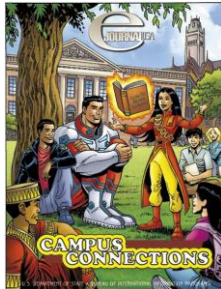




## AMERICAN INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER Ankara, Turkey

**E-Documents**  
**September 2009 – Issue 1**

### ■ Electronic Journals – all e-journals



#### **Campus Connections**

A globalized economy makes business and employment spill across national boundaries, so an education abroad is likely to make a young person better prepared for the world's future. Almost double the numbers of students travel abroad for an education today as compared with 20 years ago. Campus Connections examines the international study experience and its influence on individual growth.

### ■ IIP Publications – all publications



### ■ Ask America

Ask America allow foreign audiences to interact with American citizens on wide range of topics using a chat tool over the Internet. U.S. government and private sector subject experts, academics, journalists, and everyday citizens are brought on as guests to do webchats on USINFO. You may visit the [Ask America HomePage](#) to see upcoming ones, and read the transcripts of the previous webchats.

### ■ Podcasts

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcast.html>  
Audio files and transcripts from America.gov

### ■ Videos

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?videoid=1498976413>

Video files on foreign policy, U.S. politics, American life, democracy, science and health.

### ■ Videos on Youtube

videos are also divided up into playlists (Diversity / Green Economy / Young America / Democracy and Elections) to make the list a little easier to navigate. And all our videos are copyright-free, so no problems with distribution.

<http://www.youtube.com/americanagov>

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

**Blogs** at America.gov offers readers a place to discuss designated topics with experts from the United States and around the world, and to share their comments and reactions with the broader Internet public.

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

## **SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS**

ENSURING THE INTEGRITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND STEWARDSHIP OF RESEARCH DATA IN THE DIGITAL AGE. National Academy of Sciences. July 22, 2009.

Though digital technologies and high-speed communications have significantly expanded the capabilities of scientists, allowing them to analyze and share vast amounts of data, these technologies are also raising difficult questions for researchers, institutions, and journals. Because digital data can be manipulated more easily than other forms, they are particularly susceptible to distortion. Questions about how to maintain the data generated, who should have access, and who pays to store them can be controversial, according to the study. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12615#toc](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12615#toc) [HTML format with links].

EUTROPHICATION: SOURCES AND DRIVERS OF NUTRIENT POLLUTION. World Resources Institute. Mindy Selman and Suzie Greenhalgh. Web posted July 21, 2009.

Greater meat consumption and demand for fossil fuels worldwide are expected to cause increasingly more harmful algal blooms and dead zones in coastal and freshwater areas. “Nutrient pollution in aquatic ecosystems, or eutrophication, is a rapidly growing environmental crisis,” said Mindy Selman, the lead author of the report [Note: contains copyrighted material]. [http://pdf.wri.org/eutrophication\\_sources\\_and\\_drivers.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/eutrophication_sources_and_drivers.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

GLOBAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION BENCHMARKING 2009: SUMMARY REPORT. World Bank. July 2009.

The report finds that over 70 percent of government investment-promotion intermediaries miss out on investment and job-creating opportunities by failing to provide accurate and timely information to potential investors. It shows how effectively government agencies are promoting their countries to foreign investors. It examines the ability of 181 countries to influence foreign investors’ site-selection process. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/fias.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/GIPB2009\\_complereport/\\$FILE/Report.pdf](http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/fias.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/GIPB2009_complereport/$FILE/Report.pdf) [PDF format, 86 pages].

PATTERNS AND TRENDS IN ADOLESCENTS' CONTRACEPTIVE USE AND DISCONTINUATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND COMPARISONS WITH ADULT WOMEN. Guttmacher Institute. Ann K. Blanc et al. Web posted July 21, 2009.

The study of women's contraceptive use around the world finds that sexually active 15–19-year-olds are more likely than their 20–49-year-old counterparts to use contraceptives inconsistently and, on average, experience a 25% higher rate of contraceptive failure. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3506309.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

DAMS IN CHINA TURN THE MEKONG INTO A RIVER OF DISCORD. Yale Global. Michael Richardson. July 16, 2009.

The Mekong, one of the world's major rivers, starting in Tibet and flowing through south China, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, provides sustenance through irrigation and fishing to those living in its basin. But it also provides hydroelectric power through dams, three of which were built in China and with more planned. And it is precisely these dams that are now threatening the water supply, the livelihood of those living downstream, and the relations between China and its southern neighbors, according to the author. [Note: contains copyright material].  
<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12580> [HTML format, various paging].

THE MEDIA LANDSCAPE IN IRAN. Council on Foreign Relations. Greg Bruno. July 22, 2009.

Iranian authorities have reinforced controls on major domestic media following the upheaval over contested presidential election results in June 2009, says the report. One month after the disputed vote, nearly forty journalists remained in Iranian prisons. Yet Iran's media landscape, like many aspects of the theocratic regime, is riddled with contradictions. The flow of information into and within Iran has genuinely improved over the last decade; since 2000, Iran's leaders have oscillated between tightening and loosening restrictions on the country's domestic news media. [Note: contains copyright material].  
[http://www.cfr.org/publication/19889/media\\_landscape\\_in\\_iran.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fbackgrounder](http://www.cfr.org/publication/19889/media_landscape_in_iran.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder) [HTML format, various paging].

BRAZIL ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE. Council on Foreign Relations. Stephanie Hanson. July 21, 2009.

In the past several years, Brazil has assumed a more prominent voice on global trade and energy issues. As the global financial crisis took hold in 2008, Brazil appeared poised to recover more quickly than many others due to strong industrial and agricultural exports. Brazil's economic rise has led it to pursue greater influence in international forums at the same time that it fosters cooperation among countries in the developing world with "south-south" initiatives. Analysts say that the United States stands to benefit from a stronger Brazil that serves as a partner on energy and regional security initiatives, but it must be careful not to view Brazil's rise as a challenge, or, during a time of great economic turmoil, neglect the relationship. [Note: contains copyright material].  
[http://www.cfr.org/publication/19883/brazil\\_on\\_the\\_international\\_stage.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fbackgrounder](http://www.cfr.org/publication/19883/brazil_on_the_international_stage.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder) [HTML format, various paging].

FINDING THE BALANCE: SHARED BORDER OF THE FUTURE. U.S. Chamber of Commerce & The Canadian Chamber of Commerce. July 21, 2009.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with 47 business associations from both sides of the border, today issued a joint report. It offers specific recommendations to reduce border costs in the short-term while increasing security at

the border and competitiveness of all industries.

[http://www.uschamber.com/NR/rdonlyres/evlsrujxbtkzuprf3tjl43e462a373cqerpd2j3e3ca4gygnip3v3h6dtwsu4zhhfgozha4pru5jxbhtrxdizcq4f/0907\\_sharedborder.pdf](http://www.uschamber.com/NR/rdonlyres/evlsrujxbtkzuprf3tjl43e462a373cqerpd2j3e3ca4gygnip3v3h6dtwsu4zhhfgozha4pru5jxbhtrxdizcq4f/0907_sharedborder.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages].

2009 U.S. Index of Health Ownership. [Pacific Research Institute]. July 2009.

Americans continue to lack the basic freedom to make their own health care decisions according to the annual report by the Pacific Research Institute (PRI). The Index measures the degree to which individuals, be they patients, health professionals, entrepreneurs, or taxpayers, “own” the health care in their states. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://liberty.pacificresearch.org/docLib/20090720\\_IHOP\\_3\\_2009.pdf](http://liberty.pacificresearch.org/docLib/20090720_IHOP_3_2009.pdf) [PDF format, 58 pages].

ADMINISTRATIVE SOLUTIONS IN HEALTH REFORM. National Academy of Public Administration. July 20, 2009.

Administrative issues should receive careful attention when health reform legislation is being drafted, according to report. The panel examines administrative functions that are central to a variety of health reform proposals, defines the choices, summarizes what is known about them, and makes specific recommendations. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.nasi.org/usr\\_doc/Administrative\\_Solutions\\_in\\_Health\\_Reform\\_July\\_2009.pdf](http://www.nasi.org/usr_doc/Administrative_Solutions_in_Health_Reform_July_2009.pdf) [PDF format, 77 pages].

BEYOND THE \$1.6 TRILLION STICKER SHOCK. Urban Institute. Linda J. Blumberg and John Holahan. July 21, 2009.

Recently, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that the Senate Finance Committee's health reform plan would cost \$1.6 trillion over 10 years. The estimate left many in Washington and around the country with sticker shock. Authors Linda Blumberg and John Holahan place the estimate in context by showing that the costs of health reform are less than 1 percent of estimated GDP and a small fraction of expected health care spending for that period as well. They also contend that the costs associated with inaction are at least as big as those of directly addressing the problems we currently face. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411923\\_beyond\\_sticker\\_shock.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411923_beyond_sticker_shock.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages].

THE ETHICS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM. Institute for Policy Innovation. Merrill Matthews. July 20, 2009.

The report adds a philosophical dimension to health care reform debate, stating that, of all reform alternatives, only the consumer driven health care model is both ethical and sustainable. “The consumer driven model is the only one that incorporates both our fundamental principle, patient control, and yet balances the consequence-oriented need for access to coverage and quality care that is financially sustainable over the long term,” writes the author. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://ipi.org/IPI/IPIPublications.nsf/PublicationLookupFullTextPDF/7F68DCD97B1D1B93862575F600625568/\\$File/Ethics\\_of\\_Health\\_Care\\_Reform.pdf?OpenElement](http://ipi.org/IPI/IPIPublications.nsf/PublicationLookupFullTextPDF/7F68DCD97B1D1B93862575F600625568/$File/Ethics_of_Health_Care_Reform.pdf?OpenElement) [PDF format, 8 pages].

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOUNDATION YEARBOOK. Foundation Center. July 2009.

The report covers more than 75,000 grantmaking foundations active in 2007. It documents changes in the actual number, giving, and assets of all active U.S. foundations from 1975 through 2007 and provides estimates of foundation giving through 2008. The report provides an overview of the state of foundation giving in the current year and beyond, comparisons of foundation activities by foundation size, and breakdowns of foundation resources by geographic location and grantmaker type. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/fy2009\\_highlights.pdf](http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/fy2009_highlights.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages].

MANURE USE FOR FERTILIZER AND ENERGY: REPORT TO CONGRESS. U.S. Department of Agriculture. James M. MacDonald et al. Web posted July 2009.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to evaluate the role of animal manure as a source of fertilizer, and its other uses. About 5 percent of all U.S. cropland is currently fertilized with livestock manure, and corn accounts for over half of the acreage to which manure is applied. Expanded environmental regulation through nutrient management plans will likely lead to wider use of manure on cropland, at higher production costs, but with only modest impacts on production costs, commodity demand, or farm structure. There is widespread interest in using manure as a feedstock for energy production.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/AP/AP037/AP037.pdf> [PDF format, 53 pages].

THE NEXT GENERATION OF E-VERIFY: GETTING EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION RIGHT. Migration Policy Institute. Doris Meissner and Marc R. Rosenblum. July 2009.

The report examines the strengths and weaknesses of E-Verify and urges Congress and the Department of Homeland Security to take immediate steps to strengthen the electronic employment verification system while also testing alternatives for a next-generation E-Verify. It urges immediate steps to strengthen the existing E-Verify, and in the context of expected mandatory electronic employment verification and comprehensive immigration reform, urges the testing of several new voluntary pilots for a next-generation E-Verify system. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Verification\\_paper-071709.pdf](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Verification_paper-071709.pdf) [PDF format, 40 pages].

A PROFILE OF SUCCESSFUL PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS. National Center for Education Statistics. Christina Chang Wei et al. July 21, 2009.

The report describes characteristics of college graduates who received Pell Grants and compares them to graduates who were not Pell Grant recipients. For both groups of graduates, data from the Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B:200/01) were analyzed to determine the time it took them to complete a bachelor's degree as well as the percentage who enrolled in graduate school within one year of college graduation.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009156.pdf> [PDF format, 69 pages].

REPRODUCTIVE ROULETTE: DECLINING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, DANGEROUS CHEMICALS, AND A NEW WAY FORWARD. Center for American Progress. Reece Rushing. July 21, 2009.

Reproductive health in the United States is headed in the wrong direction on a host of indicators, according to the study. Fertility problems, miscarriages, preterm births, and birth defects are all up. These trends are not simply the result of women postponing motherhood. In fact, women under 25 and women between 25 and 34 reported an increasing number of fertility problems over the last several decades. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/07/reproductive\\_roulette.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/07/reproductive_roulette.html) [HTML format, various paging].

SHOULD YOU CARRY A MORTGAGE INTO RETIREMENT? Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Anthony Webb. July 2009.

Although it remains the goal of many households to repay their mortgage by retirement, an increasing proportion now enters retirement with a mortgage. At the same time, households are



increasingly likely to hold substantial amounts of financial assets, as a result of the growth of 401(k) and similar plans. Among households aged 60 to 69 in 2007, 41 percent had a mortgage. Of these, 51 percent had sufficient assets to repay their mortgage. These households could, if they wanted, be mortgage-free simply by selling some of their investments and mailing a check to the lender. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib\\_9-15.pdf](http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_9-15.pdf) [PDF format, 6 pages].

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION DOLLARS AND CENTS: A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. July 21, 2009.

Communities can better develop comprehensive prevention strategies based on their unique needs and characteristics and use cost-benefit ratios to help guide their decisions with the help of the publication by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

TROPHIC GARNISHES: CAT-RAT INTERACTIONS IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT. PLoS One. Gregory E. Glass et al. July 2009.

Synanthropic community members are of increasing practical interest for their effects on biodiversity and public health, says the report. The report characterizes house cat (*Felis catus*) predation on wild Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*), and its population effects in an urban area as a model system and its effects on prevention of transmission of pathogens. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0005794> [HTML format, various paging].

