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SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS

GLOBAL FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT: RESPONDING TO THE FINANCIAL CRISIS AND MEASURING SYSTEMIC RISKS. International Monetary Fund. April 2009.

The report assesses key risks facing the global financial system with a view to identifying those that represent systemic vulnerabilities. In the current crisis, the report traces the sources and channels of financial distress, and provides policy advice on mitigating its effects on economic activity, stemming contagion, and mending the global financial system. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfsr/2009/01/pdf/text.pdf> [PDF format, 246 pages].

IMPROVE TAX FAIRNESS AND HELP THE DEVELOPING WORLD. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Angel Gria. April 24, 2009.

Governments and financial centers around the world have come forward with pledges to open up bank records to foreign tax investigators. The message could not be clearer: aiding tax evasion is no longer acceptable. For scores of tax havens, it's time to reform, says the report. With aid budgets under pressure and trade volumes weakening amid the global economic crisis, governments are looking to tax systems as a new frontier for development policies. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.oecd.org/document/4/0,3343,en_2649_37427_42630276_1_1_1_1,00.html [HTML format, various paging].

RESULTS OF THE 2009 SECTION 1377 REVIEW OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRADE AGREEMENTS. Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Web posted April 27, 2009.

The review addresses fixed and mobile call termination rates, problems with major suppliers, transparency and regulatory independence, and failure to update World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.ustr.gov/assets/Document_Library/Reports_Publications/2009/asset_upload_file421_15544.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages].

THE RIGHT TO SURVIVE: THE HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY. Oxfam America. Tanja Schuemer-Cross and Ben Heaven Taylor. April 2009.

The number of people affected by climate-related humanitarian disasters is projected to rise by 54 percent by 2015, threatening to overwhelm emergency response and humanitarian aid systems, according to the report. The rise in numbers, from the current 250 million per year to 375 million by 2015, is due to the increasing threat of climate change-induced severe weather events and inability of millions of people worldwide to prepare to deal with such catastrophes. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.oxfamamerica.org/newsandpublications/publications/research_reports/the-right-to-survive/Right-to-Survive.pdf [PDF format, 148 pages].

STATISTICAL YEARBOOK FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC 2008. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. April 21, 2009.

With fewer children being born and people living longer, the population of the Asia-Pacific region is steadily growing older, so much so, that since 2000, the region's annual population growth has fallen to 1.1 per cent, the lowest rate among the world's developing regions. The Yearbook is the region's leading compilation of statistical data which provides a detailed picture of the major economic, social and environmental trends over the past two decades. [Note: contains copyright

material].

<http://www.unescap.org/stat/data/syb2008/ESCAP-SYB2008.pdf> [PDF format, 248 pages].

WORLD HUNGER SERIES: HUNGER AND MARKETS. World Food Programme. April 2009.

The report explores the complex and multifaceted interactions between the availability of and access to food and the operation of markets. The structure and dynamics of food markets and the threats and opportunities they generate are crucial for the access to food for billions of people. Markets are critical in averting or mitigating food shortages and hunger by adjusting to shocks, reducing vulnerability and coping with crises. Whether markets help or harm the hungry poor is a function of market institutions, infrastructure and policies. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp200279.pdf> [PDF format, 193 pages].

PIRACY OFF THE HORN OF AFRICA. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. April 21, 2009.

Recent attacks, including those on U.S.-flagged vessels, in the waters off the Horn of Africa have brought new U.S. and international attention to the long-standing problem of piracy in the region. The apparent motive of many active Somali pirate groups is profit, and piracy has proven to be a lucrative activity for many thus far. Ransoms paid to Somali pirates and their supporters, estimated at over \$30 million in 2008, may exacerbate ongoing fighting and further undermine security in the region.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R40528.pdf> [PDF format, 31 pages].

ARABIAN TAHR GETS ROYAL PROTECTION. World Wildlife Fund. April 28, 2009.

In a major conservation decision, the United Arab Emirates has established the Wadi Wurayah Fujairah, home to the endangered Arabian Tahr and possibly the rare Arabian Leopard, as the country's first protected mountain area. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.panda.org/?163161/Arabian-Tahr-gets-royal-protection> [HTML format, various paging].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS: KUWAIT. Energy Information Administration. April 2009.

Despite its relatively small size, Kuwait is one of the world's top exporters of oil, with over 2.6 million barrels per day exported in 2007. Kuwait's economy is heavily dependent on [oil export revenues](#) which account for roughly 90 percent of total export earnings. Kuwait channels around 10 percent of its oil revenues into the "Future Generations Fund" for the day when oil income runs out. The bulk of this reserve is generally invested in the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, and Southeast Asia.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Kuwait/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

HAITI: SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT, PREVENTING INSTABILITY AND CONFLICT. International Crisis Group. April 28, 2009.

Reversing a trend of environmental destruction is essential to Haiti's development, social and economic stability and, ultimately, security. Instability and violent conflict are not attributable solely to environmental degradation. But they are made more likely by the latter's interaction with such factors as weak institutions and governance, political fragility, pervasive and extreme poverty, vulnerability to natural disasters, rapid population growth, urban overcrowding and social and economic inequality, according to the report. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/latin_america/aiti___saving_the_environment___preventing_instability_and_conflict.pdf [PDF format, 16 pages].

SECURITY IN MEXICO: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY OPTIONS. RAND Corporation. Agnes Gereben Schaefer et al. April 28, 2009.

The security structure in Mexico is characterized by shifting responsibilities, duplication of services, and general instability, along with a lack of coordination among federal, state, and local security forces. The backdrop of a deteriorating security situation in Mexico and change in administration in the United States demands a closer examination of potential priorities and policy options to guide future U.S.-Mexico relations. [Note: contains copyright material].
http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG876.pdf [PDF format, 108 pages].

WHAT ARE U.S. POLICY OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH SECURITY IN MEXICO? RAND Corporation. April 28, 2009.

In light of a worsening security situation in Mexico, the study identifies three U.S. policy options for dealing with Mexico's security issues, strategic partnership, status quo, and retrenchment, in terms of their impact on addressing U.S. priorities and of likely Mexican responses. [Note: contains copyright material].
http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2009/RAND_RB9444.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

AUDACIOUSLY HOPEFUL: HOW PRESIDENT OBAMA CAN HELP RESTORE THE PRO-TRADE CONSENSUS. Cato Institute. Daniel Ikenson and Scott Lincicome. April 28, 2009.

The authors show how restoring the pro-trade consensus must be a priority of the Obama administration. If the United States indulges misplaced fears, restrains economic freedoms, and attempts to retreat from the global economy, the country will suffer slower economic growth and have greater difficulty facing future economic and foreign policy challenges. The determination of the president to arrest and reverse America's misguided and metastasizing aversion to trade could dramatically improve prospects for restoring the pro-trade consensus, says the report. [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://www.freetrade.org/files/pubs/pas/tpa-039.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages].

COMPENDIUM OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. April 2009.

