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## **SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS**

TO WALK THE EARTH IN SAFETY. U.S. Department of State. July 8, 2009.

The report summarizes the accomplishments of the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action Program, the world's largest such operation. In 2008, the Department of State provided \$123.1 million in mine clearance and weapons destruction assistance to 35 countries. Among the report's success stories is Cambodia, where U.S. humanitarian mine action has contributed to a 72 percent decline in explosives-related casualties, a trend which should continue in the coming years.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/125873.pdf> [PDF format, 52 pages].

ADJUSTING TO TRADE-POLICY CHANGES IN EXPORT MARKETS: EVIDENCE FROM U.S. ANTIDUMPING DUTIES ON VIETNAMESE CATFISH. World Bank. Irene Brambilla et al. July 2009.

The report studies the effects of trade policy changes on developing-country exports on household incomes, and recent contributions have increasingly addressed the effects of administered protection, such as anti-dumping duties. In 2003 the United States imposed anti-dumping tariffs on imports of catfish from Vietnam ranging from 37 to 64 percent. As a result, Vietnamese exports of catfish to the U.S. market declined sharply, thus providing a unique opportunity to study the effects of U.S. trade policy changes on Vietnamese families. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/07/07/000158349\\_20090707115737/Rendered/PDF/WPS4990.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/07/07/000158349_20090707115737/Rendered/PDF/WPS4990.pdf) [PDF format, 50 pages].

CHINA SECURITY BUILD-UP FORESHADOWS LARGE-SCALE CRACKDOWN. Human Rights Watch. July 10, 2009.

Since the violence erupted in Urumqi, the regional capital, on July 5, 2009, following what appeared to be initially a peaceful protest organized by Uighur students, the government has proceeded to deploy at least 20,000 troops in and around the city. National and regional authorities have also announced that they will seek the death penalty for protest organizers and those who committed violence. "The government has promised a thorough investigation into the violence but has so far presented a skewed and incomplete picture of the unrest," said Sophie Richardson, Asia advocacy director at Human Rights Watch. "This raises serious doubts about its commitment to investigating all aspects of the violence rather than presenting a pre-determined version of the events." [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.hrw/en/news/2009/07/10/china-security-build-foreshadows-large-scale-crackdown> [HTML format, various paging].

## HOW DOES DECENTRALISED MINIMUM-WAGE SETTING AFFECT UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFORMALITY? THE CASE OF INDONESIA.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Margherita Comola and Luiz de Mello. July 8, 2009.

The report findings show that an increase in the minimum to mean wage ratio is associated with a net increase in employment: a rise in informal sector employment more than compensates for job losses in the formal sector. [Note: contains copyright material]. [http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT000049AA/\\$FILE/JT03267795.PDF](http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT000049AA/$FILE/JT03267795.PDF) [PDF format, 26 pages].

## FARM PAYMENTS IN THE EU – THEIR DISTRIBUTION AND JUSTIFICATION.

International Association of Agricultural Economists. Franz Sinabell et al. July 2009.

The introduction of decoupled direct payments in the EU was a substantial change of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in 2003. After decoupling direct payments from production, it has become evident that distributional objectives are the major justification of farm payments. There are three facets: the distribution of payments among farmers within member states, the distribution of payments among member states, and the distribution of household incomes within member states. All of them will be affected if the volume and allocation of funds for the CAP will be changed in the new financial framework of the EU. [Note: contains copyright material]. [http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/51800/2/farm\\_payments.pdf](http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/51800/2/farm_payments.pdf) [PDF format, 15 pages].

## THE BEGINNING OF THE END IN IRAQ.

Brookings Institute. Bruce Reidel. July 9, 2009.

The Iraqi government has now celebrated the withdrawal of American troops from its cities. The withdrawal of American combat troops from Iraq's cities is the beginning of the end of this war, or at least the American part of it, according to the report. It also adds that, hopefully, it will mark the end of an era of over-sizing Iraq in American policy. Most Americans long ago came to understand that the war was the wrong battle in the wrong place with the wrong foe. What is perhaps most remarkable, however, is just how little the war contributed, despite that enormous cost, to America's four key goals in the Middle East. [Note: contains copyright material]. [http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0709\\_iraq\\_riedel.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0709_iraq_riedel.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

## KASHMIR MILITANT EXTREMISTS.

Council on Foreign Relations. Jamal Afridi. July 9, 2009.

The author provides a profile of militant extremist groups in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. [Note: contains copyright material]. [http://www.cfr.org/publication/9135/kashmir\\_militant\\_extremists.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fbackgrounder](http://www.cfr.org/publication/9135/kashmir_militant_extremists.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder) [HTML format, various paging].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS: CANADA. Energy Information Administration. July 2009.

Canada has considerable natural resources and is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of energy. In 2006, Canada produced 19.3 quadrillion British Thermal Units (Btu) of total energy, the fifth-largest amount in the world. Since 1980, Canada's total energy production has increased by 87 percent, while its total energy consumption has increased by only 44 percent. Almost all of Canada's energy exports go to the United States, making it the largest source of U.S. energy imports.

