes with U.S. policy recommendations for leveraging the Saudi-Iranian relationship, particularly in the context of a U.S. drawdown in Iraq, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the Iranian nuclear issue. [Note: contains copyright material]. http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG840.pdf [PDF format, 158 pages].

AIG EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS. House Committee on Financial Services, U.S. House of Representatives. March 18, 2009.

House Committee on Financial Services puts up AIG Financial Group's 2008 Employee Retention Plan, Confirmation and Acknowledgement, and Schedule to the Master Agreement contracts on its website. http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/financialsvcs_dem/press031809.shtml [HTML format with links].

CHARACTERISTICS OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES: RESULTS FROM THE 2007-2008 PRIVATE SCHOOL UNIVERSE SURVEY. U.S. Department of Education. Stephen P. Broughman et al. March 2009.

The report presents data on private schools in the United States for grades kindergarten through twelve by selected characteristics such as school size, school level, religious orientation, geographic region, urban city type, and program emphasis <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009313.pdf> [PDF format, 54 pages].

CHARTER SCHOOLS IN EIGHT STATES: EFFECTS ON ACHIEVEMENT, ATTAINMENT, INTEGRATION, AND COMPETITION. RAND Corporation. Ron Zimmer et al. March 2009.

The most promising results for charter schools relate to the long-term outcomes of high-school graduation and college entry. In the two locations with available data on these critical attainment outcomes, Chicago and Florida, charter high schools appear to have substantial positive impacts, increasing the probability of graduating by 7 to 15 percentage points and increasing the probability of enrolling in college by 8 to 10 percentage points. Across locations, charter schools do not appear to produce effects that substantially help or harm student achievement in nearby traditional public schools, according to the report. [Note: contains copyright material]. http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG869.pdf [PDF format, 162 pages].

COMMUNITY COLLEGES: A ROUTE OF UPWARD ECONOMIC MOBILITY. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Natalia Kolesnikova. March 2009.

Of all U.S. undergraduates, community college students constitute 46 percent. Given the significant role community colleges play in U.S. higher education, it is important to have as much information as possible about community college students, their goals, educational choices and outcomes, says the report. It takes a look at community colleges compared to traditional, four-year colleges, the advantages, the types of students, the economic returns and the students' educational objectives. It also looks at whether a community college education affects a person's chances of obtaining a more advanced degree and whether students who receive an associate

degree prior to obtaining a bachelor's degree have different educational and labor market outcomes than their counterparts who do not have an associate degree. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://stlouisfed.org/community/assets/pdf/CommunityColleges.pdf> [PDF format, 29 pages].

CRISIS IN THE KINDERKARTEN: WHY CHILDREN NEED TO PLAY IN SCHOOL. Alliance for Childhood. Edward Miller and Joan Almon. March 2009.

The research shows that many kindergartens spend 2 to 3 hours per day instructing and testing children in literacy and math, with only 30 minutes per day or less for play. In some kindergartens there is no playtime at all. The same didactic, test-driven approach is entering preschools. But these methods, which are not well grounded in research, are not yielding long-term gains. Meanwhile, behavioral problems and preschool expulsion, especially for boys, are soaring, according to the report. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten_report.pdf [PDF format, 72 pages].

EVERY STUDENT COUNTS: THE ROLE OF FEDERAL POLICY IN IMPROVING GRADUATE RATE ACCOUNTABILITY. Alliance for Excellent Education. Eric Richmond. March 2009.

The brief describes how federal policy has progressed from early attempts to simply calculate an agreed-upon high school graduation rate to present-day efforts aimed at using commonly defined rates as part of a refined accountability system to drive school improvement. The brief also includes a national and state-by-state analysis of the impact of the graduation rate regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Education. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.all4ed.org/files/ESC_FedPolicyGRA.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages].

THE HOUSING CRASH RECESSION AND THE CASE FOR A THIRD STIMULUS. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Dean Baker. March 2009.

The paper makes the case for a third stimulus package to in the face of economic indicators signaling that the economy is in a deeper downturn than was expected based on previous projections. Specifically, the report calls for an employer tax-credit for extending health care coverage and another per worker employer tax credit for increasing paid time off from work. The author also makes the case for a housing policy centered on the stabilization of prices in non-bubble and deflated markets rather than applying the same efforts on markets that remain at bubble inflated levels. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/housing-crash-recession-2009-03.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

INDUSTRIES STORM STATES OVER CLIMATE CHANGE. National Institute on Money in State Politics. Tyler Evilsizer. March 18, 2009.

As the climate change debate heats up in the states, those with a keen interest in the issue have turned up the pressure to make sure their voices are heard in the lawmaking process. Between 2003 and 2007, energy-related companies contributed \$151 million to state-level politics; chambers of commerce, manufacturers and pro-business organizations gave an additional \$31.4 million. In sharp contrast, environmental organizations and alternative energy companies contributed only \$26 million. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.followthemoney.org/press/Reports/INDUSTRIES_STORM_STATES_OVER_CLIMATE_CHANGE.pdf?PHPSESSID=2750c9f760cea6d5c88c50026cb55c2b [PDF format, 36 pages].