The study is an inventory of federal programs that provide assistance to individuals, states, localities, nonprofit organizations, and businesses impacted by a disaster. These programs provide assistance to individuals, states, localities, non-profit organizations, and businesses. Congress provides the funding for these programs through annual federal appropriations or through supplemental appropriations.
http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmttrpts/OIG_09-49_Apr09.pdf [PDF format, 56 pages].

DISCONNECTED YOUTH: A LOOK AT 16- TO 25-YEAR OLDS WHO ARE NOT WORKING OR IN SCHOOL. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Adrienne L. Fernandes and Thomas Gabe. April 22, 2009.

Policymakers and youth advocates have begun to focus greater attention on young people who are not working or in school. Generally characterized as "disconnected," these youth may also lack strong social networks that provide assistance in the form of employment connections and other supports such as housing and financial assistance. Without attachment to work or school, disconnected youth may be vulnerable to experiencing negative outcomes as they transition to adulthood.
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40535.pdf> [PDF format, 82 pages].

HOW CBO ESTIMATES THE COSTS OF REDUCING GREENHOUSE-GAS EMISSIONS. Congressional Budget Office. April 24, 2009.

As part of its mandate to provide the Congress with the objective, timely, and nonpartisan analysis needed to make informed economic and budgetary decisions, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) prepares cost estimates for legislation under consideration by the Congress. In recent years, a number of legislative proposals have involved efforts to restrict emissions of greenhouse gases in the United States. The background paper briefly describes the methodology that CBO uses to estimate those incremental costs, the data sources and models used to develop that methodology, and the rationale for using it.

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/99xx/doc9923/04-24-Greenhouse.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

REINVENTING TRANSIT: AMERICAN COMMUNITIES FINDING SMARTER, CLEANER, FASTER, TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS. Environmental Defense Fund. April 22, 2009.

A new generation of innovative public transit is sweeping through communities across America. Rural areas, suburbs and cities are leading the way to a cutting-edge transportation system. Investing in smart transit pays off, says the report. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.edf.org/documents/9522_Reinventing_Transit_FINAL.pdf [PDF format, 44 pages].

RELEASE OF DECLASSIFIED NARRATIVE DESCRIBING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL'S OPINIONS ON THE CIA'S DETENTION AND INTERROGRATION PROGRAM. U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. April 22, 2009.

The Senate Intelligence Committee releases a document describing the early approval of the CIA interrogation program by the Bush Administration, and the preparation of the Office of Legal Counsel opinions that gave legal approval for the use of specific interrogation techniques. The Committee, under then-Chairman Jay Rockefeller's leadership, has been working with the Bush and Obama Administrations since August 2008 to have this document declassified, long before the decision to release four OLC legal opinions last week

<http://intelligence.senate.gov/pdfs/olcopinon.pdf> [PDF format, 17 pages].

SOCIAL SOFTWARE AND NATIONAL SECURITY: AN INITIAL NET ASSESSMENT. National Defense University. Mark Drapeau and Linton Wells II. April 2009.

Social software connects people and information via online, informal Internet networks. It is appearing in increasingly diverse forms as part of a broad movement commonly called Web 2.0. Social software can be used by governments for content creation, external collaboration, community building, and other applications. The proliferation of social software has ramifications for U.S. national security, spanning future operating challenges of a traditional, irregular, catastrophic, or disruptive nature. Governments that harness its potential power can interact better with citizens and anticipate emerging issues. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.ndu.edu/ctnsp/Def_Tech/DTP61_SocialSoftwareandNationalSecurity.pdf [PDF format, 42 pages].

SUMMARY OF STATE-OF-THE-STATE ADDRESSES OF THE GOVERNORS. National Governors Association Center for Best Practices]. Thad Nodine and Cynthia Jimes. Web posted April 24, 2009.

The brief summarizes the initiatives and legislation the nation's governors emphasized during their annual addresses. The report demonstrates where the chief executives of the states believe their leadership is most needed and uses specific examples to articulate how they intend to accomplish their goals. According to this year's summary, "The tenor of the governors' state-of-

the-state addresses in 2009 was tempered by a sharp downturn in state economic conditions, challenging budget decisions and financial difficulties facing state residents.” [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/GOVSPEAK0904.PDF> [PDF format, 39 pages].

THE WIC PROGRAM: BACKGROUND, TRENDS, AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, 2009 EDITION. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Victor Oliveira and Elizabeth Frazao. April 2009.

The mission of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children through age 4 who are at nutritional risk. WIC provides nutritious foods to supplement diets, nutrition education, and referrals to health care and other social services. The report describes the WIC program, how it works, its history, program trends, and the characteristics of the population it serves. It also examines current issues facing WIC, focusing mainly on those with important economic implications.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR73/ERR73.pdf> [PDF format, 90 pages].

10 WORST COUNTRIES TO BE A BLOGGER. Committee to Protect Journalists. April 30, 2009.

With a military government that severely restricts Internet access and imprisons people for years for posting critical material, Burma is the worst place in the world to be a blogger, according to the report. It also identifies a number of countries in the Middle East and Asia where Internet penetration has blossomed and government repression has grown in response. “Bloggers are at the vanguard of the information revolution and their numbers are expanding rapidly,” said CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon. “But governments are quickly learning how to turn technology against bloggers by censoring and filtering the Internet, restricting online access and mining personal data.” [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://cpj.org/reports/2009/04/10-worst-countries-to-be-a-blogger.php> [HTML format, various paging].

2009 SPECIAL 301 REPORT. Office of the United States Trade Representative. April 30, 2009.

The “Special 301” Report reports on the adequacy and effectiveness of intellectual property rights (IPR) protection by U.S. trading partners. Canada is being elevated to the Priority Watch List for the first time, reflecting increasing concern about the continuing need for copyright reform, as well as continuing concern about weak border enforcement. Korea is being removed from the Watch List in recognition of the significant improvements it has made during the past year, and the Korean Government’s policy direction of continuing to place a priority on improving its IPR regime.

http://www.ustr.gov/assets/Document_Library/Reports_Publications/2009/2009_Special_301_Report/asset_upload_file500_15612.pdf [PDF format, 44 pages].

ASSESSING CHANGES IN GLOBAL DRUG PROBLEMS, 1998-2007. [RAND Corporation]. April 27, 2009.

The study provides key findings from the assessment on how the global market for illicit drugs has developed from 1998 to 2007 and describes worldwide drug policies implemented during that period to address the problem. It assesses the impact of policy measures, both at the national and sub-national levels, on the illicit drugs problem. The evidence suggests that illicit drugs presented as much of a problem in 2007 as in 1998. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2009/RAND_TR704.pdf [PDF format, 84 pages].

BEYOND THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT: HARMONIZATION OF STANDARDS AND TRADE IN ELECTRONICS. Policy Research Working Paper, World Bank. Alberto Portugal-Perez et al. Web posted April 28, 2009.

Product standards can have a dual impact on production and trade costs. Standards may impose additional costs on exporters as it may be necessary to adapt products for specific markets. In contrast, standards can reduce exporters' information costs if they convey information on industrial requirements or consumer tastes that would be costly to collect in the absence of standards. The authors examine the impact of internationally-harmonized European standards on European Union imports. They find that European Union standards for electronic products that are harmonized to international standards have a positive and significant effect on trade. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/04/28/000158349_20090428084810/Rendered/PDF/WPS4916.pdf [PDF format, 36 pages].

COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM 2008. U.S. Department of State. April 30, 2009.

U.S. law requires the Secretary of State to provide Congress, by April 30 of each year, a full and complete report on terrorism with regard to those countries and groups meeting criteria set forth in the legislation. This is the report.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/122599.pdf> [PDF format, 351 pages].
<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2008/index.htm> [HTML format with chapter links].

THE CRISIS-RESILIENCE OF SERVICES TRADE. Policy Research Working Paper, World Bank. Web posted April 28, 2009.

Much attention has focused on the impact of the current crisis on goods trade; hardly any on its impact on services trade. Using new trade data from the United States, and more aggregate data from other OECD countries, the authors show that services trade is weathering the current crisis much better than goods trade. As of February 2009, the value of US goods imports had declined year-on-year by 33 percent and the value of goods exports by 21 percent; services imports and exports each had declined by less than 7 percent. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/04/28/000158349_20090428090316/Rendered/PDF/WPS4917.pdf [PDF format, 30 pages].

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITH PARTNER AIR FORCES. RAND Corporation. Jennifer D. P. Moroney et al. May 4, 2009.

The U.S. Air Force faces a challenging environment as it devises an approach to managing security cooperation with partner countries. The important mission of countering terrorist and insurgent groups abroad requires working closely with allies and partner countries to strengthen security. Accordingly, current U.S. defense strategy emphasizes that the U.S. armed forces should prepare to do more to work "by, with, and through partners" to accomplish their missions. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG790.pdf [PDF format, 156 pages].

THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND THE LAW OF THE SEA. Council on Foreign Relations. Scott G. Borgerson. May 2009.

The oceans have long been a critical arena for international relations. Before there was air travel and instantaneous communication, people, goods, and ideas traveled the world by ship. For centuries a strong maritime presence, both military and commercial, has been essential for states

with great power aspirations. Today, even with advances in technology, seaborne commerce remains the linchpin of the global economy. And beyond trade, a host of other issues, ranging from climate change and energy to defense and piracy, ensure that the oceans will hold considerable strategic interest well into the future. [Note: contains copyright material]. http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/LawoftheSea_CSR46.pdf [PDF format, 82 pages].

QUALITY OF LIVING GLOBAL CITY RANKINGS 2009. Mercer Survey. April 29, 2009.

Vienna scores highest for overall quality of living, Baghdad the lowest. This year's rankings also identify cities with the best infrastructure Singapore ranks top for city infrastructure; Dublin ranks 58th of 215 cities. [Note: contains copyright material]. <http://www.mercer.com/summary.htm?idContent=1345570> [HTML format, various paging].

SOLVING THE PUZZLE: RESEARCH THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AROUND THE WORLD. National Science Foundation. May 1, 2009.

The report discusses Earth's systems piecewise, beginning with the physical systems of Earth's atmosphere, sea, land, and ice, then focusing on life on Earth, and ending with, perhaps, the most challenging and dynamic piece of all, people. The report shows that it's important to realize that all of the pieces of the climate puzzle are interconnected, and all of the pieces are necessary to gain a full understanding of climate variability and change. [Note: contains copyright material]. http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/climate/pdf/NSF_Climate_Change_Report.pdf [PDF format, 114 pages].

Europe's Problematic Contribution to Police Training in Afghanistan. [Brookings Institution]. May 4, 2009.

As the NATO 60th anniversary summit was approaching, Europeans were worried about Obama's demands for further assistance, particularly more combat troops in Afghanistan. In the event, though, they were surprised and relieved by the attitude of the new administration, which only asked them to contribute in ways and on the terms which Europeans had long asserted best matched their capabilities and public mood. This reflects the fact that European public opinion - generally unfond of Bush's policies, strained by economic crises, lost without inspiring leaders and with a strong suspicion of anything that smells like combat, is still unconvinced about involvement in the region. [Note: contains copyright material]. http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0504_afghanistan_bindi.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

NOT YET A WORKERS' PARADISE: VIETNAM'S SUPPRESSION OF THE INDEPENDENT WORKERS' MOVEMENT. Human Rights Watch. May 4, 2009.

The report documents the Vietnamese government's crackdown on independent trade unions and profiles labor rights activists who have been detained, placed under house arrest, or imprisoned by the Vietnamese government in violation of international law. The report calls on donor governments and foreign firms investing in Vietnam to press the government to treat workers properly. [Note: contains copyright material]. <http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/vietnam0509webwcover.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

TROUBLED ASSETS: THE IMF'S LATEST PROJECTION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. Center for Economic and Policy Research. David Rosnick. April 28, 2009.

The issue brief examines the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) economic growth projections for Latin America and the Caribbean through 2014. It finds that for some countries, most notably Venezuela and Argentina, the IMF's projections inexplicably portend a prolonged negative impact of the current world recession, even as countries harder-hit by the downturn, such as Mexico, recover. In other cases, such as Haiti, the IMF projects a surprisingly big growth spurt. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/imf-projections-2009-04.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].

2008 REPORT ON TERRORISM. U.S. National Counterterrorism Center. April 30, 2009.

Approximately 11,800 terrorist attacks against noncombatants occurred in various countries during 2008, resulting in over 54,000 deaths, injuries and kidnappings. Compared to 2007, attacks decreased by 2,700, or 18 percent, in 2008 while deaths due to terrorism decreased by 6,700, or 30 percent. As was the case last year, the largest number of reported terrorist attacks occurred in the Near East, but unlike previous years, South Asia had the greater number of fatalities. These two regions were also the locations for 75 percent of the 235 high-casualty attacks (those that killed 10 or more people) in 2008.

<http://wits.nctc.gov/ReportPDF.do?f=crt2008nctcannexfinal.pdf> [PDF format, 78 pages].

COMPENDIUM OF MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMALS IN PUBLIC SETTING 2009. National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. May 1, 2009.

Certain venues encourage or permit the public to be in contact with animals, resulting in millions of human-animal interactions each year. These settings include county or state fairs, petting zoos, animal swap meets, pet stores, zoologic institutions, circuses, carnivals, educational farms, livestock-birthing exhibits, educational exhibits at schools and child-care facilities, and wildlife photo opportunities. Although human-animal contact has many benefits, many human health problems are associated with these settings, including infectious diseases, exposure to rabies, and injuries. Such infections have substantial medical, public health, legal, and economic effects. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5805a1.htm?s_cid=rr5805a1_x [HTML format, various paging].

CRIME, VIOLENCE, DISCIPLINE, AND SAFETY IN U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS. National Center for Education Statistics. Samantha Neiman and Jill F. Devoe. Web posted May 5, 2009.

The report uses data from the 2007-08 School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS) to examine a range of issues dealing with school crime and safety, such as the frequency of school crime and violence, disciplinary actions, and school practices related to the prevention and reduction of crime.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009326.pdf> [PDF format, 81 pages].

DISSECTING THE 2008 ELECTORATE: MOST DIVERS IN U.S. HISTORY. Pew Research Center. Mark Hugo Lopez and Paul Taylor. April 30, 2009.