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

FEVER PITCH: MOSQUITO-BORN DENGUE FEVER THREAT SPREADING IN THE AMERICAS. Natural Resources Defense Council. Kim Knowlton et al. July 8, 2009.

Two types of mosquitoes capable of transmitting the dengue fever virus are invading Southern and Mid-Atlantic states, creating conditions more favorable for an outbreak, according to a report released today by the Natural Resources Defense Council. Areas of the United States previously inhospitable to the disease now support populations of mosquitoes capable of carrying the virus — a problem that may worsen with global warming. An estimated 173.5 million Americans live in counties that now contain one or both of the mosquito species. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.nrdc.org/health/dengue/files/dengue.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages].

AMERICA'S CHILDREN: KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING, 2009. Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. July 2009.

The report is a compendium of indicators illustrating both the promises and the difficulties confronting young people. The report presents 40 key indicators on important aspects of children's lives. These indicators are family and social environment, economic circumstances, health care, physical environment and safety, behavior, education, and health. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://childstats.gov/pdf/ac2009/ac\\_09.pdf](http://childstats.gov/pdf/ac2009/ac_09.pdf) [PDF format, 216 pages].

THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) AND ALL-HAZARD WARNINGS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Linda K. Moore. June 26, 2009.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is built on a structure conceived in the 1950's when over-the-air broadcasting was the best-available technology for widely disseminating emergency alerts. It is one of several federally managed warning systems. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), working with the Association of Public Television Stations, is implementing a program that will disseminate national alert messages over digital broadcast airwaves, using satellite and public TV broadcast towers.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL32527\\_20090626.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL32527_20090626.pdf) [PDF format, 14 pages].

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS: CRITICAL BARRIERS AND CONGRESSIONAL POLICY. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Paul W. Parformak et al. June 24, 2009.

Federal policymakers are debating a range of potential initiatives to limit U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454), for example, would set a target of reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 17% below 2005 levels by 2020. In the electricity industry, increasing the energy efficiency of buildings is viewed by many as the measure with the greatest potential to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions quickly and at relatively low cost. In light of the efficiency initiatives the federal government has taken since the 1970s, questions arise as to what additional policies might be considered to achieve more ambitious efficiency goals under a national policy of carbon control.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40670\\_20090624.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40670_20090624.pdf) [PDF format, 25 pages].

FORK IN THE ROAD: ALTERNATIVE PATHS TO A HIGH PERFORMANCE U.S. HEALTH SYSTEM. Commonwealth Fund. Cathy Schoen et al. June 24, 2009.

A comprehensive approach to health insurance, provider payment, and care delivery system reforms has the potential to slow health care cost increases while achieving near-universal coverage, according to the report. The potential savings for families, businesses, and the federal government vary markedly, however, depending on whether or not a public insurance plan option is included and how such a plan is structured. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/Fund-Reports/2009/Jun/Fork-in-the-Road.aspx> [HTML format, various paging].

IS YOUR BOTTLED WATER WORTH IT? Environmental Working Group. July 8, 2009.

The study investigates almost 200 popular bottled water brands found less than 2 percent disclose the water's source, how the water has been purified and what chemical pollutants each bottle of water may contain. Just 2 of the 188 individual brands EWG analyzed disclosed those three basic facts about their water. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.ewg.org/health/report/bottledwater-scorecard> [HTML format, various paging].

THE INTERPLAY OF REGULATION AND MARKET INCENTIVES IN PROVIDING FOOD SAFETY. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Michael Ollinger and Danna Moore. July 2009.

The report examines the impact of process regulations mandated under the Pathogen Reduction/Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (PR/HACCP) rule by the Food Safety and Inspection Service of USDA on food safety process control. The current level of food safety found in U.S. meat and poultry food products is a result of process and

performance regulations and management-determined actions brought about by market incentives. Processing regulations include sanitation and other tasks related to food safety; management-determined actions include capital investment and other actions independent of process regulations, but possibly driven by performance standards. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR75/ERR75.pdf> [PDF format, 52 pages].

**METROPOLITAN CONDITIONS AND TRENDS: CHANGING CONTEXTS FOR A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE.** Urban Institute. Leah Hendey and G. Thomas Kingsley. July 2009.

The brief reviews recent social and economic trends in the ten metropolitan areas that form the context for the neighborhood programs being operated as a part of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Making Connections initiative. It finds that these areas are strikingly different along a number dimensions and in are many ways representative of the diversity in conditions and trends across America's metropolitan areas. However, all sites did share in a number of trends: minority groups growing as a share of total population, improvements in several social indicators e.g., in crime and teen pregnancy but, disturbingly, notable increases in child poverty. [Note: contains copyright material]. [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411918\\_metro\\_conditions\\_trends.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411918_metro_conditions_trends.pdf) [PDF format, 40 pages].

**OIL FROM STONE: SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE.** National Center for Policy Analysis. H. Sterling Burnett and Tomas Castell. July 9, 2009.