INSPECTORS GENERAL: ACCOUNTABILITY IS A BALANCING ACT. Project on Government Oversight. March 20, 2009.

The report considers the factors affecting Inspector Generals' independence, and determines some of the best practices, policies, and changes in the law necessary to bring the system into optimal balance between the two essential values of independence and accountability. It focuses on holding IGs accountable both for their conduct and the quality of their work. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.pogoarchives.org/m/go/ig/accountability/ig-accountability-20090320.pdf> [PDF format, 53 pages].

IS IT TIME TO RETHINK U.S. ENTRY AND EXIT PROCESSES? RAND Corporation. C. Richard Neu. March 2009.

Managing the entry and exit of individual travelers at U.S. borders is an important aspect of border and homeland security, particularly given the longstanding difficulties the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. border protection apparatus has had in meeting legislatively mandated standards for identifying travelers and documenting their arrivals and departures. The paper outlines a number of questions regarding current entry and exit policies and procedures the answers to which may lead to helpful modifications. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2009/RAND_OP235.pdf [PDF format, 23 pages].

LEVIATHAN'S DRUG PROBLEM: FEDERAL MONOPOLY OF PHARMACEUTICAL REGULATION AND ITS DEADLY COST. Pacific Research Institute. John R. Graham. March 2009.

The research report reviews three decades of the Food and Drug Administration's performance and concludes that the agency is overfunded, overstaffed, and denies hundreds of thousands of Americans timely access to new medicines. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://liberty.pacificresearch.org/docLib/20090319_Leviathan_Drug_Problem.pdf [PDF format, 55 pages].

ONGOING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP (AIG). Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Baird Webel. March 16, 2009.

In the beginning of 2008, American International Group (AIG) was one of the world's largest insurers, generally considered to be financially sound with an AA credit rating. By the end of the year, it had undergone a near bankruptcy and had been forced to seek up to \$173.4 billion in financial assistance from the U.S. government. In addition to possible continuing losses on AIG's derivative portfolio, the ongoing weakness in the economy may weigh heavily on AIG's future results. It is not clear whether the ongoing government involvement in AIG might strengthen or weaken AIG's core insurance business, as consumers could conclude that their policy with AIG is safe due to the government involvement or they could conclude that their policy with AIG is more risky since the government could change the terms of its involvement at any time.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40438.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].

PRIVATIZING THE PUBLIC TRUST: A CRITICAL LOOK AT CONNECTED NATION. Public Knowledge. March 23, 2009.

Connected Nation conducts mapping and broadband demand surveys around the country through subsidiary organizations. The report argues that Connected Nation's policy restricts the collection and use of information gathered from the telecom companies and other incumbents that make up its board. "Quite simply, Connected Nation's strategy is to accept public funds for collecting information from its sponsors which is then kept largely private, hidden behind strict non-disclosure agreements (NDA). This privatized data gathered with public money is a violation

of the public trust,” says the author. [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://www.publicknowledge.org/pdf/connected-nation-report-20090323.pdf> [PDF format, 49 pages].

RALEIGH AND AUSTIN ARE FASTEST-GROWING METRO AREAS. U.S. Bureau of Census. March 19, 2009.

Raleigh-Cary, N.C., and Austin-Round Rock, Texas, were the nation’s fastest-growing metro areas between 2007 and 2008, according to July 1, 2008, population estimates for the nation’s metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas and counties. Raleigh-Cary saw its population climb 4.3 percent between July 1, 2007, and July 1, 2008, to 1.1 million. Similarly, Austin-Round Rock experienced a 3.8 percent increase, to 1.7 million. These two large metro areas were among 47 of the 50 fastest-growing areas located entirely in the South or West.
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/013426.html> [HTML format, various paging].

STATE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT MISSION GROWTH. Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association. March 16, 2009.

States are employing a host of new education strategies and initiatives to handle the significant growth in the mission of many military bases across the country, according to the issue brief. It highlights a number of strategies states can take to respond effectively to the educational challenges of a growing defense community, including establish collaborative approaches that coordinate education responses and represent diverse stakeholders; adjust educational programs to allow for flexibility; focus on teacher recruitment, retraining and retention strategies; and establish educational programs that support military dependent students and prepare future workforce. [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0903MISSIONGROWTHEDUCATION.PDF> [PDF format, 30 pages].

THE STATE OF THE BIRDS: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 2009. North American Bird Conservation Initiative. Web posted March 19, 2009.

In an unprecedented partnership, government wildlife agencies and conservation groups have come together to produce the first comprehensive analysis of the state of the nation’s birds. The results are sobering: bird populations in many habitats are declining, a warning signal of the failing health of our ecosystems. According to the analysis, in the areas where it has been negligent too long, such as in Hawaii, it is on the verge of losing entire suites of unique and beautiful birds and native plant communities. [Note: contains copyright material].
http://www.stateofthebirds.org/pdf_files/State_of_the_Birds_2009.pdf [PDF format, 36 pages].

TRENDS IN 401(k) PLANS. American Benefits Council. Web posted March 20, 2009.