U.S. VIRGIN ISLAND'S ECONOMY TOPS \$19 BILLION IN SALES IN 2007. U.S. Bureau of Census. July 21, 2009.

The 2,583 businesses in the U.S. Virgin Islands' economy generated \$19.5 billion in sales and employed 35,300 people, with \$1.1 billion in annual payroll, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Retail trade sales increased 15 percent to \$1.4 billion between 2002 and 2007. The U.S. Virgin Islands is a U.S. territory in the Caribbean.

[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/economic\\_census/013998.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/economic_census/013998.html) [HTML format, various paging].

WIRELESS INTERNET USE. Pew Internet & American Life Project. John Horrigan. July 22, 2009.

The survey shows that 56% of adult Americans have accessed the internet by wireless means, such as using a laptop, mobile device, game console, or MP3 player. The most prevalent way people get online using a wireless network is with a laptop computer; 39% of adults have done this. It also finds rising levels of Americans using the internet on a mobile handset. One-third of Americans (32%) have used a cell phone or Smartphone to access the internet for emailing, instant-messaging, or information-seeking. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2009/Wireless-Internet-Use.pdf> [PDF format, 48 pages].

2009 WORLD CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION: THE NEW DYNAMICS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOR SOCIETAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT. (UNESCO, Paris, 5-8 July 2009). United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. July 2009.

The UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education closed on July 8<sup>th</sup> with a call to governments to increase investment in higher education, encourage diversity, and strengthen regional cooperation to serve societal needs. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/ED/pdf/WCHE\\_2009/FINAL%20COMMUNIQUE%20WCHE%202009.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/ED/pdf/WCHE_2009/FINAL%20COMMUNIQUE%20WCHE%202009.pdf) [PDF format, 10 pages].

CLIMATE CHANGE AND VULNERABLE SOCIETIES: Brookings Institution. Kemal Dervis. July 23, 2009.

Kemal Dervis testifies before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on America's critical role in supporting climate change adaptation in the world's most vulnerable communities. Dervis recommends enacting globally accepted policies to effectively tackle climate change and protect those most affected. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.brookings.edu/testimony/2009/0723\\_climate\\_change\\_dervis.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/testimony/2009/0723_climate_change_dervis.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

RETHINKING SCHOOL FEEDING: SOCIAL SAFETY NETS, CHILD DEVELOPMENT, AND THE EDUCATION SECTOR. The World Bank. Donald Bundy et al. July 2009.

The review provides guidance on how to develop and implement effective school feeding programs, in the context of both a productive safety net as well as a fiscally sustainable investment in human capital. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099080042112/DID\\_School\\_Feeding.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099080042112/DID_School_Feeding.pdf) [PDF format, 188 pages].

CHINA TO THE RESCUE: GROWING OUT OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS. Yale Global. Joergen Oerstroem Moeller. July 28, 2009.

The global financial crisis is far from over even if the declines in the economic data have slowed. So the next question is how to pull the world out of its current malaise? For Professor Joergen Oerstroem Moeller the answer is clear: stimulate global demand. Unfortunately, the big drivers of demand growth in the past – primarily the US, but also Japan and Europe – each face major hurdles sufficiently large to suppose they won't be the engines of growth in the immediate future. On this analysis, Moeller recommends looking primarily to China. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12601> [HTML format, various paging].

2015: A CONNECTED AND DIVERSIFIED EUROPE. RAND Corporation. Constantijn van Oranje-Nassau et al. July 2009.

The paper strives to help look beyond the current policy developments and determine what demands and requirements there may be for a pan-European eIDM solution in 2015 and which services are likely to be developed based on this infrastructure. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2009/RAND\\_TR513.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2009/RAND_TR513.pdf) [PDF format, 45 pages].

BOSNIA: A TEST OF POLITICAL MATURITY IN MOSTAR. International Crisis Group. July 27, 2009.

Mostar, the largest city in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a Croat majority, will face new and potentially dangerous strains if its leaders do not break a deadlock that has paralyzed its government for nine months, says the report. The municipal administration is breaking down, with no mayor, budget or functioning city council since an October 2008 election. The tensions threaten to poison relations between the leading Bosniak and Croat parties, coalition partners

throughout the country. The international community should avoid the temptation to impose a solution, however, and leave it to the Bosnians, who have responsibility and competence to resolve the crisis. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/europe/balkans/b54\\_bosnia\\_\\_\\_a\\_test\\_of\\_political\\_maturity\\_in\\_mostar.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/europe/balkans/b54_bosnia___a_test_of_political_maturity_in_mostar.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages].

FINANCIAL STABILITY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: BANKING ON PRUDENCE. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. E. Philip Davis. July 22, 2009.

The paper reviews the supervisory and regulatory framework and the many reforms that have already been adopted to remedy these weaknesses. It also provides recommendations for further reforms. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00004AC2/\\$FILE/JT03268158.PDF](http://www.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00004AC2/$FILE/JT03268158.PDF) [PDF format, 27 pages].

WITHDRAWING FROM IRAQ: ALTERNATIVE SCHEDULES, ASSOCIATED RISKS, AND MITIGATING STRATEGIES. RAND Corporation. Walter L. Perry et al. July 27, 2009.

Since 2007, security has improved dramatically in Iraq. The U.S. and Iraqi governments, and most Iraqis, want to see both the U.S. presence there reduced and the Iraqi government and security forces assuming a greater role in providing for public security. The challenge is to effect this drawdown while preserving security and stability in the country and in the region. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND\\_MG882.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG882.pdf) [PDF format, 208 pages].

IS LATIN AMERICA RETREATING FROM INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS? Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Fabio Bertranou et al. July 2009.

In 1981, Chile initiated old-age pension reforms that introduced mandatory funded individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and moved away from public systems. Beginning in the 1990s, ten other Latin American countries followed in Chile's wake. The most extreme case of retrenching is Argentina, where IRAs were eliminated for mandatory contributions in late 2008. The brief reviews the two rounds of pension reforms to determine whether Latin American countries are moving away from individual pensions. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib\\_9-14.pdf](http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_9-14.pdf) [PDF format, 19 pages].

ALIGNING TEMPORARY IMMIGRATION VISAS WITH US LABOR MARKET NEEDS: THE CASE FOR A NEW SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL VISAS. Migration Policy Institute. Demetrios G. Papademetriou et al. July 24, 2009.

The report proposes creation of a new stream of visas to provide for the future flows of workers needed by the U.S. economy, stressing that comprehensive immigration reform legislation must include reform of the employment-based immigration system if it is to be effective. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Provisional\\_visas.pdf](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Provisional_visas.pdf) [PDF format, 31 pages].

CHARTER SCHOOL REPLICATION: GROWING A QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL SECTOR. National Association of Charter School Authorizers. July 2009.

"Replication" is the practice of a single charter school board or management organization opening several more schools that are each based on the same school model. The most rapid strategy to increase the number of new high-quality charter schools available to children is to encourage the replication of existing quality schools, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted



material].

[http://www.qualitycharters.org/files/public/Replication\\_Policy\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.qualitycharters.org/files/public/Replication_Policy_Guide.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

**ETHICS EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH: WHAT'S BEEN LEARNED? WHAT SHOULD BE DONE? SUMMARY OF A WORKSHOP.** National Academy of Engineering. Rachelle Hollander and Carol R. Arenberg, eds. July 2009.

Increasing complexity and competitiveness in research environments, the prevalence of interdisciplinary and international involvement in research projects, and the close coupling of commerce and academia have created an ethically challenging environment for young scientists and engineers. For the past several decades, federal research agencies have supported projects to meet the need for mentoring and ethics training in graduate education in research, often called training in the responsible conduct of research. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12695](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12695) [HTML format with links].

**FORCING THE NET THROUGH A SIEVE: WHY COPYRIGHT FILTERING IS NOT A VIABLE SOLUTION FOR U.S. IPSS.** Public Knowledge. Mehan Jayasuriya et al. July 2009.

The analysis shows that filtering of Internet content as advocated by big media companies will not work and will be harmful to the Internet. Gigi B. Sohn, president and co-founder of Public Knowledge, said the report, "... examines for the first time the complex topic of content filtering from the technical, economic and legal perspectives. Content filtering fails in all of these tests. Filtering will not be the 'magic bullet' that the media moguls want, but it could degrade and alter the Internet for everyone while invading the privacy of every Internet user. There is no reason that any Internet Service Provider or media company should even think about engaging in such activity." [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.publicknowledge.org/pdf/pk-filtering-whitepaper-200907.pdf> [PDF format, 60 pages].

**INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR REBUILDING MID-ATLANTIC FISH POPULATIONS.** Pew Environment Group. John M. Gates. July 23, 2009.

The report reveals significant potential financial benefits of rebuilding four fish species in the Mid-Atlantic: summer flounder, black sea bass, butterflyfish and bluefish. It provides an analysis and estimates direct financial benefits by comparing status quo management of four particular fish species with what would have happened, if those populations had been rebuilt by 2007. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Protecting\\_ocean\\_life/final%20PEG\\_Rebuilding%20072209.pdf?n=6108](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Protecting_ocean_life/final%20PEG_Rebuilding%20072209.pdf?n=6108) [PDF format, 24 pages].

**NASA SPACE SHUTTLE WORKFORCE TRANSITION STRATEGY PURSUANT TO FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 110-161).** [National Aeronautics and Space Administration]. July 23, 2009.

NASA issues the third edition of the Workforce Transition Strategy, which details the agency's plan to minimize job losses while transitioning from the Space Shuttle Program to the Constellation Program.

[http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/372110main\\_7-21-09%20Workforce%20Transition%20Strategy%203rd%20Edition.pdf](http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/372110main_7-21-09%20Workforce%20Transition%20Strategy%203rd%20Edition.pdf) [PDF format, 9 pages].

**NEW YORK LEADS IN PER-PUPIL EDUCATION SPENDING AT NEARLY \$16,000.** U.S. Bureau of Census. July 27, 2009.

Public schools in New York spent \$15,981 per pupil in 2007, which was more than any other state or state equivalent, according to new data released by the U.S. Census Bureau. (See Table 11.)

New Jersey (\$15,691) and the District of Columbia (\$14,324) had the next-highest spending. States spending the least per pupil were Utah (\$5,683), Idaho (\$6,625) and Tennessee (\$7,113).

On average, each state spent \$9,666 per pupil in 2007, a 5.8 percent increase over 2006.  
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/014091.html> [HTML format, various paging].  
<http://www.census.gov/govs/school/index.html> [HTML format with links].

NO EXIT: THE EXPANDING USE OF LIFE SENTENCES IN AMERICA. The Sentencing Project. Ashley Nellis and Ryan S. King. July 2009.

The report finds a record 140,610 individuals serving life sentences in state and federal prisons, 6,807 of whom were juveniles at the time of the crime. In addition, 29% of persons serving a life sentence (41,095) have no possibility of parole, and 1,755 were juveniles at the time of the crime. The report represents the first nationwide collection of life sentence data documenting race, ethnicity and gender. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/inc\\_noexit.pdf](http://www.sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/inc_noexit.pdf) [PDF format, 48 pages].

OBESITY PREVALENCE AMONG LOW-INCOME, PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN –UNITED STATES, 1998-2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. July 24, 2009.

One of 7 low-income, preschool-aged children is obese, but the obesity epidemic may be stabilizing, according to the study. Prevalence of obesity in low-income two to four year-olds increased from 12.4 percent in 1998 to 14.5 percent in 2003 but rose to only 14.6 percent in 2008, said the report.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5828a1.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

ON TRACK TO COMPLETE? A TAXONOMY OF BEGINNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS AND THEIR OUTCOMES 3 YEARS AFTER ENROLLING. National Center for Education Statistics. July 28, 2009.

The study uses a classification scheme, the Community College Taxonomy (CCT), to analyze outcomes for beginning community college students according to how "directed" (strongly directed, moderately directed, or not directed) they are toward completing a program of study. Levels of direction are based on factors associated with student persistence and degree attainment, and outcomes examined included institutional retention, student persistence, 4-year transfer rates, enrollment continuity, and first-year attrition. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009152.pdf> [PDF format, 98 pages].

A PORTRAIT OF MORMONS IN THE U.S. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Allison Pond. July 24, 2009.

In Utah, July 24 is Pioneer Day, a state holiday commemorating the day in 1847 when the first Mormon settlers, led by Brigham Young, entered the Salt Lake Valley. Today, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and other Mormon groups make up 58% of Utah's population and 1.7% of the total U.S. adult population, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1292/mormon-religion-demographics-beliefs-practices-politics> [HTML format, various paging].

A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF HR 2454 ON U.S. AGRICULTURE. U.S. Department of Agriculture. July 22, 2009.

U.S. Department of Agriculture performed a preliminary economic analysis of the impacts of House-passed climate legislation, HR 2454, on U.S. agriculture. The analysis assumes no technological change, no alteration of inputs in agriculture, and no increase in demand for bio-energy as a result of higher energy prices. Therefore, it overstates the impact of the climate legislation on agriculture costs in the short (2012-18), medium (2027-2033), and long-term (2042 to 2048). In USDA's analysis, short-term costs remain low in part because of provisions in HR 2454 that reduce the impacts of the bill on fertilizer costs. In fact, the impact on net farm income is less than a 1% decrease. In the short run, agricultural offset markets may cover these costs. <http://www.usda.gov/oce/newsroom/archives/releases/2009files/HR2454.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages].

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF SEASONAL INFLUENZA WITH VACCINES. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Anthony E. Fiore et al. July 24, 2009.