Rising prices and security concerns raise important questions about America's energy options. Currently, the United States imports 66 percent of its oil, about 4.7 billion barrels per year or 9,000 barrels every minute. However, there are vast amounts of oil shale, a type of rock rich in kerogen, an organic sedimentary material, which can be converted into high-quality liquid fuels. The U.S. Department of Energy (D.O.E.) conservatively estimates oil shale formations in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming contain 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil, more than three times the proven reserves of Saudi Arabia, according to the report. [Note: contains copyright report]. <http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba664.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

**THE PHOENIX PROGRAM AND CONTEMPORARY COUNTERINSURGENCY.** RAND Corporation. William Rosenau and Austin Long. July 14, 2009.

The authors explore the Viet Cong underground, the target of Phoenix operations, and the early U.S. and South Vietnamese operations designed to dismantle it. Tracing the provenance and evolution of the Phoenix Program from these early operations, they identify the program's three elements and assess its overall success. They conclude that the truth about Phoenix and its effectiveness lies somewhere between the extremes of today's competing claims: The program made positive contributions to counterinsurgency in South Vietnam, but its political costs to the United States were substantial. The authors note that the Phoenix Program highlights the continuing importance of intelligence coordination and anti-infrastructure operations in contemporary counterinsurgency.



[Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional\\_papers/2009/RAND\\_OP258.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2009/RAND_OP258.pdf) [PDF format, 41 pages].

**PREPARING THE WORKERS OF TODAY FOR THE JOBS OF TOMORROW.**  
Executive Office of the President of The United States. July 13, 2009.

The President's Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) presents a projection of potential developments in the U.S. labor market over the next five to ten years and discusses the preparations necessary to develop the 21st century workforce. The report discusses the skills that will likely be most relevant in growing occupations, the value and limitations of our current post-high school education and training systems, and the characteristics of a more effective education and training structure.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Jobs\\_of\\_the\\_Future.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Jobs_of_the_Future.pdf) [PDF format, 30 pages].

**SHELLFISH MARICULTURE IN DRAKES ESTERO, POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE, CALIFORNIA.** National Research Council. July 2009.

When Drakes Estero, which lies within the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) about 25 miles northwest of San Francisco, California, was designated by Congress in 1976 as Potential Wilderness, it contained a commercial shellfish mariculture operation.

Nevertheless, with the approach of the 2012 expiration date of the current National Park Service (NPS) Reservation of Use and Occupancy (RUO) and Special Use Permit (SUP), there's concern over the scope and intensity of impacts of the shellfish culture operations on the estero's ecosystem. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12667](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12667) [HTML format, various paging].

**TWO RECENT STUDIES OF REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN THE EFFECTS OF POLICIES THAT WOULD PRICE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS.** Congressional Budget Office. July 9, 2009.

Two teams of experts, one affiliated with the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and one affiliated with Resources for the Future (RFF), have estimated regional differences in the effects of policies that would increase the prices of fossil fuels in rough proportion to the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitted when they are combusted, as would occur under a cap-and-trade program.

[http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/104xx/doc10432/07-09-RegionalEffects\\_Cap-Trade.pdf](http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/104xx/doc10432/07-09-RegionalEffects_Cap-Trade.pdf) [PDF format, 10 pages].

**U.S. OBESITY TRENDS 1985-2008.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. July 8, 2009.

The proportion of U.S. adults who are obese increased to 26.1 percent in 2008 compared to 25.6 percent in 2007. The data come from CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a state-based phone survey that collects health information from adults

aged 18 and over. In six states, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia, adult obesity prevalence was 30 percent or more. Thirty-two states, including those six, had obesity prevalence of 25 percent or more. Only one state, Colorado, had a prevalence of obesity less than 20 percent. But no state showed a significant decrease in obesity prevalence from 2007 to 2008.

<http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/trends.html> [HTML format with links].

ASSESSMENT AND INNOVATION IN EDUCATION. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Janet Looney. July 16, 2009.

The study proposes three main ways of combining assessment and innovation: 1) developing a wide range of performance measurements for both students and schools; 2) rethinking the alignment of standards and assessment; 3) measuring the impact of assessments on teaching and learning. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/0/43/43338180.pdf> [PDF format, 61 pages].

MEME-TRACKING AND THE DYNAMICS OF THE NEWS CYCLE. International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining. Jure Leskovec et al. July 2009.

Tracking new topics, ideas, and “memes” across the Web has been an issue of considerable interest, according to the paper. Recent work has developed methods for tracking topic shifts over long time scales, as well as abrupt spikes in the appearance of particular named entities. However, these approaches are less well suited to the identification of content that spreads widely and then fades over time scales on the order of days, the time scale at which we perceive news and events. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://memetracker.org/quotes-kdd09.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

MONEY LAUNDERING THROUGH THE FOOTBALL SECTOR. Financial Action Task Force, OECD. July 2009.

In the past two decades, football has changed from a popular pastime into a global industry. With the growing economic importance of football along with other sports, the investment of money into the sector has increased exponentially, and some of this has criminal connections. The report examines the sector in economic and social terms and provides case examples identifying areas that could be exploited by those who want to invest illegal money into football.