The electorate in last year's presidential election was the most racially and ethnically diverse in U.S. history, with nearly one-in-four votes cast by non-whites, according to an analysis of Census Bureau data by the Pew Research Center. The nation's three biggest minority groups, blacks, Hispanics and Asians, each accounted for unprecedented shares of the presidential vote in 2008. Overall, whites made up 76.3% of the record 131 million people who voted in November's presidential election, while blacks made up 12.1%, Hispanics 7.4% and Asians 2.5%. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1209/racial-ethnic-voters-presidential-election> [HTML format, various paging].

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION: TRENDS IN TRAINING AND STUDENT DEBT. U.S. Government Accountability Office. May 4, 2009.

The federal government invests significantly in medical education through various programs to help ensure that the anticipated supply of new physicians meets the nation's health care needs. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09438r.pdf> [PDF format, 51 pages].

HARD TIMES IN THE HEARTLAND. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. May 4, 2009.

The study outlines the health care challenges facing rural communities. The report was developed by HHS staff from across the department and comes on the same day Director of the White House Office of Health Reform Nancy-Ann DeParle, HRSA Administrator Mary Wakefield, and Representative Mike Ross will hold a meeting with Americans from rural communities as part of the ongoing series of White House Health Care Stakeholder Discussions. <http://healthreform.gov/reports/hardtimes/ruralreport.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].

HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN PERIL: PREPARING TO PROTECT WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING PANDEMIC INFLUENZA. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. April 30, 2009.

A union survey of more than 100 health care facilities across the country reveals that many are not adequately prepared to protect workers' health and safety during an influenza pandemic. The report concludes that workers face a very high risk of becoming infected when caring for patients with pandemic flu unless adequate health and safety measures are in place in advance of a pandemic. [Note: contains copyright material]. http://www.afscme.org/docs/Health_Care_Workers_In_Peril.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages].

JOB IMPACTS OF SPENDING ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: AN UPDATE. American Public Transportation Association. April 29, 2009.

The report shows that investing in public transportation provides jobs to the American workers who may need them the most. It shows that two-thirds of the jobs created by capital investment in the public transit industry replaces lost blue-collar jobs with "green jobs" in the public transit sector. [Note: contains copyright material]. http://www.apta.com/research/info/online/documents/jobs_impact.pdf [PDF 17 pages].

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD: CURBING TAX HAVENS AND REMOVING TAX INCENTIVES FOR SHIFTING JOBS OVERSEAS. The White House. May 4, 2009.

President Obama and Secretary Geithner unveil two components of the Administration's plan to reform U.S.'s international tax laws and improve their enforcement. First, there's a call for reforms to ensure that its tax code does not stack the deck against job creation in the States. Second, they seek to reduce the amount of taxes lost to tax havens, either through unintended loopholes that allow companies to legally avoid paying billions in taxes, or through the illegal use of hidden accounts by well-off individuals.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/LEVELING-THE-PLAYING-FIELD-CURBING-TAX-HAVENS-AND-REMOVING-TAX-INCENTIVES-FOR-SHIFTING-JOBS-OVERSEAS/ [HTML format, various paging].

OBAMA, CATHOLICS AND THE NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life] April 30, 2009.

Most Catholics who have heard about the issue support the University of Notre Dame's decision to invite President Barack Obama to speak and receive an honorary degree at its May 17 commencement, even though he supports abortion rights and embryonic stem cell research. But a new poll also finds a deep division on this issue between the most-observant Catholics and those who are less observant, as defined by frequency of worship service attendance. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://pewforum.org/docs/?DocID=413> [HTML format, various paging].

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA: A GUIDE TO RECENT INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE STUDIES AND WORKSHOPS. Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. May 4, 2009.

In the past several years, the Institute of Medicine has gathered experts to consider major policy issues related to pandemic influenza and other infectious disease threats. The products of these activities include reports and workshop summaries that discuss many dimensions of pandemic planning and response. The overview highlights action and information that could be useful for near-term implementation. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.iom.edu/Object.File/Master/66/249/Pandemic_influenza_brief1.pdf [PDF format, 5 pages].

SCHOOL-BASED BANK SAVINGS PROGRAMS: BRINGING FINANCIAL EDUCATION TO STUDENTS. Comptroller of the Currency Administrator of National Banks. April 2009.

The report discusses how banks can set up school-based bank savings programs to help students learn about the importance of saving and managing their personal finances. Comptroller of the Currency John C. Dugan stated, "As a parent, one area of financial literacy that is especially important to me is that our children learn how to make the right financial choices before they leave home. These school-based bank programs are productive collaborations between banks and schools that share a mutual interest in providing financial education to students eager to learn."

<http://www.occ.treas.gov/cdd/Insights-Schoolbasedbank.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

SWINE FLU (H1N1 VIRUS) SURVEY. Harvard Opinion Research Program, Harvard School of Public Health. Robert J. Blendon et al. Web posted May 1, 2009.

Following the declaration of a public health emergency due to the new H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu, the Harvard Opinion Research Program at the Harvard School of Public Health conducted a poll about how concerned Americans are about the outbreak, how they are responding and what they believe about transmission, prevention and treatment. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/files/Swine_Flu.TOPLINE.pdf [PDF format, 7 pages].

White House 2.0. [The White House Blog]. May 1, 2009.

In the President's last Weekly Address, he called on government to "recognize that we cannot meet the challenges of today with old habits and stale thinking." He added that "we need to reform our government so that it is more efficient, more transparent, and more creative," and pledged to "reach beyond the halls of government" to engage the public. Today the White House is taking steps to expand how the Administration is communicating with the public, including the latest [information and guidance about the H1N1 virus](#). In addition to WhiteHouse.gov, you can now find us in a number of other spots on the web: [Facebook](#), [You Tube](#), [Twitter](#), [My Space](#),

Flickr, and more.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/09/05/01/WhiteHouse/> [HTML format, various paging].

ENSURING GREEN GROWTH IN A TIME OF ECONOMIC CRISIS: THE ROLE OF ENERGY TECHNOLOGY. International Energy Policy. Web posted May 2009.

Despite the severity of the current financial and economic crisis, it cannot be allowed to distract us from addressing critical and strategic climate change and energy challenges, says the report. The energy sector produces 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions and so it must also be a key part of any strategy to reduce them. The paper describes the most promising low-carbon technologies, their current status and the policy framework that will be necessary to achieve their widespread deployment. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.iea.org/Textbase/Papers/2009/ensuring_green_growth.pdf [PDF format, 23 pages]

GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM: SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES IN SUSTAINING AND UPGRADING WIDELY USED CAPABILITIES. U.S. Government Accountability Office. May 7, 2009.

The Global Positioning System (GPS), which provides position, navigation, and timing data to users worldwide, has become essential to U.S. national security and a key tool in an expanding array of public service and commercial applications at home and abroad. The United States provides GPS data free of charge. The Air Force, which is responsible for GPS acquisition, is in the process of modernizing GPS.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09670t.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages].

PREPARED REMARKS: THE GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS OF A WARMING ARCTIC. Council on Foreign Relations. Scott G. Borgerson. May 5, 2009.