The 2009 seasonal influenza recommendations include new and updated information. Highlights of the 2009 recommendations include 1) a recommendation that annual vaccination be administered to all children aged 6 months–18 years; 2) a recommendation that vaccines containing the 2009–10 trivalent vaccine virus strains A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like, A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like antigens be used; and 3) a notice that recommendations for influenza diagnosis and antiviral use will be published before the start of the 2009–10 influenza season. [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr58e0724a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr58e0724a1\\_x](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr58e0724a1.htm?s_cid=rr58e0724a1_x) [HTML format, various paging].

REDUCING OBESITY: POLICY STRATEGIES FROM THE TOBACCO WARS. Urban Institute. Carolyn L. Engelhard et al. Web posted July 27, 2009.

To combat the epidemic of obesity, lawmakers can adapt policy approaches that have substantially cut tobacco use, according to the authors. A 10 percent tax on fattening food, identified based on a model used by the British government to determine the foods that may not be advertised to children, would reduce consumption while raising more than \$500 billion over 10 years. Adding simple, "traffic light" nutrition labels to the front of each food package would change consumers' buying habits, as would listing calories on menus at chain restaurants. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411926\\_reducing\\_obesity.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411926_reducing_obesity.pdf) [PDF format, 73 pages].

REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR CONSUMER ASSISTANCE TO RECYCLE AND SAVE PROGRAM. U.S. Department of Transportation. July 2009.

The final rule sets forth requirements and procedures for the voluntary vehicle trade-in and purchase/lease program under the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Act of 2009. The program helps consumers pay for a new, more fuel efficient car or truck from a participating dealer when they trade in a less fuel efficient car or truck. The rule establishes a process by which dealers can register in order to participate in the program and establishes the criteria this agency will use to determine which disposal facilities are eligible to receive and either crush or shred the trade-in vehicles. <http://www.cars.gov/files/TheRule.pdf> [PDF format, 136 pages].

VETERANS AND AGENT ORANGE: UPDATE 2008. Institute of Medicine. July 2009.

The report finds suggestive but limited evidence that exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the Vietnam War is associated with an increased chance of developing ischemic heart disease and Parkinson's disease for Vietnam veterans. The report is the latest in a congressionally mandated series by the IOM that every two years reviews the evidence about the

health effects of these herbicides and a type of dioxin, TCDD, that contaminated some of the defoliants. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12662](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12662) [HTML format with links].

WORLD INVESTMENT PROSPECTS SURVEY 2009-2011.[United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. July 22, 2009.

The focus of this year's World Investment Prospects Survey is the global economic and financial crisis and its impact on the FDI plans of TNCs. UNCTAD surveyed a sample of 240 company executives from the largest non-financial TNCs about the effect of the crisis on their International investment strategies during the next three years. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/diaeia20098\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/diaeia20098_en.pdf) [PDF format, 85 pages].

FORBIDDEN: INSTITUTIONALIZING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GAYS AND LESBIANS IN BURUNDI. Human Rights Watch. July 2009.

On April 22, 2009, the president of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza, signed into law a new criminal code that contains a provision making sexual relations between people of the same sex illegal for the first time in the country's history. According to the report, the law was a fierce blow to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in Burundi, who only in recent years, and in very small numbers, had begun to come out, organize, and demand that their rights be respected.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/burundi0709\\_brochure\\_web.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/burundi0709_brochure_web.pdf) [PDF format, 20 pages].

SAVINGS POLICY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. New America Foundation. Michael Johnson. July 2009.

Asset ownership is seen as having an increasingly influential link to a variety of social outcomes. While the UK has experienced increases in economic wealth and improvements in overall living standards over the past 40 years, trends in asset ownership have reversed. The paper explores the savings landscape in the UK, assessing current savings behavior and reflecting on the policy direction that has been adopted in relation to savings over the last decade [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.newamerica.net/files/UK%20Savings%20Policy%20FINAL.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages].

THE MULJAHEDIN-E KHALQ IN IRAQ: A POLICY CONUNDRUM. RAND Corporation. Jeremiah Goulka et al. July 30, 2009.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, coalition forces classified the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MeK), an Iranian dissident group dedicated to the violent overthrow of the Iranian government, as an enemy force. The MeK had provided security services to Saddam Hussein from its camps in Iraq and had been listed as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State. After a cease-fire was signed, the U.S. Secretary of Defense designated this group's members as civilian "protected persons" rather than combatant prisoners of war under the Geneva Conventions.[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND\\_MG871.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG871.pdf) [PDF format, 133 pages].

U.S.I.P. ADDRESSES REFUGEE CRISIS IN PAKISTAN. Congressional Testimony, U.S. Institute of Peace. Imtiaz Ali. July 29, 2009.

Ali said the situation poses a serious threat to Pakistan and ultimately to the U.S.'s security interests, but if handled correctly can be an opportunity to promote security. He cautioned that

the majority of Pakistani IDPs are unaware of America's commitment to assist them and said that needs to change. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.usip.org/resources/responding-the-idp-crisis-in-pakistan> [HTML format, various paging].

COHERENCE OF DEVELOPMENT POLICIES: ECUADOR'S ECONOMIC TIES WITH SPAIN AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT IMPACT. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Iliana Olivie. July 30, 2009.

The study provides a general analysis of economic relations between Spain, as a donor of official development assistance (ODA), and Ecuador, as a partner and recipient of development aid. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/41/16/43413462.pdf> [PDF format, 58 pages].

10 STEPS TO FREE OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. National Center for Policy Analysis. John C. Goodman. July 30, 2009.

To confront America's health care crisis, America does not need more spending, more regulations or more bureaucracy, according to the report. America needs to liberate every American, including every doctor and every patient, to use their intelligence, creativity and innovative abilities to make the changes needed to create access to low-cost, high-quality health care, says John C. Goodman, President, CEO and the Kellye Wright Fellow with the National Center for Policy Analysis. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba669.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

THE AUDIENCE FOR ONLINE VIDEO-SHARING SITES SHOOTS UP. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Mary Madden. July 29, 2009.

As the audience for online video continues to grow, a leading edge of internet users are migrating their viewing from their computer screens to their TV screens, according to the study. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2009/The-Audience-for-Online-Video-Sharing-Sites-Shoots-Up.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].

ACCELERATING THE ADOPTION OF ELECTRONIC PRESCRIBING. National Governors Association. Cara Campbell. July 27, 2009.

States are using innovative strategies to address the issue of integrated electronic health records and the electronic exchange of health information, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0907EPRESCRIBING.PDF> [PDF format, 13 pages].

CAPITAL MALPRACTICE: HOW A WASHINGTON TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE WILL HURT STATES. GOP State Solutions Report. Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) and Governor Tim Pawlenty (R-MN). July 27, 2009.

The health care legislation being rushed through the Democratic-controlled Congress will increase health costs, destroy jobs and crush state budgets across the nation, according to the report released jointly by Congressman John Boehner (R-West Chester) and Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R-MN).  
<http://www.johnboehner.house.gov/UploadedFiles/072709CapitalMalpractice.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages].

CDC HEALTH INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL 2010. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. July 28, 2009.

The guide includes new or expanded sections on medical tourism, traveling safely with chronic diseases and conditions, and expert perspectives on popular travel itineraries worldwide. <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/content/yellowbook/home-2010.aspx> [HTML format with links].

COMPROMISE OR CAPITULATION? US FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION JURISDICTION OVER TOBACCO PRODUCTS. PLoS Medicine. Stanton A. Glantz et al. July 28, 2009.

On June 12, 2009, the United States Congress passed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (S. 982), granting the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority regulating tobacco products. The *idea* of FDA regulation of tobacco has broad [1], but not unanimous, support among medical and public health professionals. The authors discusses pros and cons of it. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. <http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000118> [HTML format, various paging].

ENERGY MARKETS: REFINERY OUTAGES CAN HAVE VARYING GASOLINE PRICE IMPACTS, BUT GAPS IN FEDERAL DATA LIMIT UNDERSTANDING OF IMPACTS. U.S. Government Accountability Office. July 30, 2009.

In 2008, GAO reported that, with the exception of the period following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, refinery outages in the United States did not show discernible trends in reduced production capacity, frequency, and location from 2002 through 2007. Some outages are planned to perform routine maintenance or upgrades, while unplanned outages occur as a result of equipment failure or other unforeseen problems. GAO was asked to (1) evaluate the effect of refinery outages on wholesale gasoline prices and (2) identify gaps in federal data needed for this and similar analyses. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09700.pdf> [PDF format, 48 pages].

HOW WE CAN PAY FOR HEALTH REFORM. Urban Institute. Robert A. Berenson et al. July 29, 2009.

In the paper, the authors discuss alternative ways that health reform could be financed. They analyze different options including several proposals for delivery system reforms and for reduction in Medicare and Medicaid payments. They estimate the cost savings that could occur due to the introduction of a public plan option. Finally, they explore a range of revenue options. The key message of the paper is that health reform can be paid for, but it is best to obtain funds from a large number of measures to spread the burden broadly. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411932\\_howwecanpay.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411932_howwecanpay.pdf) [PDF format, 33 pages].

MODERNIZING THE U.S. FREIGHT-TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH. RAND Corporation. Richard Hillestad et al. July 28, 2009.

The report describes approaches to modernizing the U.S. freight-transportation system that require whole-system modeling, engagement of all stakeholders, and an understanding of the interdependence between local and national costs and benefits. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. [http://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/2009/RAND\\_RB9457-1.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2009/RAND_RB9457-1.pdf) [PDF format, 3 pages].



TESTING THE WATERS: A GUIDE TO WATER QUALITY AT VACATION BEACHES. Natural Resources Defense Council. Mark Dorfman and Kirsten Sinclair Rosselot. July 29, 2009.

Natural Resources Defense Council's water quality and public notification at U.S. beaches finds that pollution caused the number of beach closings and advisories to hit their fourth-highest level in the 19-year history of the report. Aging and poorly designed sewage and storm water systems hold much of the blame for beach water pollution. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.nrdc.org/water/oceans/ttw/ttw2009.pdf> [PDF format, 453 pages].

U.S. ENERGY USE DROPS IN 2008. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Anne M. Stark. July 20, 2009.

Americans used more solar, nuclear, biomass and wind energy in 2008 than they did in 2007, according to the study. The nation used less coal and petroleum during the same time frame and only slightly increased its natural gas consumption. Geothermal energy use remained the same.  
[https://publicaffairs.llnl.gov/news/news\\_releases/2009/NR-09-07-02.html](https://publicaffairs.llnl.gov/news/news_releases/2009/NR-09-07-02.html) [HTML format, various paging].

U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY LIKELY TO BOOST POPULATION. Yale Global. Joseph Chamie. July 30, 2009.

As the new US Administration and Congress begin to tackle immigration reform they will again be faced with the weighty question of how large should America's population be in the future.

Should America's population continue to grow indefinitely, perhaps doubling to 600 million by the end of the century? Clearly, any answer to this vital demographic question has serious and far-reaching economic, political, social and environmental consequences for America as well as for the international community of nations, says the author. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12620> [HTML format, various paging].

VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS, SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS: WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN DO TO FOSTER BOTH. Urban Institute. Margery A. Turner and Alan Berube. July 28, 2009.

The paper focuses on four principles regarding the vitality and performance of schools and communities, discussing opportunities for constructive policy interventions, summarizing what we know about their likely effectiveness, and recommending next steps. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0728\\_education\\_berube/0728\\_education\\_report.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0728_education_berube/0728_education_report.pdf) [PDF format, 24 pages].

WHY PRICES RISE FASTER THAN THEY FALL. Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice. Sheldon Kimmel. July 2009.

For decades the fact that input price hikes are passed on faster than input price cuts was thought to be well explained by the assumption that competitive firms fully pass on all input price changes, so they can't price asymmetrically, so asymmetric pricing behavior is limited to oligopolies, firms that do all sorts of bizarre things, says the report. The report strives to solve the issue.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/atr/public/eag/248396.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages].

INFLUENZA A (H1N1) AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS UNDER THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law Scholarship, Georgetown University. Lawrence O. Gostin. August 2009.

The paper analyzes World Health Organization (WHO) powers and resources including the pandemic alert system and the International Health Regulations (IHR), as well as the powers and resources of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He finds that although the response to H1N1 has been strong, the WHO and CDC need more authority and resources to deal with pandemic threats under the rule of international law. [Note: contains copyright material]. [http://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1027&context=ois\\_papers](http://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1027&context=ois_papers) [PDF format, 6 pages].

AN INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT. Center for Economic and Policy Research. John Schmitt and Nathan Lane. August 2009.

Contrary to popular perceptions, the United States has a much smaller small-business sector, as a share of total employment, than other countries at a comparable level of economic development, according to the report. The authors observe that the undersized U.S. small business sector is consistent with the view that high health care costs discourage small business formation, since start-ups in other countries can tap into government-funded health care systems. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/small-business-2009-08.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].

BUILDING TOGETHER A BETTER AFRICA. African Development Bank Group. July 17, 2009.

Mozambique is considered one of Sub-Saharan Africa's strongest economic performers and remains a successful example of post-conflict transition, according to the report. The country has enjoyed impressive economic growth averaging 8% in the past ten years, and sustained macroeconomic and political stability. Growth has been driven mainly by investment in mineral resources, industry, services, policy reform, pro-poor government expenditure and strong donor support. The investment climate has been enhanced, resulting in an improvement of its ranking in the ease of doing business from 140th position to 134th place. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. <http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/BAD-Mozambique%20anglais%20ok.pdf> [PDF format, 52 pages].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEF: CHINA. Energy Information Administration. July 2009.

Despite the economic slowdown in exports and domestic demand in the past year, China's demand for energy remains high. China has emerged from being a net oil exporter in the early 1990s to become the world's third-largest net importer of oil in 2006. Natural gas usage in China has also increased rapidly in recent years, and China has looked to raise natural gas imports via pipeline and liquefied natural gas (LNG). China is also the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, an important factor in world energy markets. <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/China/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ENHANCE COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. U.S. Department of State. July 28, 2009.