<http://www.fatf-gafi.org/dataoecd/7/41/43216572.pdf> [PDF format, 42 pages].

PRESIDENT’S EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIDS RELIEF. U.S. Government Accountability Office. July 15, 2009.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), first authorized in 2003 at \$15 billion for 5 years, was reauthorized in 2008 at \$48 billion through 2013. PEPFAR supports HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care services, primarily in Africa as well as in Asia and the Caribbean. The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC)



leads implementation of PEPFAR. The Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) are among PEPFAR's primary implementing agencies. In this report, responding to a legislative directive, GAO examined practices used in (1) selecting organizations to implement PEPFAR activities and (2) overseeing these organizations' PEPFAR activities.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09666.pdf> [PDF format, 64 pages].

REFUGEES AND ASYLEES: 2008. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. June 2009.

The United States provides refuge to persons who have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution through two programs: one for refugees, persons outside the U.S., and one for asylees, persons in the U.S. The Office of Immigration Statistics' report provides information on the number of persons admitted to the United States as refugees or granted asylum in the United States in 2008.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ois\\_rfa\\_fr\\_2008.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ois_rfa_fr_2008.pdf) [PDF format, 6 pages].

RUSSIA: LEADING CHECHNYA RIGHTS ACTIVIST MURDERED. Human Rights Watch. July 15, 2009.

Natalia Estemirova, a leading human rights defender in Chechnya, was found shot dead in Ingushetia on July 15, 2009, says Human Rights Watch. She is the second human rights activist murdered in Russia in 2009 for trying to publicize grave and continuing human rights abuses in Chechnya. Human Rights Watch urges the Russian government to launch a full, independent, and transparent investigation into Estemirova's murder. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/07/15/russia-leading-chechnya-rights-activist-murdered> [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/07/15/russie-assassinat-de-l-minente-militante-des-droits-humains-natalia-estemirova> French [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/07/15-0> Japanese [HTML format, various paging].

CLINTON'S CHALLENGE IN INDIA. Council on Foreign Relations. Evan A. Feigenbaum. July 16, 2009.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton heads to India with an opportunity to spur improving relations further, says Evan Feigenbaum. The emphasis should be on strengthening bilateral trade, energy, and nonproliferation ties, he says. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/19852/clintons\\_challenge\\_in\\_india.html?breadcrumb=%2F](http://www.cfr.org/publication/19852/clintons_challenge_in_india.html?breadcrumb=%2F) [HTML format, various paging].

HEALTH INSURANCE AND BANKRUPTCY RATES IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. Fraser Institute. July 2009.

The current debate about reforming health care policy has included suggestions that nearly two-thirds of personal bankruptcies in the U.S. result from uninsured medical expenses or loss of income due to illness. Advocates of socialized medicine argue that this would not occur if the U.S. adopted a government-run health system similar to Canada's. But as this report details, the evidence doesn't support the bankruptcy claim. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.fraseramerica.org/commerce.web/product\\_files/HealthInsuranceandBankruptcyRates\\_US.pdf](http://www.fraseramerica.org/commerce.web/product_files/HealthInsuranceandBankruptcyRates_US.pdf) [PDF format, 5 pages].

PRODUCTIVITY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AND WITHIN COUNTRIES. National Bureau of Economic Research. Daron Acemoglu and Melissa Dell. July 2009.

The report documents substantial within-country, cross-municipality, differences in incomes for a large number of countries in the Americas. A significant fraction of the within-country differences cannot be explained by observed human capital. The authors conjecture that the sources of within-country and between-country differences are related. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.nber.org/papers/w15155.pdf?new\\_window=1](http://www.nber.org/papers/w15155.pdf?new_window=1) [PDF format, 39 pages].

COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER PROGRESS REPORT. U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Web posted July 8, 2009.

The report represents the work of a large number of scientists from 8 Federal agencies, 2 state departments of agriculture, 22 universities, and several private research efforts. In response to the unexplained losses of U.S. honey bee colonies now known as colony collapse disorder (CCD), USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) led a collaborative effort to define an approach to CCD, resulting in the CCD Action Plan in July 2007.

<http://pubwiki.extension.org/mediawiki/files/c/c7/CCDReport2009.pdf> [PDF format, 45 pages].

DIFFERENCES IN PREVALENCE OF OBESITY AMONG BLACK, WHITE, AND HISPANIC ADULTS – UNITED STATES, 2006-2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. July 17, 2009.

The prevalence of obesity in the United States has more than doubled in the past three decades, and certain racial/ethnic populations have been affected disproportionately, according to the report. The report finds that non-Hispanic blacks had the greatest prevalence of obesity, followed by Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites.

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5827a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm5827a2\\_x](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5827a2.htm?s_cid=mm5827a2_x) [HTML format, various paging].

**GETTING THE LEAD OUT KILLS SMALL BUSINESSES, DOESN'T SAVE THE CHILDREN.** National Center for Policy Analysis. H. Sterling Burnett and Michael Hand. July 15, 2009.