The author participates in the roundtable discussion on “The Global Implications of a Warming Arctic” with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He testifies about the climate change driving the Arctic’s transformation; then paints a future of the current state of international relations in the Arctic. He also provides specific policy recommendations the U.S. should take to advance its interests in this strategic region. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Borgerson_SFRC_RT.pdf [PDF format,

THE RETURN OF THE STATE: THE NEW INVESTMENT PARADIGM. Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Marshall Auerback. May 2009.

To save America and the global economy as a whole, the private/public sector balance has to shift, and the neoliberal economic model on which the country has been based for the past 25 years has to be modified. In the working paper, Marshall Auerback details why the role of the state needs to be reemphasized. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_561.pdf [PDF format, 15 pages].

TWO VIEWS ON THE CAUSE OF THE GLOBAL CRISIS: PARTS I AND II. Yale Global. May 4, 2009.

The first view contends that income inequality and speculative investment by the rich and poor in America led to financial meltdown. On the other hand, the second view contends that the twin excesses, financialization and globalization, caused the crash. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12327> Part I [HTML format, various paging].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12338> Part II [HTML format, various paging].

VAST RESERVE TO PROTECT REMOTE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS. World Wildlife Fund. May 7, 2009.

South Africa's declaration to establish one of the world's largest Marine Protected Area's (MPA) around its Prince Edward Islands, is a marine conservation achievement of global importance which will help protecting a suite of spectacular wildlife, including albatrosses, penguins and killer whales. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.panda.org/?163741/Vast-reserve-to-protect-remote-Prince-Edward-Islands> [HTML format, various paging].

FINANCIAL RESOURCES, LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, AND PRIVATE TRANSFERS. RAND Corporation. Quifei Ma. May 6, 2009.

The paper analyzes the care giving behavior of adult children toward elderly parents and their living arrangements. Using data collected as part of the U.S. Health and Retirement Study, the author investigates the role of children's characteristics, primarily wealth and wages, in determining co-residency. The author also analyzes new intergenerational transfer data that have recently become available in the Chinese Social Survey of Family Dynamics, and assesses whether or not these data are useful to measure family support. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.rand.org/pubs/rgs_dissertations/2009/RAND_RGSD241.pdf [PDF format, 86 pages].

STRUCTURAL POLICIES TO OVERCOME GEOGRAPHIC BARRIERS AND CREATE PROSPERITY IN NEW ZEALAND. Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development. Yvan Guillemette. Web posted April 30, 2009.

New Zealand's living standards remain well below the OECD average. According to the study, this is entirely attributable to persistently low labor productivity, which in turn is related to economic geography as well as structural policy factors. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00002B4E/\\$FILE/JT03263750.PDF](http://www.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00002B4E/$FILE/JT03263750.PDF) [PDF format, 44 pages].

SRI LANKA: 'BOAT PEOPLE' RECOUNT HORROR OF NO-FIRE ZONE. Human Rights Watch. May 5, 2009.

Horror accounts from refugees fleeing the fighting in Sri Lanka by boat show the wanton disregard for civilians of both Sri Lankan government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), according to the Human Rights Watch. Human Rights Watch calls on both the United Nations Security Council and the UN Human Rights Council to make the situation in Sri Lanka a priority to avoid further loss of civilian life. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/05/05/sri-lanka-boat-people-recount-horrors-no-fire-zone> [HTML format, various paging with links to videos].

AMERICA'S STRATEGIC POSTURE: THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON THE STRATEGIC POSTURE OF THE UNITED STATES. Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the U.S. & U.S. Institute of Peace. Web posted May 6, 2009.

The final report of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States provides over 100 findings and recommendations on critical issues related to U.S. nuclear strategy. Key themes on which recommendations are focused include (1) challenges and opportunities inherent in the current security environment; (2) the roles, functions, and projection of U.S. nuclear forces, including missile defense; (3) the safety, security, and reliability of the nuclear stockpile; (4) the state of the nuclear weapons complex; (5) arms control and

nonproliferation; and (6) additional steps for the prevention of proliferation and the protection against nuclear use. [Note: contains copyright material].
http://media.usip.org/reports/strat_posture_report.pdf [PDF format, 360 pages].

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH: MAY 2009. U.S. Census Bureau. Web posted March 3, 2009.

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed on May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a monthlong celebration. Per a 1997 Office of Management and Budget directive, the Asian or Pacific Islander racial category was separated into two categories: one being Asian and the other Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/cb09ff-06.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

BASIC READING SKILLS AND THE LITERACY OF AMERICA'S LEAST LITERATE ADULTS. National Center for Education Statistics. May 6, 2009.

The study shows the English literacy skills of the America's least literate adults. [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009481.pdf> [PDF format, 83 pages].

CONGRESS BECOMING MORE PRO-SENIOR, ADVOCATES SAY. Alliance for Retired Americans. David Blank. May 4, 2009.

The report details the voting record of every U.S. Senator and Representative on key issues affecting current and future retirees. "The 2008 voting record showed a continuation of a pro-senior trend in America, one which began with the 2006 midterm elections and culminated with the historic elections of 2008," said Alliance President Barbara J. Easterling. "There were more perfect scores on the voting record this year, and fewer zeroes," continued Easterling. [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://www.retiredamericans.org/ht/action/GetDocumentAction/i/12744> [PDF format, 2 pages].

EPA PROPOSES NEW REGULATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD PROGRAM FOR 2010 AND BEYOND. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. May 5, 2009.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is proposing its strategy for increasing the supply of renewable fuels, poised to reach 36 billion gallons by 2022, as mandated by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Increasing renewable fuels will reduce dependence of foreign oil by more than 297 million barrels a year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 160 million tons a year when fully phased in by 2022. EISA will establish four categories of renewable fuels.
<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/renewablefuels/420f09023.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

GALLUP STUDENT POLL NATIONAL REPORT. Gallup & America's Promise Alliance. Shane J. Lopez. May 5, 2009.

A poll by Gallup and America's Promise Alliance shows that more than one-third of students surveyed in grades 5 – 12 are struggling or suffering, and half are not hopeful, as quantified by Gallup researchers. The Gallup Student Poll measures the hope, engagement and well-being of students in grades 5–12 through a survey administered anonymously in America's schools. The

national results will be used by America's Promise Alliance, the American Association of School Administrators and others in designing appropriate responses that support youth. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.gallupstudentpoll.com/gtmp/object_utils.display_object?id=922358&dummy=0 [PDF format, 6 pages].

GULF OF MEXICO AND GAS PRODUCTION FORECAST: 2007-2016. Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. May 5, 2009.

In the forecast report, Gulf of Mexico (GOM) oil production is forecasted to increase substantially over the next several years, possibly reaching 1.8 million barrels of oil per day. GOM gas production is forecasted to continue its decline over the next four years due to aging projects in shallow water. Future increases depend on the successful development of undiscovered resources in the Gulf.

<http://www.gomr.mms.gov/PDFs/2007/2007-020.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages].

HIDDEN COSTS: REDUCED IQ FROM CHLOR-ALKALI PLANT MERCURY EMISSIONS HARMS THE ECONOMY. Oceana. Simon Mahan and Kimberly Warner. May 6, 2009.