The first round of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue was held in Washington, DC, from 27 to 28 July, 2009. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of the Treasury Timothy F. Geithner, as special representatives of President Barack Obama, and Vice

Premier Wang Qishan and State Councilor Dai Bingguo, as special representatives of Chinese President Hu Jintao, co-chaired the Dialogue, which included Strategic and Economic tracks under this framework. The Dialogue is a reflection of the progress in the U.S.-China relationship over the course of the last thirty years and represents the two sides' shared commitment to build a positive, cooperative and comprehensive relationship for the 21st century.  
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/126802.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

A QUESTION OF BALANCE: POLITICAL CONTEXT AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE CHINA-TAIWAN DISPUTE. RAND Corporation. David A. Shlapak et al. August 2009.

The relationship between China and Taiwan is more stable in 2009 than it has been in years, but China has nonetheless not renounced its "right" to use force to forestall Taiwan's "independence". At the same time, the cross-strait military balance is shifting in ways that are problematic for Taiwan's defense: The growing size and quality of China's missile arsenal, along with other advances in Chinese military capabilities, call into question the United States' and Taiwan's ability to defend the island against a large-scale Chinese attack. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND\\_MG888.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG888.pdf) [PDF format, 185 pages].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEF: LIBYA. Energy Information Administration. July 2009.

The Libyan economy is heavily dependent on the hydrocarbon industry which, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), accounted for over 95 percent of export earnings; an estimated 85-90 percent of fiscal revenues; and over 70 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008. According to the Oil and Gas Journal (OGJ), Libya holds close to 44 billion barrels of oil reserves, the largest in Africa. EIA data indicate that 2008 total oil production (crude plus liquids) was approximately 1.88 million barrels per day (bbl/d).  
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Libya/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

THE REGULATION OF HEALTH CLAIMS IN ADVERTISING FOR FUNCTIONAL FOODS AND NATURAL HEALTH PRODUCTS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. Fraser Institute. Mark Brosens. July 2009.

Canada's rigid advertising standards leave the public in the dark about health benefits potentially associated with certain food products, according to the report. "The research reviewed in this report suggests there's a link between consuming particular foods and lowering your risk of developing certain diseases, but in Canada you won't find the potential health benefits of many food elements printed on product labels," said Brett Skinner, Fraser Institute director of bio-pharma and health policy. "Americans, on the other hand, receive much more information about the relationship between diet and health through their everyday contact with products and advertisements." [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.fraserinstitute.org/commerce/web/product\\_files/HealthClaimsInAdvertisingNaturalHealthProducts1.1.pdf](http://www.fraserinstitute.org/commerce/web/product_files/HealthClaimsInAdvertisingNaturalHealthProducts1.1.pdf) [PDF format, 21 pages].

AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE: TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFORMATION: SUMMARY EDITION. National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council. July 28, 2009.

With a sustained national commitment, the United States could obtain substantial energy-efficiency improvements, new sources of energy, and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through the accelerated deployment of existing and emerging energy technologies, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12710#toc](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12710#toc) [HTML format with links].

CBO'S ECONOMIC FORECASTING RECORD: 2009 UPDATE. Congressional Budget Office. July 30, 2009.

The report is an evaluation of the accuracy of its economic forecasts by comparing those forecasts with the economy's actual performance and with the projections of other forecasters. The study examines the two-year ahead forecast accuracy and the five-year ahead forecast accuracy for a variety of macroeconomic variables, such as real GDP, inflation, and interest rates. Thirty-two CBO forecasts, those made early each year from 1976 to 2007, are included in the study. Such evaluations help guide CBO's efforts to improve the quality of its forecasts and also assist Members of Congress in their use of CBO's estimates.

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/104xx/doc10484/07-30-ForecastingRecord2.pdf> [PDF format, 48 pages].

IN TOUGHT TIMES, VOLUNTEERING IN AMERICA REMAINS STRONG. Corporation for National and Public Service. July 27, 2009.

The report finds that even during a time of prolonged economic recession, volunteering has remained steady, fueled by a compassion boom led by young adults and a wave of do-it-yourself volunteers working with their neighbors to fix problems. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/data.cfm> Data [HTML format with links].

<http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/rankings.cfm> Rankings [HTML format with charts].

LOCAL WELLNESS POLICIES: ASSESSING SCHOOL DISTRICT STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING CHILDREN'S HEALTH. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Jamie Chiqui et al. July 28, 2009.

While most students nationwide are enrolled in a school district with a wellness policy on the books, these policies are weak, failing to provide our children with the healthy foods and physical activity they need to learn and grow, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.bridgingthegapresearch.org/client\\_files/pdfs/monograph.pdf](http://www.bridgingthegapresearch.org/client_files/pdfs/monograph.pdf) [PDF format, 102 pages].

PAYING THE DEBTS OF A DECEASED RELATIVE: WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? Federal Trade Commission. July 31, 2009.

The report shows that surviving relatives usually have no legal obligation to pay the debts of a family member who has died. Generally, that person's estate is responsible for paying his or her debts. But if there isn't enough in the estate to cover the debts, they typically go unpaid.

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt159.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

RECOMMENDED SECURITY CONTROLS FOR FEDERAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND ORGANIZATIONS. National Institute of Standards and Technology. August 2009.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) releases its final version of a publication which represents a major step toward building a unified information security framework for the entire federal government.

<http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-53-Rev3/sp800-53-rev3-final.pdf> [PDF format, 236 pages].

SAME-GENDER MARRIAGE & RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Interfaith Alliance. C. Welton Gaddy. August 2009.

In the paper, the author calls for a new national discussion on marriage based on the premise that "law, not scripture, is the foundation of government regulations related to marriage in our nation." The paper expresses support for same-gender marriage, seeking to shift the perspective on LGBT equality from problem to solution. To do so, the author advocates for moving from

scriptural argument to religious freedom agreement, and to address the issue of equality as informed by the U.S. Constitution. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.interfaithalliance.org/images/stories/pdf/Green\\_paper.pdf](http://www.interfaithalliance.org/images/stories/pdf/Green_paper.pdf) [PDF format, 33 pages].

STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES. National Governors Association. Jason Hsieh. July 2009.

States are exploring programs to combat the chronic diseases that account for more than 75 percent of all health care costs, including the states', according to the Issue Brief. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0907HEALTHMANAGEMENTINITIATIVES.PDF> [PDF format, 7 pages].

STUDENTS WHO STUDY SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. National Center for Educational Statistics. Xianglei Chen and Thomas Weko. July 29, 2009.

Using data from the 1995-96 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:96/01), this Statistics in Brief focuses on undergraduates who enter STEM programs and examines their characteristics and postsecondary outcomes, persistence and degree completion, several years after beginning postsecondary education.  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009161.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages].

SUMMARY OF LATEST FEDERAL INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX DATA, 1980-2007. Tax Foundation. July 30, 2009.

The data from the IRS clearly debunks the conventional Beltway rhetoric that the "rich" are not paying their fair share of taxes, says the report. The IRS data shows that in 2007, the most recent data available, the top 1 percent of taxpayers paid 40.4 percent of the total income taxes collected by the federal government. It is the highest percentage in modern history. By contrast, the top 1 percent paid 24.8 percent of the income tax burden in 1987, the year following the 1986 tax reform act.  
<http://www.taxfoundation.org/publications/show/23408.html> [HTML format with links].

TRANSITIONAL JOBS REENTRY DEMONSTRATION: TESTING STRATEGIES TO HELP FORMER PRISONERS FIND AND KEEP JOBS AND STAY OUT OF PRISON. Joyce Foundation. July 2009.

Prisoner reentry has attracted increasing attention in recent years, as states seek ways to reduce recidivism and control surging corrections costs. While most experts believe that stable employment is critical to a successful transition from prison to the community, there is little hard evidence about which program practices are effective at promoting successful transitions or reducing recidivism. The study describes an ongoing initiative that seeks to learn what works best to help former prisoners make a successful transition back into society. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/522/policybrief.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

TWENTIETH-CENTURY DECLINE OF LARGE-DIAMETER TREES IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA, USA. U.S. Geological Survey. J.A. Lutz et al. July 29, 2009.

Large trees have declined in Yosemite National Park during the 20th century, and warmer climate conditions may play a role. A decline in large trees means habitat loss and possible reduction in species such as spotted owls, mosses, orchids and fishers, a carnivore related to weasels. Fewer new trees will grow in the landscape because large trees are a seed source for the surrounding

landscape. Large-diameter trees generally resist fire more than small-diameter trees, so fewer large trees could also slow forest regeneration after fires.

[http://www.werc.usgs.gov/yosemite/pdfs/Lutz\\_vanWagtendonk\\_Franklin\\_Declining\\_Large\\_Trees\\_FEM\\_2009.pdf](http://www.werc.usgs.gov/yosemite/pdfs/Lutz_vanWagtendonk_Franklin_Declining_Large_Trees_FEM_2009.pdf) [PDF format, 12 pages].

THE USE OF COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE IN THE UNITED STATES: COST DATA. National Institute of Health and National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. July 2009.

Americans spent \$33.9 billion out-of-pocket on complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) over the previous 12 months, according to a 2007 government survey. Approximately 38 percent of adults use some form of CAM for health and wellness or to treat a variety of diseases and conditions, according to data from the 2007 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

[http://nccam.nih.gov/news/camstats/costs/NHIS\\_costdata.pdf](http://nccam.nih.gov/news/camstats/costs/NHIS_costdata.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages].

DO QUASI-MARKETS FOSTER INNOVATION IN EDUCATION? Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Christopher Lubienski. August 4, 2009.

The education sector is often linked to innovation, particularly in its role in providing the training and skills associated with workforce innovations and economic growth. Does the rate of innovation increase when educators are spurred on by competitive incentives? What types of innovations then appear, and in what levels of the educational organization? The report reviews the evidence, drawing on information from over 20 countries. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/41/6/43415929.pdf> [PDF format, 72 pages].

DETER, DEFEND, REPEL, AND PARTNER: A DEFENSE STRATEGY FOR TAIWAN. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy. Dan Blumenthal et al. Web posted August 3, 2009.

The report is designed to help generate serious reflections on how best to preserve the ROC's own accomplishments as a people and a government and to enable it to choose its own future as free of coercion as possible. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/20090803-Deter-Defend-Repel.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEF: OMAN. Energy Information Administration. August 2009.

Oman's economy is heavily reliant on oil exports for revenue, though diversification into natural gas production has mitigated this to a degree. Roughly two-thirds of Oman's total energy consumption comes from natural gas and the remainder comes from oil, reflecting the country's relative abundance of oil and natural gas reserves. Oman's future domestic energy consumption plans call for increased use of natural gas in energy generation in order to free up more oil for export.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Oman/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

HOW OPIUM PROFITS THE TALIBAN. U.S. Institute of Peace. Gretchen Peters. August 6, 2009.

In Afghanistan's poppy-rich south and southwest, a raging insurgency intersects a thriving opium trade. The report examines who are the main beneficiaries of the opium trade, how traffickers influence the Taliban insurgency as well as the politics of the region, and considers the extent to which narcotics are changing the nature of the insurgency itself. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.usip.org/files/resources/taliban\\_opium\\_1.pdf](http://www.usip.org/files/resources/taliban_opium_1.pdf) [PDF format, 44 pages].



IRAQ'S INTERIOR MINISTRY: THE KEY TO POLICE REFORM. U.S. Institute of Peace. Robert Perito and Madeline Krstoff. August 2009.

As part of a push to bolster security in Iraq, the U.S. government focused on building the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Interior. However, even by 2007, numerous reports described Iraq's Ministry of Interior as crippled by corruption and sectarianism. To address this critical problem, a team of American and British advisers were tasked with reforming the Ministry of Interior. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.usip.org/files/iraq\\_interior\\_ministry\\_perito\\_kristoff.pdf](http://www.usip.org/files/iraq_interior_ministry_perito_kristoff.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

ROCKETS FROM GAZA: HARM TO CIVILIANS FROM PALESTINIANS ARMED GROUPS' ROCKET ATTACKS. Human Rights Watch. August 6, 2009.

Since 2001, Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in Gaza have fired thousands of rockets deliberately or indiscriminately at civilian areas in Israel. Such attacks virtually stopped during a ceasefire that began in June 2008 but escalated in November 2008 after an Israeli military incursion into Gaza. The rocket attacks continued during and since Israel's three-week-long military offensive in Gaza that began on December 27. Palestinian rocket attacks, which have killed three Israeli civilians and wounded dozens of others since November, are an ongoing threat to the nearly 800,000 Israeli civilians who live and work in range of the rockets. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/iroptqassam0809web.pdf> [PDF format, 31 pages].

BROKEN SYSTEM: DYSFUNCTION, ABUSE, AND IMPUNITY IN THE INDIAN POLICE. Human Rights Watch. August 4, 2009.

The report documents a range of human rights violations committed by police, including arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and extrajudicial killings. The report is based on interviews with more than 80 police officers of varying ranks, 60 victims of police abuses, and numerous discussions with experts and civil society activists. It documents the failings of state police forces that operate outside the law, lack sufficient ethical and professional standards, are overstretched and outmatched by criminal elements, and unable to cope with increasing demands and public expectations. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/india0809webwcover.pdf> [PDF format, 124 pages].

INDIAN GOVERNMENT OPENS CLIMATE DEBATE TO YOUTH. World Watch Institute. Anna da Costa. August 5, 2009.

India set a new international standard last month for engaging youth on environmental policy by inviting the Indian Youth Climate Network to comment on climate change regulations. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/6214> [HTML format, various paging].

SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS RISK DISSENSION BY IGNORING HUMAN RIGHTS. Yale Global. Meidyatama Suryodiningrat. August 4, 2009.