According to the survey, more than nine out of ten U.S. companies offer an employee 401(k) plan. In addition, despite the widely reported drop in account balances, two-thirds (66 percent) of organizations indicated that at least 70 percent of eligible employees participated in those 401(k) plans in 2008. [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://www.americanbenefitscouncil.org/documents/abc-waw-surveytrends401kplans.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

TRENDS IN TUBERCULOSIS – UNITED STATES, 2008. Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention. March 19, 2009.

In 2008, the number of TB cases and annual TB rate reached all-time lows in the United States. After the resurgence of TB during 1985–1992, the annual TB rate has steadily decreased. However, since 2000, the pace of that decline has slowed. To hasten the decline of TB in the

United States, intensified efforts are required to address the disproportionately high rates of TB that persist among foreign-born persons and racial/ethnic minorities.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5810a2.htm?s_cid=mm5810a2_x [HTML format, various paging].

U.S. SOLAR INDUSTRY YEAR IN REVIEW 2008. Solar Energy Industries Association. March 2009.

The review highlights a third year of record growth. It notes that 1,265 megawatts (MW) of solar power of all types were installed in 2008, bringing total U.S. solar power capacity up 17 percent to 8,775 MW. The 2008 figure included 342 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV), 139 MWTh, thermal equivalent, of solar water heating, 762 MWTh of pool heating and an estimated 21 MW of solar space heating and cooling. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.seia.org/galleries/pdf/2008_Year_in_Review-small.pdf [PDF format, 12 pages].

WHO PAYS FOR CLIMATE POLICY? NEW ESTIMATES OF THE HOUSEHOLD BURDEN AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A U.S. CAP-AND-TRADE SYSTEM. Tax Foundation. Andrew Chamberlain. March 2009.

With climate change legislation becoming a top congressional priority in recent months, the study shows that a cap-and-trade system curbing greenhouse gas emissions would place an annual burden of \$144.8 billion on American households. The average annual household burden would be \$1,218, which would be approximately 2% of the average household income. The author explains that this burden would be disproportionately borne by low-income households, those under age 25 and over 75 years, those in southern states, and single parents with dependent children. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.taxfoundation.org/files/wp6.pdf> [PDF format, 36 pages].

THE CHALLENGES OF ESTABLISHING WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITIES. World Bank. Jamil Salmi. March 20, 2009.

The highest-ranked universities are the ones that make significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge. There is no universal recipe or magic formula for “making” a world class university, says the report. National contexts and institutional models vary widely. Therefore, each country must choose, from among the various possible pathways, a strategy that plays to its strengths and resources. International experience provides a few lessons regarding the key features of such universities, high concentrations of talent, abundance of resources, and flexible governance arrangements, and successful approaches to move in that direction, from upgrading or merging existing institutions to creating new institutions altogether.

[Note: contains copyright material].

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099079956815/547670-1237305262556/WCU.pdf> [PDF format, 136 pages].

CHILD WELL-BEING AND SOLE-PARENT FAMILY STRUCTURE IN THE OECD : AN ANALYSIS. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Simon Chapple. March 23, 2009.

The paper addresses the causal impact of being raised in a sole parent family on child well-being across the OECD. The question is answered by a cross-OECD meta-analysis and a literature review. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000F32/\\$FILE/JT03261729.PDF](http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000F32/$FILE/JT03261729.PDF) [PDF format, 74 pages].

COMPARATIVE INDICATORS OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER G-8 COUNTRIES. National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. David C. Miller et al. March 25, 2009.

The report describes how the education system in the United States compares with education systems in the other G-8 countries--Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom. It draws on the most current information about education from four primary sources: the Indicators of National Education Systems (INES) at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), and the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009039.pdf> Full Report. [PDF format, 119 pages].
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009039> [HTML format with links to individual chapters].

DEATH SENTENCES AND EXECUTIONS IN 2008. Amnesty International. March 24, 2009.

The report provides a world overview on the death penalty. The report found that, in 2008, at least 2390 people were executed in 25 countries and 8,864 people were sentenced to death in 52 countries. Five countries, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the USA, carried out 93% of all executions. Iran executed eight prisoners who were under 18 at the time of the offence, a breach of international law. [Note: contains copyright material].
http://www.amnestyusa.org/abolish/annual_report/DeathSentencesExecutions2008.pdf [PDF format, 30 pages].

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE ON THE SOCIAL CONTEXT OF WELL-BEING. National Bureau of Economic Research. John F. Helliwell et al. February 2009.

The paper uses the first three waves of the Gallup World Poll to investigate differences across countries, cultures and regions in the factors linked to life satisfaction, paying special attention to the social context. It finds that answers to the satisfaction with life are consistent in what constitutes a good life. Further, there is strong evidence for the importance of both income and social context variables in explaining within-country and international differences in well-being. The international similarity of the estimated equations suggests that the large international differences in average life evaluations are not due to different approaches to the meaning of a good life, but to differing social, institutional, and economic life circumstances, according to the paper. [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14720.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages].

AGRICULTURE: FUTURE SCENARIOS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: COUNTRY BRIEFING – NAMIBIA. International Institute for Sustainable Development. Mona Froystad et al. 2009.