Products intended for use by children may not contain lead amounts greater than 100 parts per million (ppm) starting in 2011. The new regulations were required by the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, which was passed hastily in response to 2007 recalls of toys imported from China. The law was intended to protect children (12 years old and younger) from lead poisoning, however, it targets products that pose a miniscule risk to children. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba665.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

**HIGH-TECH IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES.** Office of Advocacy, Small Business Administration. David M. Hart et al. July 16, 2009.

Sixteen percent of high-impact, high-tech firms have at least one immigrant founder, according to the study. Although these firms are concentrated in states with large immigrant populations, in most other respects they resemble high-impact, high-tech firms founded by native-born entrepreneurs.  
<http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/rs349tot.pdf> [PDF format, 84 pages].

**HOMES NOT HANDCUFFS: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS IN U.S. CITIES.** National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and National Coalition for the Homeless. July 2009.

The housing and homelessness crisis in the United States has worsened over the past two years, particularly due to the current economic and foreclosure crises. People being evicted from foreclosed properties and the economic crisis in general have contributed to the growing homeless population. Even though most cities do not provide enough affordable housing, shelter space, and food to meet the need, many cities use the criminal justice system to punish people living on the street for doing things that they need to do to survive. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/crimreport/CrimzReport\\_2009.pdf](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/crimreport/CrimzReport_2009.pdf) [PDF format, 194 pages].

**IF HEALTH SURTAX IS 5.4 PERCENT, TAXPAYERS IN 39 STATES WOULD PAY A TOP TAX RATE OVER 50%.** Tax Foundation. July 14, 2009.

The report shows that 39 states would see top tax rates exceed 50% under a health care funding plan announced by House Democrats. The latest proposal would impose a surtax of 1 percent on married couples with adjusted gross incomes (AGI) between \$350,000 and \$500,000 (singles between \$280,000 and \$400,000); 1.5 percent on couples with incomes between \$500,000 and \$1 million (singles earning between \$400,000 and \$800,000); and 5.4 percent on couples earning more than \$1 million (singles beyond \$800,000). [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.taxfoundation.org/files/ff178.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].

THE ILL-PREPARED U.S. WORKFORCE. The Conference Board et al. Jill Casner-Lotto et al. July 14, 2009.

The report shows that U.S. employers continue to struggle with an ill-prepared workforce, finding new hires lack crucial basic and applied skills. For the most part, employer-sponsored readiness training is not successfully correcting these deficiencies. Almost half of respondents said they have to provide readiness training for new hires and the majority rates their programs as only “moderately” or “somewhat successful.” [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.cvworkingfamilies.org/system/files/Ill\\_preparedWorkforce\\_RR.pdf](http://www.cvworkingfamilies.org/system/files/Ill_preparedWorkforce_RR.pdf) [PDF format, 24 pages].

RETHINKING THE MIDDLEMEN: FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN GUARANTY AGENCIES. New America Foundation. Benjamin Miller. July 13, 2009.

The policy paper provides an overview of the history and current responsibilities of guaranty agencies, complex entities that provide administrative functions within the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. The paper also provides recommendations for policymakers to reform these agencies’ current functions. The paper comes at an important time, as Congress considers proposals put forth by the Obama administration to significantly change the federal student loan programs. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.newamerica.net/files/Rethinking%20the%20Middleman%20\(24pp,%20PDF\).pdf](http://www.newamerica.net/files/Rethinking%20the%20Middleman%20(24pp,%20PDF).pdf) [PDF format, 24 pages].

SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR THE ECONOMIC CRISIS: THE U.S. EXPERIENCE. Brookings Institution. Gary Burtless. July 15, 2009.

As unemployment continues to climb, questions have arisen as to whether the stimulus package is working, how well it was designed and when it will have an impact. The author examines its composition, finding that efforts at creating a social safety net and fiscal relief for the states were appropriately targeted and are working [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0715\\_social\\_protection\\_burtless/0715\\_social\\_protection\\_burtless.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0715_social_protection_burtless/0715_social_protection_burtless.pdf) [PDF format, 46 pages].

STATE DEPARTMENT: KEY TRANSFORMATION PRACTICES COULD HAVE HELPED IN RESTRUCTURING ARMS CONTROL AND NONPROLIFERATION BUREAUS. U.S. Government Accountability Office. July 2009.

In 2004, the Department of State (State) Inspector General (IG) concluded that State’s three-bureau structure for conducting arms control and nonproliferation policy did not adequately address post-September 11 challenges, including possible terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction. The IG also noted that State had yet to formalize the responsibilities of the three bureaus in its Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM), which sets out agency organization and functions. Between late 2005 and early 2006, State created a

new two-bureau structure to better address these issues and improve efficiency. GAO assesses the reorganizations and their effectiveness.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09738.pdf> [PDF format, 52 pages].

TAKING LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT ADULTS INTO ACCOUNT IN THE FEDERAL ADULT EDUCATION FUNDING FORMULA. Migration Policy Institute. Randy Capps et al. Web posted July 2009.