For ASEAN, the ruling regime in Burma is an insufferable embarrassment to both soft authoritarian regimes like Singapore and thriving democracies such as Indonesia. The embarrassment was highlighted during the recent annual summit of the group at which the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton lambasted Burma for its terrible human rights record before an uncomfortable group of senior officials. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12635> [HTML format, various paging].

2009 CAPITAL SPENDING REPORT: U.S. CAPITAL SPENDING PATTERNS U.S. Census Bureau. August 4, 2009

Spending by all U.S. nonfarm businesses on new and used structures and equipment increased 17 percent, or nearly \$201 billion, to a total of \$1.362 trillion in 2007. This compares with an earlier cyclical peak of \$1.161 trillion in 2000, according to the report from the U.S. Census Bureau.

<http://www.census.gov/econ/aces/report/2009/capitalspendingreport2009.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX AND WORKERS' WAGES: NEW EVIDENCE FROM THE 50 STATES. Tax Foundation. Robert Carroll. August 2009.

High corporate income taxes are often justified by the rhetoric that businesses, and their high-income investors, should "pay their fair share." The report finds that states with high corporate income taxes have likely depressed their workers' wages over the long term, while states with low corporate taxes have boosted worker productivity and real wages. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.taxfoundation.org/files/sr169.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

ENERGY MARKET AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF H.R. 2454, THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT OF 2009. Energy Information Administration. August 4, 2009.

The report responds to a request from Chairman Henry Waxman and Chairman Edward Markey for an analysis of H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACESA). ACESA, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 26, 2009, is a complex bill that regulates emissions of greenhouse gases through market-based mechanisms, efficiency programs, and economic incentives.

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/service/pt/hr2454/pdf/sroiaf\(2009\)05.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/service/pt/hr2454/pdf/sroiaf(2009)05.pdf) [PDF format, 81 pages].

EXPENDITURES ON CHILDREN BY FAMILIES, 2008. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Web posted August 2009.

Since 1960, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has provided estimates of expenditures on children from birth through age 17. The report presents the most recent estimates for husband-wife and single-parent families using data from the 2005-06 Consumer Expenditure Survey, updated to 2008 dollars using the Consumer Price Index. Estimates are provided for major components of the budget by age of child, family income, and region of residence. For the overall United States, annual child-rearing expense estimates ranged between \$11,610 and \$13,480 for a child in a two-child, married-couple family in the middle-income group.

<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/Publications/CRC/crc2008.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].

FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF PRESCHOOL FOR ALL: INSIGHTS INTO ISSUES AFFECTING ACCESS FOR SELECTED IMMIGRANT GROUPS IN CHICAGO. Urban Institute. Gina Adams and Marla McDaniel. August 5, 2009.

The study involved interviews with families from Nigeria and Pakistan living on Chicago's North Side to examine their experiences and perspectives around accessing Illinois' universal preschool program, Preschool for All (PFA). Researchers conducted focus groups with parents and spoke with PFA providers for their perspective on issues families raised. The findings suggest Nigerian and Pakistani families can face numerous barriers accessing Preschool for All. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411934\\_fulfilling.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411934_fulfilling.pdf) [PDF format, 57 pages].

GREENHOUSE GAS LEGISLATION: SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF H.R. 2454 AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Mark Holt and Gene Whitney. July 27, 2009.

Among other items, the bill provides for smart grid technologies, including products that can be equipped with smart grid capability, requirements for electric power retailers to reduce their peak loads using smart grid and other energy efficient technologies, and requirements that power suppliers ensure that utility smart grid systems will be compatible with plug-in electric drive vehicles.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40643\\_20090727.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40643_20090727.pdf) [PDF format, 164 pages].

THE NEW FEDERAL TOBACCO TAX: WHO LOSES? National Center for Policy Analysis. David Weeks. August 4, 2009.

The recent expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) was funded by an increase in federal excise taxes on tobacco products. Congress increased the federal tax on cigarettes by 61 cents per pack and raised the tax on other tobacco products, with the goal of equalizing the tax per pound of tobacco. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba670.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

PREVALENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF NONPHYSICIANS WHO PERFORMED MEDICARE PHYSICIAN SERVICES. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. August 2009.

In the first 3 months of 2007, when Medicare allowed physicians more than 24 hours of services in a day, nonphysicians performed half of the services and unqualified nonphysicians performed 21 percent of these services. Medicare Part B pays for services that are billed by physicians but are performed by nonphysicians under the "incident to" rule. Little is known about these services because physicians are not required to identify them on their Medicare claims.

<http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-09-06-00430.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages].

PROFESSIONAL NURSE WORKFORCE DILEMMAS. Urban Institute. Randall R. Bovbjerg et al. Web posted August 4, 2009.

Nurses are health care's backbone, spending the most time with patients and adding value within institutional teams of caregivers and in providing ambulatory primary care. Short-term shortages wax and wane as employers seek to hire at accustomed prices. More seriously, the next decade may see more older nurses retiring than new ones entering the workforce, so education needs to be augmented and improved. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411933\\_professionalnurse.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411933_professionalnurse.pdf) [PDF format, 41 pages].

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO CHEMICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL INCIDENTS: FUNCTIONS, PRACTICES, AND AREAS FOR FUTURE WORK. RAND Corporation. Tom LaTourrette et al. August 5, 2009.

The paper discusses the role of public health agencies in emergency preparedness for and response to chemical and radiological incidents. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2009/RAND\\_TR719.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2009/RAND_TR719.pdf) [PDF format, 67 pages].

SHOULD SOCIAL SECURITY RELY SOLELY ON THE PAYROLL TAX? Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Alicia H. Munnell. August 2009.

It's no secret that Social Security is facing a long-term financing shortfall. This problem can be solved only by putting more money into the system and/or by cutting benefits, according to the

author. The author explores whether the entire financing of the Social Security system should rest on the payroll tax. The payroll tax may be a perfectly reasonable way for current workers to pay for their benefits. But is it the right tax to finance the costs left over from paying benefits far in excess of contributions to early generations? [Note: contains copyrighted material]. [http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib\\_9-16.pdf](http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_9-16.pdf) [PDF format, 7 pages].

SOAKING THE RICH AND DRENCHING SMALL BUSINESS. National Center for Policy Analysis. Biff Jones and Pamela Villarreal. August 6, 2009.

Adding the health insurance penalty, surtaxes and return to pre-Bush tax rates to state tax burdens, a small business in Texas would pay up to 55.9 percent of the last dollar earned to the government, the lowest rate in the nation, say the authors. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. <http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba671.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

THE U.S. FOOD IMPORT PATTERNS, 1998-2007. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nora Brooks et al. August 6, 2009.

Using import data from the U.S. Census Bureau, this study examines patterns of U.S. food imports for fiscal years 1998-2007. Results indicate faster import growth trends for consumer-ready foods, such as fruit, vegetables, meats, seafood, and processed food products. Although the United States imported most bulk food commodities and perishable consumer-ready products, such as fruit and vegetables, from neighboring countries in the Western Hemisphere, it imported processed foods, spices, and other tropical products from more global sources, with rising import shares for many countries in Asia. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/FAU/2009/08Aug/FAU125/FAU125.pdf> [PDF format, 52 pages].

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE: RESTRUCTURING URGENTLY NEEDED TO ACHIEVE FINANCIAL VIABILITY. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Phillip Herr. August 6, 2009.

The U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) financial condition has worsened since GAO testified before this Subcommittee last January, with the recession and changing mail use causing dramatic declines in mail volume and revenues despite postal rate increases. USPS expects these declines to lead to losses and cash shortfalls even if ambitious cost-cutting is achieved. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09958t.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages].

THE USE OF OFFSETS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES. Congressional Budget Office. August 3, 2009.

The cost savings to the economy generated by offsets could be substantial, according to the report. Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that between 2012 and 2050 average annual savings from offsets could be about 70 percent under ACESA. The intended environmental benefit would be fully realized only if the offsets provided the full reduction in GHGs for which they were credited. <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/104xx/doc10497/08-03-Offsets.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

AN ANALYSIS OF CLIMATE ENGINEERING AS A RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. Copenhagen Consensus on Climate. J. Eric Bickel and Lee Lane. August 2009.

Climate engineering could offer an extremely cheap, fast solution to climate change, according to the authors. They show that we might be able to cancel out this century's global warming by spending no more than \$9 billion, and that climate engineering might be able to achieve as much for the planet as carbon cuts at a fraction of the cost. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://fixthecclimate.com/uploads/tx\\_templavoila/AP\\_Climate\\_Engineering\\_Bickel\\_Lane\\_v.3.0.pdf](http://fixthecclimate.com/uploads/tx_templavoila/AP_Climate_Engineering_Bickel_Lane_v.3.0.pdf)  
[PDF format, 58 pages].

GLOBAL TRENDS IN VENTURE CAPITAL: 2009 GLOBAL REPORT. Deloitte. August 2009.

The responses of venture capitalists around the world were illuminating. While the investment community is coming to grips with the hard realities of this global recession, they remain a resilient group and even an optimistic one. It's been a tough season for investors and entrepreneurs alike but that may have strengthened the industry, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-Global/Local%20Assets/Documents/tmt\\_2009vdsurvey.pdf](http://www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-Global/Local%20Assets/Documents/tmt_2009vdsurvey.pdf)  
[PDF format, 38 pages].

UNDERSTANDING WHY TERRORIST OPERATIONS SUCCEED OR FAIL. RAND Corporation. Brian A. Jackson and David A. Frelinger. August 10, 2009.

The paper argues that the success or failure of terrorist operations can be best understood by thinking about the match or mismatch between key sets of characteristics of the group, its plans, and the security measures facing them. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional\\_papers/2009/RAND\\_OP257.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2009/RAND_OP257.pdf) [PDF format, 41 pages].

WATER SCARCITY LOOMS. Worldwatch Institute. Gary Gardner. August 6, 2009.

Water scarcity is increasing in many regions as factors including population growth, climate change, and pollution restrict the amount of water available relative to demand. In 2008, 1.4 billion people lived in "closed basins"-regions where existing water cannot meet the agricultural, municipal, and environmental needs for all. This number is expected to grow to 1.8 billion by 2025. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/6213> [HTML format, various paging].

THIRST FOR AFRICAN OIL: ASIAN NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES IN NIGERIA AND ANGOLA. Chatham House Report. Alex Vines et al. August 10, 2009.

The report on the activities of Asian oil companies in Africa exposes the flaws in many general assumptions about Asian engagement with Africa. The report analyzes the impact of these companies in the two leading oil producing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and contrasts the stability and policy consistency that are features of the Angolan system with a more insecure and unstable system in Nigeria. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/14524\\_r0809\\_africanoil.pdf](http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/14524_r0809_africanoil.pdf) [PDF format, 75 pages].

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 2008-2009. United Nations. Web posted August 2009.

A growth phase that the region's recent history cannot equal in nature and duration has come to an end and output is contracting, according to the report. The first part of this edition of the Economic Survey looks at the channels through which the crisis is affecting the economies of the region and its impact on variables such as economic growth, employment and external-sector indicators. It also discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the countries in dealing with the fallout from the global crisis and the economic policies they have deployed to this end. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cepal.cl/publicaciones/xml/5/36465/2009-254-EEI-2009-Lanzamiento-WEB.pdf> [PDF format, 96 pages].

BABY BOOM MIGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON RURAL AMERICA. U.S. Department of Agriculture. John Cromartie and Peter Nelson. August 10, 2009.

Members of the baby boom cohort, now 45-63 years old, are approaching a period in their lives when moves to rural and small-town destinations increase. An analysis of age-specific, net migration during the 1990s reveals extensive shifts in migration patterns as Americans move through different life-cycle stages. Assuming similar age patterns of migration, the report identifies the types of nonmetropolitan counties that are likely to experience the greatest surge in baby boom migration during 2000-20 and projects the likely impact on the size and distribution of retirement-age populations in destination counties.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR79/ERR79.pdf> [PDF format, 36 pages].

BACK TO BASICS: TEN STEPS TO SAVE 85,000 LIVES AND \$35 BILLION A YEAR IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY. Public Citizen. August 6, 2009.

The report proposes 10 cost-cutting, patient safety measures that would save an estimated 85,000 lives and \$35 billion a year. It analyzes the results of scientific studies of treatment protocols for chronically recurring, avoidable medical errors. [Notes: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.citizen.org/documents/BackToBasics.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages].

CBO'S LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY: 2009 UPDATE. Congressional Budget Office. August 2009.

According to the update, without changes in law, CBO expects that the Social Security trust funds will be exhausted in 2043. If that point is reached, the Social Security Administration will not have the legal authority to pay full benefits and the amounts that could be paid would be about 17 percent less than those scheduled under current law.

[http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/104xx/doc10457/08-07-SocialSecurity\\_Update.pdf](http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/104xx/doc10457/08-07-SocialSecurity_Update.pdf) [PDF format, 44 pages].

CLIMATE CHANGE & NATIONAL WILDLIFE: A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR A WARMING WORLD. National Parks Conservation Association. August 2009.

Wildlife and public lands need help surviving the conditions caused by climate change, such as droughts, warmer temperatures, and loss of habitat. The report recommends strategies to help wildlife adapt, including providing land corridors and reducing stress from pollution and invasive species. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.npca.org/climatechange/wildlife\\_survival/pdfs/00-NPCA-Wildlife.pdf](http://www.npca.org/climatechange/wildlife_survival/pdfs/00-NPCA-Wildlife.pdf) [PDF format, 60 pages].

COUNTING WHAT COUNTS: TAKING RESULTS SERIOUSLY FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. August 2009.