The briefing shows that Namibia, a largely arid country, in the face of rising food prices has managed to control these through a conservative price agreement between producers and millers of grain crops and its potential designation as a net food-importing developing country by the WTO may provide it with policy space to increase national food production. [Note: contains copyright material].
http://www.tradeknowledgenetwork.net/pdf/ag_scenarios_south_africa_namibia.pdf [PDF format, 17 pages].

AN ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY IN CHINA. Alliance for American Manufacturing. March 2009.

According to the report, with China now among the world's leading polluters, a real climate change solution can not be achieved unless the Administration and Congress hold China accountable for its reckless environmental practices. It provides in-depth and detailed examination to date of the flaws in China's pollution-control regime and the damage it is doing to human health and global efforts to address climate change. [Note: contains copyright material]. <http://www.americanmanufacturing.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/chinaenvironmental-report-march-2009.pdf> [PDF format, 106 pages].

PENSIONS SYSTEMS FOR THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN ASIA. World Bank. Ed. Landis MacKellar. March 2009.

The paper looks at the experiences of various Asian countries in expanding the coverage of the pension system to informal sector workers. The paper argues that given aging and growing informality, a rapid forward-looking response from governments in the region is necessary to provide protection against the risk of poverty in old age. This risk is particularly acute in the case of informal sector workers, as is the difficulty of reaching them through traditional formal-sector pension approaches. [Note: contains copyright material]. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/03/06/000333038_20090306005144/Rendered/PDF/476790NWP0SP0D10Box338858B01PUBLIC1.pdf [PDF format, 48 pages].

IRAQ: KEY ISSUES FOR CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Web posted March 24, 2009.

Before signing the security agreement with Iraq, the prior administration had linked the drawdown of U.S. forces to the achievement of security, political, economic, and diplomatic conditions. Meeting these conditions would enable the United States to achieve its strategic goal for Iraq: a unified, democratic, and federal Iraq that could govern, defend, and sustain itself and become an ally in the war on terror. Some conditions the United States sought to achieve in Iraq included an improved security situation; more capable Iraqi security forces; improved essential services such as access to clean water and reliable electricity; and the passage of legislation promoting national reconciliation, such as laws governing the distribution of oil revenues and amnesty for former insurgents, says the report. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09294sp.pdf> [PDF format, 56 pages].

RAIN OF FIRE: ISRAEL'S UNLAWFUL USE OF WHITE PHOSPHORUS IN GAZA. Human Rights Watch. March 26, 2008.

The report documents Israel's extensive use of white phosphorus munitions during its 22-day military operations in Gaza, from December 27, 2008 to January 18, 2009. The report concludes that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) repeatedly exploded white phosphorus munitions in the air over populated areas, killing and injuring civilians, and damaging civilian structures, including a school, a market, a humanitarian aid warehouse and a hospital. White phosphorus munitions did not kill the most civilians in Gaza, many more died from missiles, bombs, heavy artillery, tank shells, and small arms fire, but their use in densely populated neighborhoods, including downtown Gaza City, violated international humanitarian law, the laws of war, which requires taking all feasible precautions to avoid civilian harm and prohibits indiscriminate attacks. [Note: contains copyright material]. <http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/iopt0309web.pdf> [PDF format, 75 pages].

ENDING COLOMBIA'S FARC CONFLICT: DEALING THE RIGHT CARD. International Crisis Group. March 26, 2009.

Latin America's oldest guerrilla organization, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), is under severe stress. Close to seven years of the Uribe presidency have hurt the FARC's capability and morale. Thousands of foot soldiers have deserted, bringing the guerrillas' troop strength down by almost half, to perhaps 10,000 today. Still, under its new leader, Alfonso Cano, the FARC has shown renewed internal cohesion and continued capacity to adapt to changes in the security environment. The report recommends that president Uribe should keep military pressure up but emphasize devising a political strategy capable of drawing a weakened but still largely intact FARC into peace talks. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/latin_america/30_ending_colombias_farc_conflict__dealing_the_right_card.pdf [PDF format, 38 pages].

20TH –CENTURY U.S. GENERATIONS. Population Reference Bureau. Elwood Carlson. March 2009.

The myriad decisions people make throughout lives, affect not only individual lives, but public policy and business practices as well. Governments formulate laws and policies about child and health care and Social Security based on the life choices they expect people to make. Private businesses make plans based on the life choices they expect from people as employees and customers. Generational differences in demographic experiences provide some clues about the sources of the generational divide seen in some political, social, and consumption choices.

[Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.prb.org/pdf09/64.1generations.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

2009 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FACTS AND FIGURES. Alzheimer's Association. March 2009.

Total healthcare costs are more than three times higher for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias than for other people age 65 and older, according to the study. Total healthcare costs are calculated as per person payments measured from all sources. Medicare payments alone are almost three times higher for people with Alzheimer's and dementia than for others age 65 and over; Medicaid payments alone are more than nine times higher. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.alz.org/national/documents/report_alzfactsfigures2009.pdf [PDF format, 80 pages].