Lowered IQ due to mercury pollution from outdated mercury-cell chlorine factories has cost the American economy millions of dollars in lost wages annually, according to the report. These factories, called chlor-alkali plants, produce chlorine and caustic soda with technology that emits mercury pollution into our air, water and food. This industry also contributes to fish contamination, which is the primary source of mercury exposure for humans. Frequent consumption of high mercury fish has been linked to lower IQ in young children and heart disease in adults. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/mercury/Hidden_Costs/Hidden_Costs.pdf [PDF format, 22 pages].

LEADERSHIP MATTERS: GOVERNORS' PRE-K PROPOSALS FISCAL YEAR 2010. Pew Center on the States. May 5, 2009

Even as they confront the fiscal crisis and whittle spending to core priorities, the majority of the nation's governors are increasing or protecting their state's investments in pre-kindergarten programs in the coming fiscal year. Five times as many governors are proposing to protect or increase pre-k, as are those who are calling for cuts to early education. Three governors are even introducing new initiatives in states that currently offer no publicly funded pre-k, according to a national analysis. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Pre-k_education/Leadership_Matters_Final.pdf [PDF format, 28 pages].

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION: ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH, 2009. The White House. May 1, 2009.

"The vast diversity of languages, religions, and cultural traditions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders continues to strengthen the fabric of American society. From the arrival of the first Asian American and Pacific Islander immigrants 150 years ago to those who arrive today, as well as those native to the Hawaiian Islands and to our Pacific Island territories, all possess the common purpose of the fulfilling the American dream and leading a life bound by the American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Presidential-Proclamation-Asian-American-And-Pacific-Islander-Heritage-Month/ [HTML format, various paging].

STATE CLIMATE POLICY TRACKER REVEALS PROGRESS BY 33 STATES. New America Federation. May 5, 2009.

The study provides an online tool that allows state-by-state tracking of hundreds of carbon and energy saving measures now being implemented across the country. The [State Climate Policy Tracker](#) takes the form of a single spreadsheet with one tab devoted to each state that has completed or is in the process of completing a climate action plan. A seven column matrix captures the climate actions taking place across six economic sectors, and reports on the progress of each measure, its cost or cost-saving potential, and the estimated reduction in carbon emissions expected on an annual basis. [Note: contains copyright material].
<http://www.newamerica.net/programs/climate#> [HTML format with the policy tracker link].

STRONG DOLLAR HAS LITTLE EFFECT ON SMALL RETAILERS, LARGER EFFECT ON WHOLESALERS. Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration. May 1, 2009.

A strong dollar, making imports cheaper and exporting more difficult, appears to have little effect on the survival rate of small retailers, according to the study. The study covers 15 years of data, from 1990 through 2005, from the U.S. Census Bureau's Statistics of U.S. Businesses and other sources. On the other hand, the study's authors found that real exchange rate appreciation lead to increased rates of small firm exit in the wholesale sector. In wholesale firms with more than 10 employees, a 10 percent real dollar appreciation leads to a roughly 20 percent increase in firm closures. This finding suggests that wholesalers are closely tied to domestic manufacturers, and find it hard to switch suppliers to take advantage of falling import prices.
<http://www.sba.gov/advo/press/09-09.html> [HTML format, various paging].

ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Brown, Lester COULD FOOD SHORTAGES BRING DOWN CIVILIZATION? (Scientific American, May 2009)

The author, president of the Earth Policy Institute, writes that the biggest threat to global stability is the potential for food crises in poor countries to cause government collapse. Food scarcity and the resulting higher food prices are pushing poor countries into chaos. Such "failed states" can export disease, terrorism, illicit drugs, weapons and refugees. Water shortages, soil erosion and rising temperatures from global warming are placing severe limits on food production. Without massive and rapid intervention to address these three environmental factors, the author argues, a series of government collapses could threaten the world order. Currently available online at <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=civilization-food-shortages&page=5>

Curry, Andrew THE WORLD'S FIRST TEMPLE? (Smithsonian, vol. 39, no. 8, November 2008, pp. 54-60)

On a hilltop in southeastern Turkey, near the border with Syria, a team of German archaeologists are excavating a place estimated to date to 9,000 B.C. that they think may be humanity's first site of worship. Their findings may re-write the conventional wisdom about the evolution of human society. Gobekli Tepe is a man-made earthen mound, in which archaeologists have discovered a series of massive carved and embellished stones. They were arranged by their builders in a ritualistic way, and then buried. The size and mass of the construction could have only been achieved by a well-organized workforce, yet its age means that it was built before the domestication of animals and the emergence of agriculture. Anthropology has long held that farming and the organization of labor it demanded led to the building of temples and development of complex social structures. The Gobekli Tepe dig is leading many to suggest that it may have been the other way around -- that the effort required to build the monoliths was the basis for the development of agriculture and complex societies. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/gobekli-tepe.html>

Inglehart, Ronald; Welzel, Christian WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT MODERNIZATION (Foreign Affairs, vol. 88, no. 2, March-April 2009)

The authors write that, although democracies are in retreat in some developing countries, evidence shows that over time democracy emerges from modernization. Inglehart and Welzel, coauthors of MODERNIZATION, CULTURAL CHANGE, AND DEMOCRACY, say industrialization brings about rapid economic growth and other changes that transform behavior. High levels of development make people more tolerant and trusting, promoting self-expression and participation in making decisions, including political decisions. "This means that the economic resurgence of China and Russia has a positive aspect: underlying changes are occurring that make the emergence of increasingly liberal and democratic political systems likely in the coming years," they note. Modernization does not go on indefinitely; each phase of modernization effects some changes to people's world views. It does not weaken religious and ethnic traditions or lead to westernization. Nor does it lead to democracy automatically; democracy emerges as highly educated people increasingly think for themselves and change their behavior. At some point democracy becomes hard to avoid "because repressing mass demands for more open societies becomes increasingly costly and detrimental to economic effectiveness." Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64821/ronald-inglehart-and-christian-welzel/how-development-leads-to-democracy?page=show>

Marcus, Gary TOTAL RECALL (Wired, vol. 17, no. 4, April 2009, pp. 110-115)

Since 2006, a California woman, Jill Price, has received significant media attention as "the woman who doesn't forget." Her unusual autobiographical memory first came to the attention of neuroscientists who wrote about her capability for recall in a scientific journal. But Marcus, a cognitive psychologist himself, finds a rather different story about his subject after spending several days with her. Price remembers minute details about her own history, her community, and a few favorite topics such as television shows, airplane crashes, and news-making disasters. But when Marcus quizzed Price about events of the 2008 election cycle, she came up short. Responding to standard tests measuring short-term recall for new information, Price does no better than average, Marcus found. Price's unusual memory is not so much attributable to the capacity of her brain, but her obsessive-compulsive habits in journaling about the small details of every day, and keeping mementoes of the past. The neuroscientists who first wrote about Price gave her condition a new name, hyperthymestic syndrome, Greek for exceptional memory. Available online at http://www.wired.com/medtech/health/magazine/17-04/ff_perfectmemory?currentPage=all