The report examines the funding formula used to distribute Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title II federal funds for adult education, literacy, and English as a Second Language instruction. Though all adults with limited English proficiency (LEP) are eligible for WIA Title II programs, the authors report that the formula used to distribute \$554 million to the states in fiscal 2009 excludes 11.2 million LEP adults with at least a high school education. With WIA up for reauthorization, the authors suggest there is an opportunity for policymakers to revisit the funding formula and related issues. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/WIA-LEP-June2009.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages].

UNEQUAL UNEMPLOYMENT: RACIAL DISPARITIES IN UNEMPLOYMENT VARY WIDELY BY STATE. Economic Policy Institute. Algernon Austin. July 15, 2009.

The United States is suffering its most severe economic crisis in decades. This economic hardship is not shared equally, however, and unemployment rates in many states are far worse than the national figures would suggest, according to the study. Furthermore, the differences *between* states mask sometimes greater gaps *within* them, gaps defined by wide, sometimes growing disparities in unemployment rates by race and ethnicity. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://epi.3cdn.net/63e4d3a687f38a0312\\_r8m6bxs86.pdf](http://epi.3cdn.net/63e4d3a687f38a0312_r8m6bxs86.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages].

ACCELERATING SMART GRID INVESTMENTS. World Economic Forum. July 2009.

The report shows how smart grids can be the backbone infrastructure for tomorrow's energy solutions and green economy. The world's electricity systems are increasingly outdated and coming under pressure in the face of rising demand, climate change and the advent of transformative technologies. Smart grids have been hailed as a key to sustainably meeting emerging energy needs in a new age where clean energy is at a premium, networks require flexibility to incorporate renewable energy and customers' demands for greater transparency and control over their consumption are growing. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/SlimCity/SmartGrid2009.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].

AN AGING WORLD: 2008 INTERNATIONAL POPULATION REPORTS. U.S. Bureau of Census. Kevin Kinsella and Wan He. Web posted July 20, 2009.

The average age of the world's population is increasing at an unprecedented rate. The number of people worldwide 65 and older is estimated at 506 million as of midyear 2008; by 2040, that number will hit 1.3 billion. Thus, in just over 30 years, the proportion of older people will double from 7 percent to 14 percent of the total world population, according to the report.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p95-09-1.pdf> [PDF format, 204 pages].

CLIMATE SCIENCE 2008 MAJOR NEW DISCOVERIES. World Resources Institute. Kevin Levin and Dennis Tirpak. July 2009.

The report argues that human activity is the primary cause of rising temperatures and that climate change impacts are accelerating. The compilation of peer-reviewed research includes evidence that melting rates for mountain glaciers around the world doubled between 2004 and 2006, and that more than 28,000 plant and animal species are changing habits due to new climatic conditions. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://pdf.wri.org/climate\\_science\\_2008.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/climate_science_2008.pdf) [PDF format, 28 pages].

GLOBAL REFORM OF PERSONAL INCOME TAXATION, 1981-2005: EVIDENCE FROM 189 COUNTIES. Institute for the Study of Labor. Klara Sabirianova Peter et al. Web posted July 2009.

The paper uses a panel of 189 countries to describe the salient trends that have emerged in national personal income tax systems spanning the twenty five year period from 1981 to 2005. Using complete national income tax schedules, it calculates actual average and marginal tax rates at different income levels as well as time-varying measures of structural progressivity and complexity of national tax systems. The report shows that frequent alterations of tax structures have reduced tax rates at higher levels of income and diminished the overall progressivity and complexity of national tax systems; however, the degree of this change varies considerably across countries. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp4228.pdf> [PDF format, 54 pages]

THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND CLIMATE CHANGE – CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL DEBATE. International Association for the Study of Insurance Economics. July 2009.

The insurance industry is forward-looking by nature, and has a long-term comprehensive approach shared by few other economic factors, says the report. It shows that climate change is about more than just extreme weather events. It analyses what insurance companies are already doing, what they could do in the future and where they need the cooperation of governments and other partners to succeed. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.genevaassociation.org/PDF/Geneva\\_Reports/Geneva\\_report%5B2%5D.pdf](http://www.genevaassociation.org/PDF/Geneva_Reports/Geneva_report%5B2%5D.pdf) [PDF format, 152 pages].



MICROFINANCE FOR HOUSING: ASSISTING THE “BOTTOM BILLION” AND THE “MISSING MIDDLE.” Urban Institute. Sally R. Merrill. Web posted July 15, 2009.

UN-HABITAT has calculated that one-sixth of humanity, 1 billion people, currently live in slums. In the next 30 years, this figure could rise to over 31 percent of the world's population. The vast majority of these households will never be able to afford, nor have access to, formal mortgage finance. Thus, increasing the availability of microfinance for housing (MFH) to help provide adequate shelter and sanitation will become increasingly important. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411920\\_microfinance\\_housing.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411920_microfinance_housing.pdf) [PDF format, 13 pages].

THE TRANSMISSION OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES TO AGRICULTURAL PRICES. U.S. Department of Agriculture. William Liefert and Suresh Persaud. July 2009.