AT THE BRINK: TRENDS IN AMERICA'S UNINSURED. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. March 22, 2009.

With Congress and the Obama administration discussing how to reform the nation's health care system, the report looks at what has happened since the last significant reform effort ended in 1994 without any comprehensive congressional action. The analysis documents the situation since then. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/20090324ctuw.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].

CLIMATE CHANGE: OBSERVATIONS ON FEDERAL EFFORTS TO ADAPT TO A CHANGING CLIMATE. Testimony, U.S. Government Accountability Office. John Stephenson. March 25, 2009.

Changes in the climate attributable to increased concentrations of greenhouse gases may have significant environmental and economic impacts in the United States. Federal, state, and local agencies are tasked with a wide array of responsibilities that will be affected by a changing climate, such as managing natural resources. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09534t.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].

DRIVEN BY DOLLARS: WHAT STATES SHOULD KNOW WHEN CONSIDERING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO FUND TRANSPORTATION. Pew Center on the States. March 24, 2009.

The unsuccessful effort last year to lease the Pennsylvania Turnpike to private investors provides valuable lessons for other cash-strapped states seeking to fund their highways and bridges, according to the report. With an annual funding gap of \$47 billion between the roadway projects the nation needs and those it can afford, states with large deficits and an urgent need to fix aging infrastructure are looking closely at public-private partnerships, a financing approach used in other countries for years but only recently adopted in the United States. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/State_policy/PA_Turnpike_FINAL_WEB.pdf [PDF format, 42 pages].

FEDERAL STUDENT AID. U.S. Government Accountability Office. March 25, 2009.

The Academic Competitiveness (AC) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants were established by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The grants provide merit-based financial aid to certain low-income college students eligible for Federal Pell Grants and are administered by the Department of Education (Education). In the first year of implementation, participation was lower than expected.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09343.pdf> [PDF format, 45 pages].

THE MOBILE DIFFERENCE. Pew Internet & American Life Project. March 26, 2009.

Some 39% of Americans have positive and improving attitudes about their mobile communication devices, which in turn draws them further into engagement with digital resources, on both wireless and wire line platforms, according to the study. Mobile connectivity is now a powerful differentiator among technology users. Those who plug into the information and communications world while on-the-go are notably more active in many facets of digital life than those who use wires to jack into the internet and the 14% of Americans who are off the grid entirely. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2009/5-The-Mobile-Difference--Typology/1-Summary-of-Findings/Overview.aspx?r=1> [HTML format with links to full text].

A NEW MINIMUM BENEFIT FOR LOW LIFETIME EARNERS. Urban Institute. March 2009.

Despite working hard and playing by the rules over long periods, many workers end up poor in retirement. The report proposes an enhanced minimum benefit for Social Security that targets long-career workers with low lifetime earnings along with a modest credit that compensates workers for up to three years out of the labor market due to care giving, unemployment, or poor health. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411853_anewminimumbenefit.pdf [PDF format, 33 pages].

THE NEWSPAPER REVITALIZATION ACT: A BILL. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, U.S. House of Representatives. March 24, 2009.

The act would allow newspapers to operate as non-profits, if they choose, under 501(c)(3) status for educational purposes, similar to public broadcasting. Under this arrangement, newspapers would not be allowed to make political endorsements, but would be allowed to freely report on all issues, including political campaigns. Advertising and subscription revenue would be tax exempt and contributions to support coverage or operations could be tax deductible. The measure is targeted to preserve local newspapers serving communities and not large newspaper conglomerates.

<http://cardin.senate.gov/pdfs/newspaperbill.pdf> [PDF format, 3 pages].

ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

10 MUST-SEE ENDANGERED CULTURAL TREASURES (Smithsonian, vol. 39, no. 12, March 2009)

Smithsonian staff writers highlight endangered treasures around the world that range from prehistoric monuments at the Hill of Tara in Ireland to neglected stretches of the venerable twentieth-century Route 66 in the United States. Other sites threatened by development, war, climate change or neglect are Italy's Fenestrelle Fortress; the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, in the Palestinian territories; and Hasankeyf, Turkey, one of the oldest continuously-inhabited areas in the world. Rains brought by climate change are taking a toll on the sandstone Jaisalmer Fort in Rajasthan, India, and the adobe city of Chan Chan, once capital of the Chimu civilization, in Peru. Also featured are The Buddhist Xumishan Grottoes in China; ancient petroglyphs at Dampier Rock Art Complex, Australia; and the Visoki Decani Monastery, Kosovo. Online links to the articles can be found at http://www.smithsonianmag.com/issue/March_2009.html

Barry, Clifton E. III; Cheung, Maija S. NEW TACTICS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS (Scientific American, February 2009)

The pandemic is growing in many places and strains resistant to all existing drugs are emerging. To fight back, biologists are applying a host of cutting-edge drug development strategies. Tuberculosis is second only to HIV as the worldwide cause of death from infection. TB is caused by a bacterium. Most cases are treatable but strains resistant to first- and second-line drugs are on the rise. Conventional approaches to developing new antibiotics and vaccines against the disease have mostly failed. New tools are enabling scientists to study the TB-causing bacterium in greater detail, offering unprecedented insight into the interactions between pathogen and host. The results are exposing promising new targets for drug therapy. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=new-tactics-in-fight>