Margulis, Jennifer LOOKING UP (Smithsonian, vol. 39, no. 8, November 2008, pp. 36-44)

Efforts are underway to rebuild the population of Niger's wild giraffes, which fell to only about 50 animals in the mid-1990s. Unlike preservation efforts for threatened species in many other parts

of the world, Niger's effort involves no wildlife preserves. The animals – some as tall as six meters – share the landscape with a rural population, and compete for some of the same resources. The giraffes, which are not threatened by any predatory species in Niger, feed off tree leaves, the same trees that the local populace harvests for firewood. Preservationist groups are trying to provide aid to villagers to change this dynamic and build local support for protection of the animals. After more than a decade of these efforts, Niger's giraffe population has increased to about 175 individuals. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/giraffe.html>

Sennot, Charles M. ROLL THE DICE: HOW ONE JOURNALIST GAMBLED ON THE FUTURE OF NEWS (Columbia Journalism Review, March-April 2009)

Sennot, a former Boston Globe correspondent, writes of his transition from being a traditional print journalist to co-founding GlobalPost.com, an online "collaborative" foreign news agency that has attracted major journalists who write on a freelance basis for a modest stipends and shares in the company. Despite the trepidation of entering a new realm, and a shortfall in funding, GlobalPost.com was launched and is among a group that includes ProPublica and Politico moving the news delivery model forward. It also offers an entrepreneurial landing spot for journalists exiting traditional print careers. "It is an exciting time, a historic shift in how the world will be informed," Sennot writes. He is currently GlobalPost.com's executive editor. Currently available online at http://www.cjr.org/cover_story/roll_the_dice.php?page=all

ECONOMIC SECURITY

ASIA'S NEXT CHALLENGE: SECURING THE REGION'S WATER FUTURE (Asia Society, April 2009, 59 pp.)

One-sixth of the world's population currently does not have good access to safe water and half of all countries could have water shortages by 2025, according to the UN. In this report, an international group of leaders from academia, government and the private sector convened by the Asia Society urges countries to take more action to avert a world "water crisis." It says policy makers should begin by looking at the world's growing water scarcity as of more than just an environmental threat and consider water scarcity both a national security and development challenge. With climate change and a growing world population, the water supply is becoming more and more uncertain. The group says countries should use existing scientific data on climate change and water already collected and that more resources should be directed to the UN so it can collect more data. The group also calls for expanding the capacity of the Asia Development Bank to finance and to provide technical expertise in urban water services and river basin management. It wants governments to give incentives to encourage investing in water management technologies. Online link to report available at http://www.asiasociety.org/resources/090417_watertaskforce.html

Bertini, Catherine; Glickman, Dan FARM FUTURES (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 88, No. 3, May/June 2009, pp. 93-105)

The U.S. should make agricultural development its top foreign aid priority and get other international donors to do the same, say Bertini, a former head of the United Nations World Food Program, and Glickman, a former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. They say chronic hunger, which now affects nearly 1 billion people around the world, is a national security threat. Terrorists are using free food to lure hungry students into organizations that teach extremism. Diseases related to hunger are the world's leading health threat, claiming more lives than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. But, the authors write, the traditional approach to foreign aid has been

defensive, such as the U.S. putting more than \$2 billion into food aid in 2008 to cope with a global food crisis. The focus, instead, should be on helping rural communities, especially in Africa and Asia, become more self-sufficient in food production. Key to this approach is making loans, improved seeds and fertilizers, and training in better farming methods available, especially to women farmers, who are the ones primarily responsible for farming in developing countries. The authors call for the U.S. Congress to pass the Lugar-Casey Global Food Security Act to boost funds for agricultural research and education. They want the Congress to change policies that currently give preference to U.S. carriers transporting aid, and call for the United States to consolidate the administration of U.S. food aid programs under one agency. Currently available online at <http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/FA.pdf>

Johnson, Simon THE QUIET COUP (Atlantic, May 2009)

Johnson, former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, writes that the Obama administration is unlikely to reform the U.S. financial system because his top economic advisers have been recruited from the leading investment banks, the very institutions in need of reform. "The finance industry has effectively captured our government," Johnson writes; "recovery will fail unless we break the financial oligarchy that is blocking essential reform." Johnson said that the U.S. financial troubles are similar to the crises that brought heavily indebted developing countries to the IMF for loans. The author, now a scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, asserts that the U.S. financial disaster was brought about by an "Oligarchy, running the country rather like a profit-seeking company in which they are the controlling shareholders." He said that government bailouts of the banks that have become too big to fail are not incentives to reform. "The government's velvet-glove approach with banks ... is inadequate to change the behavior of a financial sector accustomed to doing business on its own terms," Johnson asserts. In contrast to the administration's bailout strategy, Johnson has another proposal: nationalize troubled banks and break them up as necessary. Without thorough banking reform, the author said that the world risks going into an economic slump worse than the Great Depression. "We face a synchronized downturn in almost all countries, a weakening of confidence among individuals and firms, and major problems for government finances," Johnson writes. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200905/imf-advice>

Salmon, Felix RECIPE FOR DISASTER (Wired, vol. 17, no. 3, March 2009, pp. 74-79, 112)

In the 1990s, a mathematician named David Li solved one of the most difficult problems in the financial world – determining correlation, or how seemingly disparate events are related – with a simple formula, one which quickly became ubiquitous in finance worldwide. Li's formula, known as a Gaussian copula function, appeared to be a breakthrough, enabling hugely complex risks to be modeled with more ease and accuracy than ever before. Despite the warnings by some analysts, not the least of whom was Li himself, that the formula had its limitations, the creation and trading of asset-backed securities and derivatives exploded to unimaginable levels. The model started falling apart in 2008, as the correlation modeling was drawing on data only for the recent period in which asset prices were rising. Available online at http://www.wired.com/techbiz/it/magazine/17-03/wp_quant

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Betts, Richard K. THE THREE FACES OF NATO (National Interest, no. 100, March-April, 2009, pp. 31-38)

Betts, an adjunct senior fellow for national-security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, writes that NATO is facing an identity crisis. Is it a club for democracies or a means for fighting offensive wars? He argues that without a serious rethink of NATO's fundamental purpose, the alliance could well come apart and create conflict with the former Soviet Union in the process. Currently available online at <http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=20944>

Katzenstein, Suzanne; Snyder, Jack EXPEDIENCY OF THE ANGELS (National Interest, no. 100, March-April, 2009, pp. 58-65)

The authors, both from Columbia University, write that the U.S. is no longer the master of its hemispheric domain; gone are the days when Washington could expect Latin America to bow down to its interests. After years of failed foreign and domestic policies, the United States will have to shed its old habits of "best-friendism", wishful thinking and demonization when dealing with the region. Currently available online at http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2751/is_100/ai_n31481684/

Mousseau, Michael THE SOCIAL MARKET ROOTS OF DEMOCRATIC PEACE (International Security, vol. 33, no. 4, Spring 2009, pp. 87—114)