The report profiles the well-being of America's children on a state-by-state basis and ranks states on 10 key measures of child well-being. The Data Book essay calls for a "data revolution" that uses timely and reliable information to track the progress and improve the lives of vulnerable children. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Other/123/2009KIDSCOUNTDataBook/AEC186\\_2009\\_KCDB\\_FINAL%2072.pdf](http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Other/123/2009KIDSCOUNTDataBook/AEC186_2009_KCDB_FINAL%2072.pdf) [PDF format, 148 pages].

FIFTY-YEAR RECORD OF GLACIER REVEALS SHIFTING CLIMATE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND ALASKA, USA. U.S. Geological Survey. August 2009.



The report shows that glaciers are dramatically changing in mass, length and thickness as a result of climate change. Over the past 50 years, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientists have monitored the melting of Alaska's Gulkana and Wolverine Glaciers and Washington's South Cascade Glacier, yielding the longest such records in North America.  
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2009/3046/> [HTML format, various paging].

HATE, VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA: A REPORT ON HATE CRIMES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS 2008.

National Coalition for the Homeless. August 2009.

The report shows the numbers of hate crimes and violent attacks against people experiencing homelessness. "Those experiencing homelessness are often ignored or misunderstood by society. If these brutal attacks were committed against any other religious or minority group to the same degree, there would be a national outcry and call for governmental action," said Michael Stoops, executive director of NCH. "We must respond to this dehumanization and protect homeless persons against hate crimes and violence." [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/hatecrimes/hate\\_report\\_2008.pdf](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/hatecrimes/hate_report_2008.pdf) [PDF format, 98 pages].

THE HEALTH CARE STATUS QUO: HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM WILL BENEFIT ALL AMERICANS. HealthReform.gov. August 7, 2009.

The reports outline how health insurance reform will improve health care for all Americans. "These reports show how health insurance reform will help Americans save money, get better care, strengthen their insurance if they already have it, and afford insurance if they don't," said Sebelius, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary. "Every American will benefit when we pass health insurance reform."  
<http://www.healthreform.gov/healthcarestatus.html> [HTML format with links to each state].

HITTING BOTTOM?: AN UPDATED ANALYSIS OF RENTS AND THE PRICE OF HOUSING IN 100 METROPOLITAN AREAS. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Danilo Pelletiere et al. August 2009.

The report compares home prices and annual rents across 100 metropolitan markets to evaluate the state of the housing market. The data indicates that while a bottom may be in sight, the slump in the market is likely to persist for some time. The findings also support the viability of Right-to-Rent legislation, which would allow homeowners facing foreclosure to remain in their homes as renters paying a fair market rent. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/100city-2009-08.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

IMPAIRING EDUCATION: CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN US PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Human Rights Watch. August 10, 2009.

The report finds that students with disabilities made up 18.8 percent of students who suffered corporal punishment at school during the 2006-2007 school year, although they constituted just 13.7 percent of the total nationwide student population. At least 41,972 students with disabilities were subjected to corporal punishment in U.S. schools during that year. These numbers probably undercount the actual rate of physical discipline, since not all instances are reported or recorded. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/us0809webwcover\\_0.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/us0809webwcover_0.pdf) [PDF format, 75 pages].

MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS: HOW MANY COME? HOW MANY LEAVE? Pew Hispanic Center. Jeffery S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn. July 22, 2009.

The flow of immigrants from Mexico to the United States has declined sharply since mid-decade, but there is no evidence of an increase during this period in the number of Mexican-born migrants returning home from the U.S., according to the report. Mexican-born population in the U.S., which had been growing earlier in the decade, was 11.5 million in early 2009. That figure is not significantly different from the 11.6 million Mexican immigrants in 2008 or the 11.2 million in 2007. The current recession has had a harsh impact on employment of Latino immigrants, raising the question of whether an increased number of Mexican-born residents are choosing to return home. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/112.pdf> [PDF format, 27 pages].

THE PEAK OIL DEBATE. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Laurel Graefe. August 2009.

For the past half-century, a debate has raged over when “peak oil” will occur, the point at which output can no longer increase and production begins to level off or gradually decline. Determining how long the oil supply will last has become even more pressing because the world’s energy supply still relies heavily on oil, and global energy demand is expected to rise steeply over the next twenty years. The report focuses on the debate. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.frbatlanta.org/filelegacydocs/er0902\\_graefe.pdf](http://www.frbatlanta.org/filelegacydocs/er0902_graefe.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages].

PERSONAL INCOME FOR METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2008. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. August 6, 2009.

Personal income growth slowed in 2008 in most of the nation’s metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), according to estimates released today by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Personal income growth slowed in 322 MSAs, increased in 42, and remained unchanged in 2 MSAs. On average, MSA personal income grew 3.3 percent in 2008, down from 6.0 percent in 2007.

<http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/regional/mpi/2009/pdf/mpi0809.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

POST OFFICE AND RETAIL FACILITY CLOSURES: OVERVIEW AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kevin R. Kosar. Web posted August 2009.

The USPS has cited financial duress as a reason for its proposed closure of up to 64% of its 4,851 post office branches and stations. According to the USPS, the post office branches and stations under consideration for closure are located in metropolitan areas. The USPS has not indicated whether any employees would lose their positions. Most postal employees are protected from layoffs by collective bargaining agreements.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40719\\_20090723.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40719_20090723.pdf) [PDF format, 19 pages].

RITE OF PASSAGE? WHY YOUNG ADULTS BECOME UNINSURED AND HOW NEW POLICIES CAN HELP, 2009 UPDATE. The Commonwealth Fund. Jennifer L. Nicholson et al. August 6, 2009.

Young adults ages 19 to 29 are one of the largest segments of the U.S. population without health insurance: 13.2 million, or 29 percent, lacked coverage in 2007. They often lose coverage at age 19 or upon high school or college graduation: nearly two of five (38%) high school graduates who do not enroll in college and one-third of college graduates are uninsured for a time during the first year after graduation. Twenty-six states have passed laws to expand coverage of dependents to young adults under parents’ insurance policies. Congressional proposals to reform the health system could help uninsured young adults gain coverage and prevent others from losing it, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2009/Aug/1310\\_Nicholson\\_rite\\_of\\_passage\\_2009.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2009/Aug/1310_Nicholson_rite_of_passage_2009.pdf) [PDF format, 22 pages].

TAKING UP THE SECURITY CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Department of Defense. Rynn J. Parsons. August 2009.

Climate change, in which man-made global warming is a major factor, will likely have dramatic and long lasting consequences with profound security implications, making it a challenge the United States must urgently take up. The security implications will be most pronounced in places where the effects of climate change are greatest, particularly affecting weak states already especially vulnerable to environmental destabilization.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdf/PUB932.pdf> [PDF format, 26 pages].

TEACHER QUALITY: SUSTAINED COORDINATION AMONG KEY FEDERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS COULD ENHANCE STATE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TEACHER QUALITY. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Web posted August 7, 2009.

Policymakers and researchers have focused on improving the quality of our nation's 3 million teachers to raise the achievement of students in key academic areas, such as reading and mathematics. Given the importance of teacher quality to student achievement and the key role federal and state governments play in supporting teacher quality, GAO's objectives included examining (1) the extent that the U.S. Department of Education (Education) funds and coordinates teacher quality programs, (2) studies that Education conducts on teacher quality and how it provides and coordinates research-related assistance to states and school districts, and (3) challenges to collaboration within states and how Education helps address those challenges.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09593.pdf> [PDF format, 73 pages].

2009 WORLD POPULATION DATA SHEET. Population Reference Bureau. August 12, 2009.

Global population numbers are on track to reach 7 billion in 2011, just 12 years after reaching 6 billion in 1999. Virtually all of the growth is in developing countries. And the growth of the world's youth population (ages 15 to 24) is shifting into the poorest of those countries. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.prb.org/pdf09/09wpds\\_eng.pdf](http://www.prb.org/pdf09/09wpds_eng.pdf) [PDF format, 19 pages].

BLOOD OIL IN THE NIGER DELTA. U.S. Institute of Peace. Judith Burdin Ausmi. August 11, 2009.

The trade of stolen oil, or "blood oil," in Nigeria is fueling a long-running insurgency in the resource-rich Niger Delta region that has claimed many lives. Oil "bunkering" – or theft – has fomented the armed conflict in the region, providing militant groups with funds to purchase weapons, and has increased instability in oil prices on world energy markets. The report shows how the business of blood oil poses a threat not only to the Nigerian state and the region, but to the international community as well. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.usip.org/files/blood\\_oil\\_nigerdelta.pdf](http://www.usip.org/files/blood_oil_nigerdelta.pdf) [PDF format, 20 pages].

SOMALIA: THE TROUBLE WITH PUNTLAND. International Crisis Group. August 12, 2009.

If its government does not enact meaningful reforms and reach out to all clans, Puntland may break up violently, adding to Somalia's chaos, according to the report. The semi-autonomous north-eastern region has experienced rising insecurity and political tension for three years. At its roots are poor governance and collapse of the cohesion that led to its 1998 creation. If grievances are not urgently and comprehensively tackled, the consequences could be severe for the whole country and even the Horn of Africa. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/horn\\_of\\_africa/b64\\_somalia\\_\\_\\_the\\_trouble\\_with\\_puntland.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/horn_of_africa/b64_somalia___the_trouble_with_puntland.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages].

STOPPING THE RESOURCE WARS IN AFRICA. World Resource Institute. Sarah McHaney and Peter Veit. August 10, 2009.

The armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo are funded by the region's abundant natural resources. The authors discuss Two bills are now in Congress, the Congo Conflict Minerals Act and the Extractive Industries Transparency Disclosure Act. These two bills would require companies listed on the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to disclose new information in their financial reporting and help ensure that such minerals do not support the conflict. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.wri.org/stories/2009/08/stopping-resource-wars-afica> [HTML format, various paging].

U.S.-AFRICA TRADE: OPTIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION TO IMPROVE TEXTILE AND APPAREL SECTOR COMPETITIVENESS UNDER THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT. U.S. Government Accountability Office. August 12, 2009.

According to U.S. government officials, sub-Saharan Africa's (SSA) textile and apparel industry has not achieved the growth anticipated under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Despite the tariff reductions under AGOA, after an initial surge, U.S. imports of these products from beneficiary countries have declined in recent years (see figure). In view of this outcome, the 2008 Andean Trade Preference Extension legislation required GAO to prepare a report identifying changes to U.S. trade preference programs "to provide incentives to increase investment and other measures necessary to improve the competitiveness of [SSA] beneficiary countries in the production of yarns, fabric, and other textile and apparel inputs.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09916.pdf> [PDF format, 47 pages].

U.S. POLICY SHIFT NEEDED IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. Council on Foreign Relations. Bronwyn E. Bruton. August 6, 2009.

U.S. strategic interests in the Horn of Africa center on preventing Somalia from becoming a safe haven for al-Qaeda or other transnational jihadist groups. In pursuing its counter terror strategy, the United States has found common cause with Ethiopia, says the author. The United States has recently taken positive steps to disaggregate its Somalia policy from that of Ethiopia. These steps include diplomatic outreach to Eritrea and public attempts to restrain Ethiopian military action in response to the escalating violence in Mogadishu. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/19982/us\\_policy\\_shift\\_needed\\_in\\_the\\_horn\\_of\\_africa.html?breadcumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fregion\\_issue\\_brief](http://www.cfr.org/publication/19982/us_policy_shift_needed_in_the_horn_of_africa.html?breadcumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fregion_issue_brief) [HTML format, various paging].

BARACK OBAMA, KEVIN RUDD AND THE ALLIANCE: AMERICAN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVES. Lowy Institute for International Policy. Michael O' August 2009.

A good deal has been written about the Australia-U.S. alliance over the past decade, but almost all of it, naturally enough, described the alliance as it developed under the stewardship of conservative leaders in Washington and Canberra. Now the alliance is in the hands of a Democratic president and a Labor prime minister. The paper sets out the views of two analysts, one American and one Australian, on the developing relationship between President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and the kind of alliance over which they will preside. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/08\\_america\\_australia\\_fullilove/08\\_america\\_australia\\_fullilove.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/08_america_australia_fullilove/08_america_australia_fullilove.pdf) [PDF format, 14 pages].

CAMBODIA HAS TO COPE WITH ITS GLOBAL CONNECTION. YaleGlobal. Anne-Laure Poree. August 11, 2009.

Defying the gloom descending on the tourism sector brought about by the global crisis, the capital's airport recently launched a hopeful initiative: a new airline. Cambodia Angkor Air was launched to boost tourism between the capital and Siem Reap near the famed ruins of Angkor Wat. With tourist arrivals falling sharply since late last year, this may signal a triumph of hope over reality, says the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12652> [HTML format, various paging].

CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS. Council on Foreign Relations. Youkyung Lee. August 10, 2009.

Taiwan, whose leaders continue to talk about independence, remains a focal point of Chinese military modernization. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.cfr.org/publication/9223/chinataiwan\\_relations.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fbackgrounder](http://www.cfr.org/publication/9223/chinataiwan_relations.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder) [HTML format, various paging].

THE CHALLENGE OF RESTORING FRENCH COMPETITIVENESS. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Rafal Kierzenkowski. Web posted August 11, 2009.

Since the beginning of the decade, France has seen a marked decline in its export performance, leading to growing concerns on the part of the authorities and of civil society about the economy's capacity to adapt to the intensified globalization of trade and investment in goods and services. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.oalis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00004C46/\\$FILE/JT03268530.PDF](http://www.oalis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00004C46/$FILE/JT03268530.PDF) [PDF format, 46 pages].

AFGHANISTAN'S POLICE. U.S. Institute of Peace. Robert M. Perito. August 12, 2009.