Casey, Winter HILL TUNES IN TO NEW MEDIA (National Journal, March 7, 2009)

Lawmakers' growing awareness of the Internet's importance to campaigns and of their constituents' increasing desire to connect and gather information on the Web has led to a growing use of social media in Congress. Members are hiring new-media experts to extend their reach on the Web, Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and YouTube. Some new-media staffers like Matt Lira, who works for Representative Eric Cantor of Virginia, attends senior staff meetings so that integration with new media is considered on a daily basis. New-media staffers hope members of Congress will continue to expand their use of these tools as they come to see it as essential for promoting their agendas. Currently available online at http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cg_20090307_6994.php

Hendler, Clint WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW HAS HURT US (Columbia Journalism Review, January/February 2009)

The author contends that some of the measures to maintain the extreme secrecy of the executive branch enacted by the Bush presidency may be easy to unpick by an executive order of the Obama administration. Others, resulting from court rulings or entrenched bureaucratic traditions, will be more difficult to reverse. President Obama promised in his campaign and since his election he would restore transparency and improve information sharing. The author details some of the battles fought over freedom of information during the Bush administration, including

the Sunshine in Government Initiative formed by the Associated Press. Currently available online at http://www.cjr.org/feature/what_we_didnt_know_has_hurt_us.php

Northrop, Michael; Sassoon, David WHAT OBAMA MUST DO ON THE ROAD TO COPENHAGEN (Yale Environment 360, February 2, 2009)

The authors write that Barack Obama will face one of the most important moments of his presidency this December, during the climate negotiations in Copenhagen, and he needs his entire cabinet to help him prepare in the coming months. They note that Obama spoke forcefully about the need to rein in greenhouse gas emissions during his campaign, and that after eight years of inaction, U.S. leadership offers the only hope of success in combating climate change. They note that the American public has been intentionally led astray about the nature of global warming, and Obama needs to communicate the urgency of dealing with it, preferably in a prime-time address to the nation. He should also make use of his executive powers to expedite action under the Clean Air Act and lead the government to enact comprehensive federal climate legislation. Available online at <http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2116>

Ripley, Amanda RUN FOR YOUR LIVES, PLEASE (Governing, March 2009)

Decades of research into catastrophes shows that people follow patterns in evacuations, the author writes. One can typically identify who is most or least likely to evacuate in an emergency. Local officials need to understand these patterns in order to best motivate residents to leave their homes. "The warnings must be clear, unambiguous and consistent — even if the information on the ground is not. They need to come from many different channels (most people check with four or five sources before evacuating prior to a hurricane). And it is crucial that they be repeated — again and again," Ripley writes. But most important she says, "warnings need to be honest." If storm warnings turn out to be wrong, officials need to explain why so that people do not refuse to evacuate the next time around. Currently available online at <http://www.governing.com/articles/0903disaster.htm>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Fallows, James INTERESTING TIMES (Atlantic, April 2009, pp. 54-63)

The signs of depression are everywhere in China, says the author, an Atlantic national correspondent. As a world's primary exporter, it stands to be worse hit by the current economic crisis than the rest of the world, just as America was during the Great Depression. Although it has a \$2 trillion war chest in foreign holdings, its reliance on foreign customers is a serious vulnerability. Fallows writes that the modern counterpart to the Smoot-Hawley act could come from Beijing, not Washington, in the form of export subsidies, downward pressure on the currency value and other measures. Although there are signs of such policies, the writer says that China's economy has more tools and resources in reserve than others to deal with the crisis without resorting to protectionism. He cites examples of Chinese companies that use the disruption to try to move into higher-value work and introduce their own advanced products rather than serve strictly as subcontractors. If the transformation process is adeptly managed, Fallows suggests that China's economy, instead of backsliding, may emerge from the crisis in a more improved state. Currently available online with the title "China's Way Forward" at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200904/chinese-innovation>

Lewis, Michael WALL STREET ON THE TUNDRA (Vanity Fair, April 2009)

What led the small country of Iceland to decide in 2003 to reinvent itself as a global financial power? Michael Lewis chronicles Iceland's economic roller-coaster, as it rapidly expanded, then

in October 2008 experienced economic meltdown when its new, large banks collapsed. An entire nation that had no experience with high finance gazed upon the example of Wall Street and said, "We can do that." But, he says, Icelanders should have asked themselves why Iceland should be "seemingly essential to global finance." At the beginning, when local interest rates were more than 15 percent, Icelanders chose not to borrow in the country's krona, but instead took out loans in Swiss francs and Japanese yen at much lower rates. Those bargains made people lots of money on currency trades. The krona and housing prices kept rising, creating false prosperity. Many who had made their living from fishing suddenly became wealthy bankers; borrowers had imported the future into the present. As the krona collapsed in 2008, loans made in yen and francs became much more expensive and mortgages ballooned. Large numbers of Icelanders are having to return to their earlier occupations. Currently available online at <http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2009/04/iceland200904>