The author, associate professor of international relations at Koc University in Istanbul, writes that democracy does not cause peace among nations. Rather, domestic conditions cause both democracy and peace. From 1961 to 2001, democratic nations engaged in numerous conflicts with each other, including at least one war, yet not a single fatal militarized incident occurred between nations with economies characterized by widespread public participation. In such contract-intensive economies, individuals learn to respect the choices of others and value equal application of the law; they demand liberal democracy at home and perceive it in their interest to respect the rights of nations and international law abroad. The consequences involve more than just peace: the contract-intensive democracies are in natural alliance against any challenges to the Westphalian system of law and order by state or nonstate actors. Because China and Russia lack contractualist economies, this economic divide will define great power politics in the coming decade. To address the challenges posed by China and Russia and secure their citizens from terrorism, the contract-intensive powers should focus their efforts on supporting global economic opportunity, rather than on promoting democracy. Online link to full text available at <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/isec.2009.33.4.52>

Newmyer, Jacqueline OIL, ARMS, AND INFLUENCE: THE INDIRECT STRATEGY BEHIND CHINESE MILITARY MODERNIZATION (Orbis, vol. 53, no. 2, Spring 2009, pp. 205-219)

The author, president of the defense consultancy Long Term Strategy Group, notes that, according to a recent RAND report, the U.S. will not be able to defend Taiwan from Chinese military aggression by 2020. However, this study, like many others, raises more questions than it answers about China's current defense posture. Newmyer argues that China's strategic approach is not designed primarily for fighting a war over Taiwan, or over any other matter of critical interest to China, but to create a disposition of forces so favorable to Beijing that China will not need to fight a war. Rather than thinking of China's strategy as a blueprint for using military power to secure territory or vital resources, such as oil, the possibility should be considered that Beijing's actions are directed at obviating the need to fight. Beijing may calculate that it can render its interests unassailable by constructing a network of friendly or dependent states by means of arms transfers or development aid. The assumption is that China's prospective enemies, finding themselves encircled or obstructed by powers aligned with Beijing, will be unable to embark on a military campaign to deny China oil. They will, therefore, be deterred from threatening China, e.g. by interrupting its oil supplies. It is a mark of the efficacy of this broader deterrence strategy that American security analysts are already ruling out a successful defense of

Taiwan in 2020. Similarly, the early stages of an effort to insulate China from an energy-related challenge are already visible. Available online at <http://www.fpri.org/orbis/5302/newmyer.oilarmsinfluence.pdf>

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Barreiro, Jose NATION TO NATION (American Indian, Spring 2009, pp. 52-56)

The Indian Wars of the late 1700s in America were fueled by hunger for land by the new settlers; the colonists moved into Native people's lands with little regard for treaty guarantees. The new U.S. president, George Washington, sought federal power to curb the unbridled practices of the states, and he realized that the new republic could not afford more wars with the Indian nations. He also sought an honorable course for negotiation of land purchases with the native nations. The Seneca warrior chief Cornplanter (Kiantwhauka) emerged as a key negotiator with Washington; a decade-long dialogue with America's Founding Father resulted in the Treaty of Canandaigua in 1794, and helped frame U.S.-Indian relations during the formation of the U.S. Constitution. Cornplanter was well-known for his eloquence as a public speaker, and was instrumental in persuading the new U.S. Congress to address the Indian nations with one voice, instead of the confusing multiple positions of the states. The first Indian Non-Intercourse Act of 1790 remains on the books today, and provided the basis of the historic tribal land claims cases of the twentieth century.

Bedord, Jean EBOOKS HIT CRITICAL MASS: WHERE DO LIBRARIES FIT WITH OPRAH? (Online, vol. 33, no. 3, May/June 2009, pp. 14-17)

The author, a private consultant, was one of the earliest eBook readers and one of its strongest proponents of the then-emerging format. The earliest eBooks were large, bulky contraptions that looked like thick binders. Since then, readers have shrunk to the size of a thin paperback, more titles are available (now a major key to the success of eBooks), and the term "eBook" is now part of the general lexicon. Much of the credit for this change goes to television celebrity Oprah Winfrey's endorsement of the Amazon Kindle, which did much to change the mind-set for both readers and publishers, plus infrastructure changes that created larger inventories of book titles. When eBooks first launched, there were less than 10,000 titles available. In contrast, present users (thanks to Kindle) have 230,000 titles. Overdrive claims more than 150,000 titles; NetLibrary has over 180,000 titles while Google has just announced the availability of more than 1,5 million public domain books for the iPhone and the Android-based GI.

Lawrence, Edward POE MAN'S IMMORTALITY (Humanities, vol. 29, no. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 41-43)

Nineteenth-century U.S. author Edgar Allan Poe continues to be a major figure in modern popular media -- cartoons, comic books, graphic novels and other venue -- more so than any other major author, notes Lawrence. He ascribes this to a number of factors, foremost is that Poe is "immediately recognizable ... a legendary figure, sort of like the nineteenth-century James Dean." He was one of the first writers to support himself solely through writing, requiring him to appear in the public eye. He was an astute marketer, and a master of publicity stunts; after publishing an essay on "secret writing", he promoted cryptography by offering to solve coded messages sent to him by readers. Poe was a pioneer of dark romanticism, of characters with conflicting emotions, which lends itself handily to the comic format. His work also spoke to something that many did not address at the time -- that the "regimented, mechanical and impersonal ethos of the industrial

age stifled what it meant to be human.” Available online at
<http://www.neh.gov/news/humanities/2008-09/immortality.html>

McGonigal, Jane FIERO! MUSEUMS AS HAPPINESS PIONEERS (Museum, vol. 88, no. 2, March/April 2009, pp. 48-53)

The author, a designer of alternative reality games and a research affiliate at the Institute for the Future in Palo Alto, California, believes that mass collaboration in the virtual world can translate into helping communities in the real world probe the future and solve problems. Museums should be in the business of making people happy; for this reason, gaming, long thought of as a way to pass time, is now a way to solve real-world problems. Museums can harness gaming's power to help someone who might otherwise be without resources. This is part of the case for public funding by proving museums' value, an argument that museums are now trying to make before Congress. In this article, an excerpt from a lecture the author gave in December 2008 at Washington, DC's Newseum as a presentation by the American Association of Museums' Center for the Future of Museums, McGonigal looks at ways in which innovative thinking and new ideas about the role museums are now playing in shaping communities and society.

Wollman, Dana IS TECHNOLOGY TEARING APART FAMILY LIFE? (Laptop, March 2009, pp. 92-97)

The author notes that text messaging, social networking and online video are changing the dynamics between parents and children; technology today is the new “rock-and-roll”, with the older generation trying to make sense of it, if not openly embrace, it. Some believe that social networking will improve family interaction, while others argue that the new technology threatens to rip apart not just family unity but the fabric of society itself, as more individuals communicate only through their high-tech devices, decreasing the amount of time they actually interact on a personal level. Eye contact, emotional resonance and body language are lost if humans rely primarily on texting, instant-messaging or FaceBook as means of communication. Family togetherness, like evening meals or weekend activities, gets short-changed once again as children use their gadgets as a substitute for family participation. Currently available online at <http://www.laptopmag.com/mobile-life/is-technology-tearing-apart-family-life.aspx>

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