In seven years, the Afghan National Police (ANP) forces have grown to 68,000 personnel, with a target end strength of 86,000. The ANP includes the uniformed police force, which is responsible for general police duties, and specialized police forces, which deal with public order, counternarcotics, terrorism, and border control. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.usip.org/files/resources/afghanistan\\_police.pdf](http://www.usip.org/files/resources/afghanistan_police.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages].

OPEC REVENUES FACT SHEET. Energy Information Administration. August 2009.

The members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$555 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and \$667 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned \$968 billion in net oil export revenues, a 42 percent increase from 2007. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$285 billion, representing 29 percent of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earning reached \$2,680 in 2008, a 40 percent increase from 2007.  
[http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC\\_Revenues/pdf.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/pdf.pdf) [PDF format, 3 pages].

WHITE FLAG DEATHS: KILLINGS OF PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS DURING OPERATION CAST LEAD. Human Rights Watch. August 13, 2009.

During Israel's recent Gaza offensive, Israeli soldiers unlawfully shot and killed 11 Palestinian civilians, including five women and four children, who were in groups waving white flags to convey their civilian status, according to the report. The Israeli military should conduct thorough, credible investigations into these deaths to tackle the prevailing culture of impunity, Human Rights Watch said. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ioptwf0809web\\_1.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ioptwf0809web_1.pdf) [PDF format, 64 pages].

THE EASTERN HIMALAYAS: WHERE WORLDS COLLIDE. World Wildlife Fund. August 2009.



Over 350 new species including the world's smallest deer, a "flying frog" and a 100 million-year old gecko have been discovered in the Eastern Himalayas, a biological treasure trove now threatened by climate change, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. [http://assets.panda.org/downloads/new\\_species\\_discoveries\\_\\_eastern\\_himalayas\\_where\\_worlds\\_collide.pdf](http://assets.panda.org/downloads/new_species_discoveries__eastern_himalayas_where_worlds_collide.pdf) [PDF format, 33 pages].

INDIA'S FUTURE IN THE BALANCE. Heritage Foundation. Michelle Kaffenberger and Derek Scissors. August 13, 2009.

A possibly critical event within India has gone largely unnoticed elsewhere: The Indian federal legislature has approved a bill mandating free public education for all citizens. Whether the bill is properly or improperly implemented could play a notable role in determining whether India becomes a global economic leader, and a global economic partner for the U.S. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. [http://www.heritage.org/Research/AsiaandthePacific/upload/wm\\_2586.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/AsiaandthePacific/upload/wm_2586.pdf) [PDF format, 3 pages].

A CLEAR BLUE FUTURE: HOW GREENING CALIFORNIA CITIES CAN ADDRESS WATER RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHALLENGES IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY. Natural Resources Defense Council. Noah Garrison et al. August 10, 2009.

The report highlights low impact development, or LID, as a land planning and engineering design approach for storm water management. LID enables cities, states, and individuals to increase access to safe and reliable sources of water while reducing the amount of energy consumed and global warming pollution generated when delivering water to residents. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. <http://www.nrdc.org/water/lid/files/lid.pdf> [PDF format, 56 pages]

FIGHTING OIL ADDICTION: RANKING STATES' OIL VULNERABILITY AND SOLUTIONS FOR CHANGE. Natural Resources Defense Council. Deron Lovaas. August 2009.

America's addiction to oil continues to threaten not only our national security and global environmental health, but also our economic viability. The report analyzes how heavily drivers in each state are affected by increases in oil prices and ranked states on their adoption of solutions to reduce their oil dependence, measures they are taking to lessen their vulnerability and to bolster America's security. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/states/files/states.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

IMPROVING SAVINGS INCENTIVES FOR THE POOR. National Center for Policy Analysis. D. Sean Shurtlefee. August 12, 2009.

Americans have been saving less and less of their after-tax income for the past 15 years. The annual personal savings rate averaged 8 percent from 1929 to 2000, but reached a historical low of 0.4 percent in 2005. With the onset of the 2008-2009 recession, however, the savings rate rose again to more than 6 percent. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. <http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba672.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

THE LAFFER CURVE: UNDERSTANDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TAX RATES, TAXABLE INCOME, AND TAX REVENUE. Center for Freedom and Prosperity Foundation. Daniel J. Mitchell. August 2009.

The author reviews the theory and evidence for "Laffer Curve" effects and discusses how the Joint Committee on Taxation's revenue-estimating process is based on the theory that changes in tax policy, even dramatic reforms such as a flat tax, do not affect economic growth. Because of congressional budget rules, this leads to a bias for tax increases and against tax cuts. [Note:



contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.freedomandprosperity.org/Papers/laffer1/laffer1.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages].

MANY LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES TURN TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR HELP. Urban Institute. Sheila R. Zedlewski and Ei Yin Mon. August 10, 2009.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides essential help in purchasing food for most low-income Americans. Most families can qualify for benefits if their assets and income fall below minimum levels. SNAP caseloads are at an all-time high due to the recession and to program changes making it easier to receive benefits. The majority of working families that receive assistance are headed by single parents that work part time. SNAP benefits substantially reduce poverty, especially deep poverty, when benefits are added to cash income. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411938\\_snapforhelp.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411938_snapforhelp.pdf) [PDF format, 9 pages].

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES AMONG LOW-INCOME FAMILIES. Urban Institute. Margaret C. Simms et al. August 11, 2009.

Low-income status in the United States varies significantly by race and ethnicity. Of the more than 13.4 million families with children living on incomes less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, 30 percent are Hispanic, 22 percent are black or African American, and 6 percent are other nonwhites. This fact sheet provides statistics on racial and ethnic differences in family structure, work effort, nativity or immigration status, earnings, and education. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411936\\_racialandethnic.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411936_racialandethnic.pdf) [PDF format, 11 pages].

RISK COMMUNICATION IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE H1N1 (SWINE FLU) ALERT. [RAND Corporation. August 13, 2009.

The fact sheet resents an assessment of how effectively state and local health departments communicated information regarding the April 2009 H1N1 virus (swine flu) outbreak via the Web to their constituents. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/2009/RAND\\_RB9466.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2009/RAND_RB9466.pdf) [PDF format, 3 pages].

YOUTH TOBACCO USE. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. August 11, 2009.

The report shows that sales of tobacco to underage youth (those younger than age 18) have continued to decline, and have in fact reached historic lows under the Synar Amendment program, a federal and state partnership program aimed at ending illegal tobacco sales to minors. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://prevention.samhsa.gov/tobacco/synarreportfy2008.pdf> [PDF format, 17 pages].

CIVIL SOCIETY IN AFRICA. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. 2009.

It is the definition and role in the process of the African Union Programme, NEPAD; Pilot project of a consultative approach by UNESCO with regard to Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia, and Cameroon. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001832/183279m.pdf> [PDF format, 92 pages].

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA 2009. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. June 25, 2009.

The global financial crisis requires the re-examination of current approaches to international development. One area which is important for Africa is the role of regional integration in addressing the long-standing structural weaknesses which have lowered the long-term growth performance of most countries on the continent, increased their economic vulnerability and undermined efforts to reduce poverty. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/aldcafrica2009\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/aldcafrica2009_en.pdf) [PDF format, 126 pages].

[http://www.unctad.org/fr/docs/aldcafrica2009\\_fr.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/fr/docs/aldcafrica2009_fr.pdf) In French [PDF format, 138 pages].

ENHANCED U.S. MARKET ACCESS CRITICAL FOR AFRICA. International Information Program, U.S. Department of State. Charles W. Cory. July 23, 2009.

Enhanced market access to the United States, a key feature of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), remains a “critical component” for Africa’s long-term economic growth and development, says longtime Africa trade facilitator and attorney Anthony Carroll.

In the nine years since AGOA’s enactment, Carroll said, it has been determined that “market access is not enough,” but has to be coupled with technical assistance, infrastructure development and marketing sophistication for Africa to be able to take advantage of AGOA and other such trade agreements.

<http://www.america.gov/st/business-english/2009/July/20090723114741WCyeroC0.2283245.html?CP.rss=true> [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.america.gov/st/econ-french/2009/July/20090724142834WCyeroC0.1864893.html> In French. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.america.gov/st/econ-french/2009/July/20090724142834WCyeroC0.1864893.html> In French. [HTML format, various paging].

A FISH DISEASE THREATENS THE LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY OF MILLIONS WHO DEPEND ON FISHERIES FROM THE ZAMBEZI RIVER VALLEY. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. July 17, 2009.

Millions of people inhabiting the Zambezi River Valley and depending on fishery resources are at risk of losing their livelihoods and important source of protein due to the outbreak of a fish disease called Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS). EUS has now been confirmed in three countries in Africa ( Zambia , Namibia and Botswana) with some 20 freshwater food fish species added to the list of more than 50 species susceptible to EUS. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2009.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/EGUA-7U7RLX-full\\_report.pdf/\\$File/full\\_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2009.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/EGUA-7U7RLX-full_report.pdf/$File/full_report.pdf) [PDF format, 3 pages].

FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION: A DEMAND-DRIVEN APPROACH TO IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa. June 2009.

The report recommends a demand-driven, African-owned framework in which to provide foreign assistance funding and programming to increase agricultural productivity.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.africanhunger.org/uploads/articles/f74310445c3afc66bf0977f0b8f8d775.pdf> [PDF format, 7 pages].

FROM POLIO TO HIV, CELL PHONES INSTRUMENTAL IN ZAMBIA’S CHILD HEALTH STRATEGIES. Media Global. Raquel Thompson. July 20, 2009.

More than 2 million children are expected to receive life-saving health interventions including polio and measles vaccinations, as well as vitamin A supplementation and growth monitoring during the Child Health Week campaign, which is jointly sponsored by the Government of Zambia and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with additional support from the United States Agency for International Development. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.mediaglobal.org/article/2009-07-20/from-polio-to-hiv-cell-phones-instrumental-in-zambias-child-health-strategies> [HTML format, various paging].

FROM UNPAID TO PAID CARE WORK: THE MACROECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF HIV AND AIDS ON WOMEN'S TIME-TAX BURDENS. The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Rania Antonopoulos and Taun Toay. July 2009.

The paper considers public employment guarantee programs in the context of South Africa as a means to address the nexus of poverty, unemployment, and unpaid work burdens, all factors exacerbated by HIV/AIDS. It further discusses the need for gender informed public job creation in areas that mitigate the "time-tax" burdens of women, and examines a South African initiative to address social sector service delivery deficits within the government's Expanded Public Works Programme. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp\\_570.pdf](http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_570.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages].

HOW MIGHT AGRICULTURE DEVELOP IN SOUTHERN AFRICA? International Institute for Sustainable Development. Peter Draper et al. 2009.

The issues around food security and agriculture in Southern Africa are dynamic, complex, uncertain and difficult to address. The report is an attempt at understanding the current situation and the driving forces i.e. the underlying social, political, environmental and technological trends that will affect the future of agriculture in the region. It stems from a scenario planning exercise with regional partners that employed structured strategic conversations from multiple perspectives as a tool to identify critical uncertainties that affect food security and agriculture. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.tradeknowledgenetwork.net/pdf/agriculture\\_south\\_africa.pdf](http://www.tradeknowledgenetwork.net/pdf/agriculture_south_africa.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages].

KENYA AND THE U.S. – MEETING THE GROWING CHALLENGE IN EAST AFRICA. National Endowment for Democracy. Assistant Secretary of State Johnnie Carson. July 22, 2009.

Assistant Secretary Carson states Kenya's legacy in the struggle for independence and majority rule.

[http://www.ned.org/events/kenya2009/kenya\\_carson.html](http://www.ned.org/events/kenya2009/kenya_carson.html) [HTML format, various paging].

A NEW FOREIGN POLICY FOR JACOB ZUMA'S SOUTH AFRICA. Brookings Institution. Xolela Mangcu. July 20, 2009.

The author discusses South Africa's government under President Jacob Zuma. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0720\\_south\\_africa\\_mangcu.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0720_south_africa_mangcu.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

RADICAL ISLAM IN EAST AFRICA. RAND Corporation. Angel Rabasa. 2009.

American geopolitical interests and the potential threats to those interests are both on the rise in East Africa. The author examines the threat represented by the spread of militant Islamism and the development of radical Islamist networks and places them in the broader context of the diverse currents of Islamic practice in East Africa and the social, economic, and political factors

that have shaped the region's security environment. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND\\_MG782.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG782.pdf) [PDF format, 111 pages].

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE GHANAIAN PARLIAMENT. Council on Foreign Relations. President Barack Obama. July 11, 2009.

The transcript of President Obama's speech before Ghanaian parliament.  
[http://www.cfr.org/publication/19789/remarks\\_by\\_the\\_president\\_to\\_the\\_ghanaian\\_parliament.html?breadcrumb=%2Fregion%2F143%2Fafrika](http://www.cfr.org/publication/19789/remarks_by_the_president_to_the_ghanaian_parliament.html?breadcrumb=%2Fregion%2F143%2Fafrika) [HTML format, various paging].

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT WHEN EXPORTS LACK DIVERSIFICATION: A CASE STUDY FROM MALAWI. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Suresh Chand Persaud and Birgit Gisela Saager Meade. July 30, 2009.

Developing countries, particularly those that depend heavily on a small number of agricultural exports, are vulnerable to domestic and international shocks. These countries often have difficulty achieving sustained economic growth. The analysis uses Malawi, a country that earns most of its foreign exchange from tobacco, as a case study of export concentration and heavy exposure to volatility.  
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR77/ERR77.pdf> [PDF format, 42 pages].

U.S.-AFRICAN TRADE PROFILE. International Trade Administration. 2009.