Parker, John BURGEONING BOURGEOISIE: THE NEW MIDDLE CLASSES IN EMERGING MARKETS (Economist, February 14, 2009)

During the past 15 years a global middle class has sprung up in emerging markets, creating new wealth and aspirations. Consisting of about 2.5 billion people with about one-third of their income available for discretionary spending, this group is more optimistic and has a greater range of interests than the elite. They favor democracy and free markets, and have aptitudes for investment and entrepreneurship; education is also a high priority. The incomes of the new global middle class varies greatly depending on the country, but where incomes are still low, the middle class is large enough to give incentive for providers of inexpensive goods. Some estimate that the global middle class now comprises over half of the world economy. Unlike Russia, support for globalization seems to be holding up in China, India and Brazil, because so many of their people have benefited from it. The author believes that while economic progress for the global middle class may slow for a while because of the global recession, it will not end. Currently available online at http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displayStory.cfm?story_id=13063298

Wooldridge, Adrian GLOBAL HEROS: A SPECIAL REPORT ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP (Economist, March 14, 2009)

Despite the economic downturn, entrepreneurship around the world is thriving, Wooldridge writes. In 1942, Joseph Schumpeter warned that bureaucratization was killing the entrepreneurial spirit; today, that spirit has gone mainstream, supported by political leaders of the left and right and reinforced by a growing infrastructure of universities and investors. Entrepreneurs carry economic weight because they generate new jobs. America continues to be the world's greatest producer of entrepreneurs; the world's two other large economies -- the European Union and Japan -- are far less entrepreneurial. America has the advantages of the world's most mature venture-capital industry and history of close ties between universities and industry. America's other advantage is its traditionally open immigration policy. However, India and China are creating millions of new entrepreneurs in part because they are able to translate Western ideas into local languages. The world is just beginning to feel the effect of the growth of entrepreneurs in these countries, Wooldridge says. Currently available online at http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displayStory.cfm?story_id=13216025

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Davis, Christina LINKAGE DIPLOMACY: ECONOMIC AND SECURITY BARGAINING IN THE ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE, 1902-23 (International Security, vol. 33, no. 3, Winter 2008/2009, pp. 143-179)

The author, professor at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, discusses how states use economic-security linkages in international bargaining. Governments can provide economic benefits as a side payment to reinforce security cooperation and use close security ties as a source of bargaining leverage in economic negotiations. Domestic political pressures, however, may constrain the form of linkage. First, economic side payments are more likely to be chosen in areas that will not harm the key interests of the ruling party. Second, involvement by the legislature pushes governments toward using security ties as bargaining leverage for economic gains. Evidence from negotiations between Britain and Japan during the Anglo-Japanese alliance of 1902 to 1923 supports the constraining role of domestic politics. Economic-security linkages occurred as Britain gave favorable economic treatment to Japan in order to strengthen the alliance. Economic competition between the allies, however, made it difficult for Britain to grant asymmetrical economic benefits. In tariff negotiations where business interests had more influence in the domestic policy process, the alliance was used as leverage to force reciprocity. Full text can be found online at <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/isec.2009.33.3.143>

Dessoff, Alan HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY (International Educator, vol. 17, no. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 16-20)

Former Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs and current President and CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Patricia de Stacy Harrison, gives an interview urging patience on waiting for returns on investments made in international education. Ultimately, international education is an incredible value as it fosters a community of people of goodwill with mutual respect and understanding. A joint Department of State and Homeland Security advisory panel recently issued a report specifically advocating international education as a key component of public diplomacy. Harrison concludes this interview by citing the need for international education to be a two-way street with American students also studying abroad. This article is currently available on the Internet at: http://www.nafsa.org/_/File/_/ie_sepoct08_voices.pdf

Fidas, George C. THE TERRORIST THREAT: EXISTENTIAL OR EXAGGERATED? A "RED CELL" PERSPECTIVE (International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence, vol. 21, no. 3, Fall 2008, pp. 519-529)

The author, a veteran of more than thirty years in the U.S. Intelligence Community, examines the impact that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have had on intelligence services. He concludes that the terrorist threat to the U.S. has been real, but exaggerated by the intelligence community. There has been no major terrorist attack on America since 9/11, al-Qaeda has been severely hobbled, anti-terror actions of law enforcement officials have been effective and there is an absence of a social support base for terrorism in the U.S. To the extent that America faces a terrorist threat, it is likely to continue to come from abroad, particularly from Europe. Although Europe has a more pervasive terrorism problem than does the U.S., it is also manageable, given the amateurism of European terrorist groups and the effectiveness of government counterterrorism measures. Full text can be found online at <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a793513501~db=all~jumptype=rss>

Kaplan, Robert CENTER STAGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: POWER PLAYS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (Foreign Affairs, vol. 88, no. 2, March-April 2009)

According to Kaplan, a national correspondent for Atlantic Monthly magazine, the Indian Ocean is central to understanding geopolitics in the 21st century. "It combines the centrality of Islam with global energy politics and the rise of India and China to reveal a multilayered, multipolar world," he says. Already the world's most important passageway for trade of energy and other goods, the Indian Ocean will become even more crucial. As rivalry intensifies between India's and China's economies and between their expanding navies, the U.S. Navy, its power declining, will have to manage the peace in the Indian Ocean. While the United States leans on India's navy in

the Indian Ocean and Japan's navy in the Pacific to limit China's expansion, it will at the same time have to lead incorporation of China's navy into international alliances in order to attain global political stability. Lacking the singular threat of the Soviet Union during the Cold War, the U.S. military will need to become more flexible and build shifting alliances to respond to many different types of crises in the "weak governments and tottering infrastructure" lining the Indian Ocean from Somalia to Pakistan to Burma. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64832/robert-d-kaplan/center-stage-for-the-21st-century> with free registration .