Movements in countries' exchange rates can substantially change the prices of goods faced by producers and consumers and thereby affect incentives to produce, consume, and trade goods. Exchange rate changes, however, might not be completely transmitted to domestic prices. The data shows that price and exchange rate transmission for agricultural products is low in most developing economies, partly because of trade policies but also because of inadequate infrastructure and other market deficiencies.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR76/ERR76.pdf> [PDF format, 33 pages].

EMPTY PROMISES: WHAT HAPPENED TO ‘DEVELOPMENT’ IN THE WTO’S DOHA ROUND? Oxfam International. July 16, 2009.

The reports says that the Doha Round has become an exercise in prizing open developing country markets rather than one to rebalance decades of unfair agricultural and industrial trade rules. “Rich nations would do better to renounce their self-interested negotiating tactics and get back to original premise of the Doha Round if they are sincere about getting these negotiations back on track,” Jeremy Hobbs, Oxfam International executive director, said. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bp131-empty-promises.pdf> [PDF format, 38 pages].

NORTH KOREA PROFILE: MISSILE CHRONOLOGY 2008-2009. Nuclear Threat Initiative. July 2009.

The site shows the chronology of North Korea's missile chronology from 2008 to present. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.nti.org/e\\_research/profiles/NK/Missile/chronology\\_2008.html](http://www.nti.org/e_research/profiles/NK/Missile/chronology_2008.html) [HTML format, various paging].

IRAQI REFUGEES: WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND SECURITY CRITICAL TO RETURNS. Refugees International. July 15, 2009.

The Iraqi refugee crisis is far from over and recent violence is creating further displacement, says the study. Iraqi women will resist returning home, even if conditions improve in Iraq, if there is no focus on securing their rights as women and assuring their personal security and their families' well being. Reducing support to displaced families could force returns to insecure areas without adequate services and trigger additional instability in Iraq. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.refugeesinternational.org/sites/default/files/071509\\_iraq\\_womensrights\\_0.pdf](http://www.refugeesinternational.org/sites/default/files/071509_iraq_womensrights_0.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages].

#### ISRAEL'S RELIGIOUS RIGHT AND THE QUESTION OF SETTLEMENTS.

International Crisis Group. July 20, 2009.

Benjamin Netanyahu is in a bind, according to the report. Israel is facing arguably unprecedented pressure to halt all settlement activity, led by a new and surprisingly determined U.S. administration. But the prime minister also heads a distinctly right-wing coalition and faces intense domestic pressure from settlers and their allies. They occupy key positions in the military, the government and the education and legal sectors, as well as various layers of the bureaucracy. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/middle\\_east\\_\\_\\_north\\_africa/arab\\_israeli\\_conflict/89\\_israels\\_religious\\_right\\_and\\_the\\_question\\_of\\_settlements.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/middle_east___north_africa/arab_israeli_conflict/89_israels_religious_right_and_the_question_of_settlements.pdf) [PDF format, 50 pages].

#### DRUG CONTROL: U.S. COUNTERNARCOTICS COOPERATION WITH VENEZUELA HAS DECLINED. U.S. Government Accountability Office. July 20, 2009.

Every year since 1996, the President has determined that Venezuela was one of the major drug transit countries in the Western Hemisphere. Venezuela's extensive border with Colombia, covering large swaths of jungle and mountainous terrain, enables the flow of cocaine from Colombia over land and river routes and by air. According to U.S. and Colombian officials, Venezuela has extended a lifeline to Colombian illegal armed groups by providing significant support and safe haven along the border. As a result, these groups, which traffic in illicit drugs, remain viable threats to Colombian security..

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09806.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].

#### 2008 GED TESTING PROGRAM STATISTICAL REPORT. American Council on Education. July 15, 2009.

GED Testing Service®, a program of the American Council on Education®, announces that the number of adults who took the GED Tests in 2008 rose to nearly 777,000, with an increased passing rate of 72.6 percent program-wide. According to the report, this is the highest number of test-takers and the highest pass rate since the latest series of GED Tests was introduced in 2002. The report also notes that test-taking in the last quarter of 2008, at the beginning of the economic downturn, rose by 7 percent over the same period in 2007. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/pubs/GED\\_ASR\\_2008.pdf](http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/pubs/GED_ASR_2008.pdf) [PDF format, 117 pages].

**ACHIEVEMENT GAPS: HOW BLACK AND WHITE STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS PERFORM IN MATHEMATICS AND READING ON THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.** National Center for Education Statistics. July 2009.

In 2007, mathematics scores for both Black and White public school students in grades 4 and 8 nationwide, as measured by the main NAEP assessments of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), were higher than in any previous assessment, going back to 1990. This was also true for Black and White fourth-graders on the NAEP 2007 Reading Assessment. For grade 8, reading scores for both Black and White students were higher in 2007 than in the first reading assessment year, 1992, as well as the most recent previous assessment year, 2005.

White students, however, had higher scores than Black students, on average, on all assessments.

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/studies/2009455.pdf> [PDF format, 80 pages].

**THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPETITION AND ANTITRUST ENFORCEMENT TO LOWER COST, HIGHER-QUALITY HEALTH CARE.** Testimony, Federal Trade Commission. July 16, 2009.

The Federal Trade Commission told the Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance of the Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation that competition and the agency's antitrust enforcement improves health care in the United States in two ways: first, by preventing or stopping anticompetitive agreements to raise prices and second, by helping to spur innovation that improves care and expands consumer access.

<http://www.ftc.gov/os/2009/07/090716healthcaretestimony.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages].

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PRIVATE CITIZENS KILLED BY CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT HOLDERS.** Violence Policy Center. July 2009.

Concealed handgun permit holders killed at least seven police officers and 44 private citizens in 31 incidents during the period May 2007 through April 2009 according to the study. The release of the study comes as the U.S. Senate is expected to take up an amendment to the defense authorization bill (S. 1390) that would create a de facto national concealed carry system, overriding the rights of states with more restrictive laws governing the carrying of concealed handguns. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.vpc.org/studies/ccw2009.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages].

**MOVE TO END HARASSMENT OF FLORIDA MANATEES.** Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. July 15, 2009.

The endangered Florida manatee is being illegally besieged by hordes of tourists who are allowed to swim with the animal, according to a formal petition for rulemaking filed today by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) which issues permits sanctioning the practice. PEER is demanding that the federal agency stop giving out commercial swim-with permits, adopt rules that forbid swimming with the manatees and safeguard key manatee breeding and resting areas. [Note: contains copyright material].  
[http://www.peer.org/news/news\\_id.php?row\\_id=1217](http://www.peer.org/news/news_id.php?row_id=1217) [HTML format, various paging].  
[http://www.peer.org/docs/fws/09\\_15\\_7\\_Swim\\_With\\_Petition.pdf](http://www.peer.org/docs/fws/09_15_7_Swim_With_Petition.pdf) Petition. [PDF format, 15 pages].

**THE NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT AT FIFTEEN.** Project Vote. Frances Fox Piven. July 2009.

Signed into law by President Clinton in May of 1993, the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) was hailed by some as “the final achievement of the 1960’s voting rights revolution,” and proponents estimated that it would add 50 million Americans to the voting rolls. However, according to the report, the lack of enforcement, failures of state and federal leadership, and restrictive court decisions have left the full potential of the NVRA unrealized, and have left millions of disenfranchised Americans still awaiting the promise of a truly inclusive democracy. [Note: contains copyright material].  
<http://www.projectvote.org/images/publications/NVRA/THE%20NVRA%20at%20FIFTEEN--A%20Report%20to%20Congress.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages].

**ON-DEMAND OPERATORS HAVE LESS STRINGENT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND OVERSIGHT THAN LARGE COMMERCIAL AIR CARRIERS.** Federal Aviation Administration. July 13, 2009.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)’s less stringent safety requirements and oversight for on–demand operators compared to larger, commercial air carriers is covered by the report. The report finds that on–demand operators do not have to meet many of the regulatory requirements that large, commercial air carriers must follow. These operators also have more risk in their operating environments and receive less oversight from FAA.  
[http://www.oig.dot.gov/StreamFile?file=/data/pdfdocs/On-Demand\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.oig.dot.gov/StreamFile?file=/data/pdfdocs/On-Demand_Final_Report.pdf) [PDF format, 25 pages].

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS TO OBTAIN OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING AND STATE LICENSING.** U.S. Department of Justice. July 2009.

The Justice Department releases a technical assistance fact sheet on legal requirements relating to admitting individuals with HIV or AIDS to occupational training schools and granting state licensure in occupations such as barbering, massage therapy and home health care assistance.  
[http://www.ada.gov/qahiv aids\\_license.htm](http://www.ada.gov/qahiv aids_license.htm) [HTML format, various paging].

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH DIETARY PATTERNS AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Philip Gleason et al. July 2009.

The study used data from the School Nutrition Dietary Assessment III Study to examine the dietary patterns of school meal program participants and nonparticipants and the relationship between school meal participation and children's Body Mass Index (BMI). School Breakfast Program (SBP) participants ate more low-nutrient energy-dense (LNED) baked goods and more calories at breakfast than did nonparticipants. National School Lunch Program (NSLP) participants had lower intake of sugar-sweetened beverages and a lower percentage of calories from LNED foods and beverages than did nonparticipants. Overall, NSLP participation was not significantly related to students' BMI, although participants were less likely to be overweight or obese than nonparticipants among Black students but more likely to be so among "other race" students.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/CCR55/CCR55.pdf> [PDF format, 162 pages].

VOTING AND REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 2008. U.S. Bureau of Census. Web posted July 20, 2009.

About 131 million people reported voting in the 2008 U.S. presidential election, an increase of 5 million from 2004, according to the table package of the U.S. Census Bureau. The increase included about 2 million more black voters, 2 million more Hispanic voters and about 600,000 more Asian voters, while the number of non-Hispanic white voters remained statistically unchanged.

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting/cps2008.html> [HTML format, various paging].

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