Moghadam, Assaf MOTIVES FOR MARTYRDOM: AL-QAIDA, SALAFI JIHAD, AND THE SPREAD OF SUICIDE ATTACKS (International Security, vol. 33, no. 3, Winter 2008/2009, pp. 46-78)

The author, assistant professor at the U.S. Military Academy's Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, chronicles the suicide missions that have occurred starting in the early 1980s. In recent years, however, there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of attacks, the organizations conducting these attacks, the countries targeted, and the number of victims. Moghadam believes that current explanations cannot account for the dramatic increase and spread of suicide attacks. Analysis of 1,857 suicide attacks from December 1981 through March 2008 suggests that two interrelated factors have contributed to the "globalization of martyrdom": al-Qaeda's evolution into a global terrorist actor and the growing appeal of its guiding ideology, Salafi jihad. As localized patterns of suicide missions have given way to more globalized patterns, the author believes that states must rethink their counterterrorism strategies. At the same time, because Salafi jihadist groups tend to target Muslims, moderate Muslims and nonviolent Salafists must take the lead in challenging these groups. Full text is available online at <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/isec.2009.33.3.46>
Wormuth, Christine THE NEXT CATASTROPHE: READY OR NOT? (Washington Quarterly, vol. 32, no. 1, January 2009, pp. 93-106)

According to the author, a senior fellow in the International Security Program at CSIS, "The United States is not ready for the next catastrophe." Although improvements have been made, more than seven years after 9/11 and three years after Katrina, the country still lacks detailed, government-wide plans to respond to a catastrophe, and there is confusion about who will be in charge during a disaster. The various laws affecting homeland security are inconsistent and unclear in assigning responsibilities, and the situation is made worse by turf wars among the Department of Justice, the FBI, and DHS. According to the author, four reforms would greatly improve the readiness of the country: merge the National Security Council (NSC) and the Homeland Security Council (HSC) into a single entity with a single staff; establish a clear chain of command within DHS, including the clarification of the role of FEMA; establish a robust interagency organization responsible for developing detailed plans for dealing with disasters; and complete and expand the creation of homeland security regional hubs that leverage the resources of the FEMA regional offices. These are but critical first steps toward building an effective mechanism for managing catastrophic national disasters. Currently available online at http://www.twq.com/09winter/docs/09jan_Wormuth.pdf

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Berliner, Terry SONGS FOR THE WAY WE LIVE NOW (American Theatre, vol. 26, no. 3, March 2009, pp. 25-35, 66-67)

The author, a director and musical-theater specialist, profiles five pairs of songwriters, working in different parts of the U.S. and in different stages of their careers, who promise to breathe new life

into the American musical, and are experimenting with pushing the boundaries of form and subject matter. Currently available online at <http://www.tcg.org/publications/at/mar09/songs.cfm>

Daniel, Meredith THE AMERICAN SOUTH IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY (Choice, vol. 46, no. 6, February 2009, pp. 1027 // 1038)

When the average reader thinks of writings about the South today, images might include William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty, GONE WITH THE WIND, TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, weekend football, and the civil rights movement. The author, a librarian at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, South Carolina, notes that this is only a start -- religion and politics are interwoven in the fabric of Southern life. Other literary narratives would include race, continuity and change, a sense of regional identity, politics, the role of women, and literature, along with other means of cultural expression. The study of the South remains relevant today as this region remains distinctive, with a history that continues to influence the larger history of the United States. One cannot discuss today's South without recognizing the universal influence of the Southern Renaissance which put the region in the limelight.

Wei, Lilly NEW ORLEANS REPORT (Art In America, February 2009, pp. 43-52)

The "Prospect.1" biennial art exhibition held in New Orleans from November 2008 to January 2009 was different from most art exhibitions – it was conceived as a "stimulus package", a way to help a city still battered from Hurricane Katrina. Many artists declined payment, which helped the organizers mount an ambitious multi-venue exhibition. The majority of the international artists were from developing countries, and much of their work focused on housing. Many of the works were scattered throughout the city, in neighborhoods that were ravaged by Katrina. The author notes that such an approach would not have worked in other settings, but it motivated visitors to explore various parts of New Orleans. The Lower Ninth Ward, the area most devastated by the hurricane, became "ground zero" for the exhibition, and the artists whose work was created there focused on the loss of shelter and the neighborhood's complex history.

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