U.S. total trade with Sub-Saharan Africa (exports plus imports) increased 28.0 percent in 2008, as both exports and imports grew. U.S. exports increased by 29.2 percent to \$18.5 billion, driven by growth in several sectors including: machinery, vehicles and parts, wheat, non-crude oil, aircraft, and electrical machinery (including telecommunications equipment). U.S. imports in 2008 increased by 27.8 percent to \$86.1 billion. As has been the case throughout 2008, this growth continues to be due to a significant increase of 31.9 percent in crude oil imports (accounting for 79.5 percent of total imports from Sub-Saharan Africa).  
[http://www.agoa.gov/resources/US\\_African\\_Trade\\_Profile\\_2009.pdf](http://www.agoa.gov/resources/US_African_Trade_Profile_2009.pdf) [PDF format, 17 pages].

ZIMBABWE'S SLOW-BURNING CRISIS COULD AFFECT AFRICA. Yale Global. Donald Steinberg. June 30, 2009.

After a few moments of international attention when Morgan Tsvangirai and his Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) formed a unity government with their long-time oppressors, Zimbabwe has now been eclipsed by more dramatic headlines from elsewhere. The challenges of rebuilding the country's ruined political and economic systems are daunting, and the global recession has seriously hurt trade and investment opportunities, as well as remittances from diaspora workers that provide eight percent of the country's GDP. Meanwhile, foreign donors are understandably repulsed by the prospect of having to support a government still associated with Robert Mugabe and his ZANU-PF hardliners. Yet strong arguments exist for the world to swallow hard and come to the country's aid, says the author. [Note: contains copyrighted material].  
<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12519> [HTML format, various paging].

## ARTICLES

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### DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Agoramoorthy, Govindasamy; Hsu, Minna SMALL SIZE, BIG POTENTIAL (Environment, vol. 50, no. 4, July/August 2008, pp. 22-35)

Across the developing world, large numbers of major dams have been built, having been promoted as the best means of improving the supplies of fresh water. However, they have come at a great environmental and social cost; millions of acres of wilderness and arable land have been submerged, wildlife habitat has been destroyed and large numbers of people displaced. In this article, the authors study the small dams in drought-prone western India, concluding that smaller dams offer much more benefits with a much smaller environmental footprint. A network of smaller dams store as much water over a larger area than would a single large dam, the water supply can be managed more equitably, and can be controlled at the local community level, which is not possible with megadams.

Biba, Erin SECOND LIFE (Wired, vol. 17, no. 8, August 2009, pg. 98-101, 122-123)

Raul Cano is a microbiologist who made a huge sensation in the scientific world in the 1990s when he successfully revived a microbe extracted from a lump of amber. This feat, performed on bacteria similar to yeast, opened a new understanding of the capabilities of microorganisms, and made real what had only been considered theoretically possible prior to that time. Cano had hopes that his process might bring back to life other organisms that could have potential as medicines or antibiotics, but no biomedical miracles emerged from the company he started. The effort folded in the late 1990s and Cano went on to other work, but in 2006 a chance encounter put the prehistoric yeast in the hands of a brewmaster. His experimentation has led to the creation of Fossil Fuel, a beer that is soon to be marketed in California restaurants and bars. A brewery capable of bottling the beer has signed on to the project with an aim to wider distribution in the future. Currently available online at [http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/magazine/17-08/ff\\_primordial\\_yeast](http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/magazine/17-08/ff_primordial_yeast) , under a different title.

De Kecker, Kris THE MONSTER FOOTPRINT OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY (Low-Tech Magazine, posted June 16, 2009)

The author notes that, for most of the modern industrial era, durable equipment such as cars, refrigerators or washing machines consumed more energy over their lifetime of use and operation than during their manufacture. The advent of computer technology has turned this situation upside down — vastly more energy is required in the manufacture of computers and other electronic gadgets than they consume. Most of that embodied energy is in the microprocessors, which can be six orders of magnitude greater than for conventional manufacturing processes, and the energy required during manufacture keeps growing, as bigger and more powerful computer chips are needed for graphics and video games. This is exacerbated by the fact that high technology is evolving quickly, and equipment becomes obsolete after only a few years. Recycling is not the complete answer, notes the author; addressing technological obsolescence would be the best approach to lowering the ecological footprint of digital technology. Available online at <http://www.lowtechmagazine.com/2009/06/embodied-energy-of-digital-technology.html>

Di Silvestro, Roger HABITAT SAVED (National Wildlife, vol. 47, no. 5, August-September 2009)

The author describes how a non-governmental organization and the publisher of this magazine, the National Wildlife Federation, has successfully challenged environmentally destructive government policies in court. One decision limiting the availability of federally-issued flood-plain insurance, that encourages development of habitat uninsurable by private companies, will help preserve endangered Key deer in Florida, killer whales in Washington State's Puget Sound, and black bears and cypress forests in Mississippi's Yazoo River Basin. Global warming, the author says, makes such areas more vulnerable to flooding, and "business as usual in floodplains is changing." Currently available online at <http://www.nwf.org/NationalWildlife/article.cfm?issueID=130&articleID=1757>

Gugliotta, Guy FOREST PRIMEVAL (Smithsonian, vol. 40, no. 4, July 2009, pp. 14-16)

Two abandoned coal mines in eastern Illinois contain the largest fossil forest ever discovered -- over four square miles of tropical wilderness preserved intact over 300 million years ago. This accident of nature occurred when an earthquake suddenly lowered the swamp, and sand and mud rushed in, covering everything. This site is so valuable to science because it provides a snapshot of life on Earth just prior to a period of great change, and most of the species found in the Riola and Vermilion Grove mines would later vanish. Researchers believe that the carbon-dioxide content of the atmosphere had suddenly grown; studying the relationship between this primordial atmospheric change and changes in vegetation may offer clues on how today's ecosystem could respond to increases in carbon-dioxide levels caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Phenomena-Forest-Primeval.html>

Jensen, Robert THE DELUSION REVOLUTION (AlterNet, posted August 15, 2008)

Jensen, journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin, notes that "our current way of life is unsustainable -- we are the first species that will have to self-consciously impose limits on ourselves if we are to survive." The industrial revolution of the past two centuries has produced unparalleled prosperity and comfort for a portion of humanity, but at a great expense to the biosphere, threatening its ability to support life. Following the agricultural and industrial revolutions is what Jensen refers to as the "delusional revolution" -- sophisticated propaganda techniques, in particular advertising, that have lulled the public in Western societies into believing that "unsustainable systems can be sustained because we want them to be". The future may turn out very differently from what we want it to be, Jensen says; we will need to develop skills for a world of less energy and fewer material goods, which means "abandoning a sense of ourselves as consumption machines, which the contemporary culture promotes", and developing a sense of community which is missing in modern life. However, he believes that we humans "should go easy on ourselves, precisely because we are a species out of context, facing a unique challenge." Available online at [http://www.alternet.org/story/95126/the\\_delusion\\_revolution:\\_we're\\_on\\_the\\_road\\_to\\_extinction\\_and\\_in\\_denial\\_/?page=entire](http://www.alternet.org/story/95126/the_delusion_revolution:_we're_on_the_road_to_extinction_and_in_denial_/?page=entire)

Kennedy, David M. FDR'S LESSONS FOR OBAMA (Time, vol. 173, no. 26, July 8, 2009, pp. 26-29)

The author, a professor at Stanford University, notes that Barack Obama took office amid circumstances similar to those of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Kennedy writes that the big question is if, like Roosevelt, Obama can seize the moment and come up with solutions. Roosevelt used the Depression as an opportunity to revolutionize American life for generations to come, realizing the irony that a Depression made achieving those objectives possible. Kennedy writes that Obama, who similarly faces an economic downturn and massive unemployment, may use his circumstances to bring about health care reform and other programs he considers necessary to



improving the public welfare. Currently available online at [http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1906802\\_1906838\\_1906745,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1906802_1906838_1906745,00.html)

Kolbert, Elizabeth THE CATASTROPHIST (New Yorker, June 29, 2009)

James Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and prescient climate change scientist is profiled in this article, which explores his activist side. The climatologist predicted global warming thirty years ago with one of the first climate models. Today, based on his recent models and scientific data, he calculates that carbon dioxide emissions have already reached dangerous levels, making immediate action imperative, to prevent large-scale disruption to human society. "This particular problem has become an emergency," he told the author. It has led him to march on Washington and court arrest at coal plants to make his point, and push for stepped up action from governments.

Quart, Alissa EXPENSIVE GIFTS (Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 48, no. 2, July/August 2009)

Shepard Fairey, famous for his red and blue Obama silkscreen "Hope," is a proponent of "free culture," a stance that advocates open sharing of intellectual property. This "economy of giving" is a hallmark of the new digital reality. However, the Associated Press (AP) and the photographer who shot the photo Fairey appropriated for his art claim copyright, and the AP sued the artist for copyright infringement. For many, the debate hinges on whether or not open, participatory culture will destroy useful, traditional journalism institutions. It also illuminates the vagueness of "fair use" under copyright law. The author examines the ethics and importance of money and attribution in the emerging dispensation of the "gift economy." Currently available online at [http://www.cjr.org/feature/expensive\\_gifts.php?page=1](http://www.cjr.org/feature/expensive_gifts.php?page=1)

Starr, S. Frederick REDISCOVERING CENTRAL ASIA (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 33, no. 3, Summer 2009, pp. 33-43)

The author, chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, notes that a thousand years ago, Central Asia was the center of the intellectual world, and that it was once the "land of a thousand cities" and home to some of the world's most renowned scientists, poets, and philosophers. Today, says Starr, "it is barely a blip on the radar except when trouble erupts;" however, that may change if Central Asians take inspiration from their past. Starr writes that, to imagine Central Asia's future, "one must journey into its remarkable past" -- many of the notable intellectual figures of the Islamic world, who lived between 800 and 1100, were in fact Persian or Turkic and hailed from Central Asia. Starr believes that the peoples of Central Asia have the capacity to become a bridge between civilizations. Currently available online at <http://www.sais-jhu.edu/pressroom/pdf/starrwilson.pdf>

Tangley, Laura FEELING THE STING (National Wildlife, vol. 47, no. 5, August-September 2009)

Scientists speculate that the huge jellyfish swarms that have been appearing worldwide may not be a normal, periodic jellyfish bloom, but something more. A 2008 National Science Foundation report says the massive jellyfish blooms reported in the Black Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, the Mediterranean Sea, and elsewhere, could be increasing "because of human activities." Scientists cite overfishing and pollution as primary culprits. The blooms, which have had negative impacts on beach tourism, could signal a marine ecosystem severely out of balance. Currently available online at <http://www.nwf.org/NationalWildlife/article.cfm?issueID=130&articleID=1758>

Thompson, Nicholas AND DATA FOR ALL (Wired, vol. 17, no. 7, July 2009, pp. 68-71)

Barack Obama is the first president to appoint a chief information officer for the federal government. Vivek Kundra, who comes to the office having served in a similar position for the District of Columbia, is planning Data.gov, a Web site where all government-produced information will be easy to find, sort and download. When that is done, according to Kundra, the private sector will find ways to use the data which will create new services for the public and new sources of profit for entrepreneurs. He points to the example of the Global Positioning System, which was once the exclusive property of the Department of Defense; now, the system is publicly available and is used for a variety of commercial and public service purposes. "The key is recognizing that we don't have a monopoly on good ideas," Kundra told Thompson in an interview. "And that the federal government doesn't have infinite resources." Currently available online at [http://www.wired.com/politics/onlinerights/magazine/17-07/mf\\_cio](http://www.wired.com/politics/onlinerights/magazine/17-07/mf_cio)

Treverton, Gregory, et al. FILM PIRACY, ORGANIZED CRIME, AND TERRORISM (Rand Corporation, March 2009, 182 pp.)

According to this Rand report released earlier this year, the enormous profits to be made from film piracy have attracted the attention of organized crime worldwide, and to a more limited degree, terrorist groups. Although the researchers found no evidence that terrorists are widely involved with film piracy, they did uncover three cases where film piracy supported terror groups. Criminal penalties for counterfeiting and piracy are relatively light and prosecutions sparse, yet the profits from these crimes can exceed that of drug trafficking. The danger, the authors say, is that more terrorist groups will tap into counterfeiting and piracy to underwrite their operations. Online link to full-text PDF document available at <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG742/index.html>

Tucker, Abigail BIRTH OF A ROBOT (Smithsonian, vol. 40, no. 4, July 2009, pp. 56-65)

The author writes that if a robot is ever going to be useful humans as portrayed on television or film, it can't be merely a vessel into which its inventors pour knowledge. It has to recognize humans individually, and identify our needs and changing circumstances, and it has to be able to deduce and reason. Researchers at the University of California at San Diego's Machine Perception Laboratory are building a robot that will develop those capabilities as a child does. They are borrowing from developmental psychology to do that, and attempting to create a computer with the capacity to acquire skills gradually in response to its environment. The article describes various intriguing prototypes researchers have experimented with, but also describes the human reactions to these creations on the part of the researchers, their friends and families. The group's research is at a very early stage, but Tucker's description of their work makes clear that this area of scientific pursuit is not only about the machines, but about our level of comfort in creating and interacting with a mechanical being that has human qualities. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/Birth-of-a-Robot.html>

Wald, Matthew L. IS THERE A PLACE FOR NUCLEAR WASTE? (Scientific American, August 2009)

Yucca Mountain was supposed to be the answer to the U.S. nuclear waste problem, but after 22 years and \$9 billion, that vision is dead. Now, some say that doing nothing in the near term may be the smartest solution. The Obama administration has effectively canceled the plan to store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. Spent fuel will for the foreseeable future continue to be stored on-site at 131 locations around the country. The end of Yucca means that all options for waste disposal are now in play, including recycling, use in advanced reactors and burial at other sites. Currently available online at <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=is-there-a-place-for-nuclear-waste>

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

Beck, Barbara A SLOW BURNING-FUSE: A SPECIAL REPORT ON AGEING POPULATIONS (Economist, June 27, 2009)

Age is creeping up on the world; people are living longer and having fewer children. The consequences may be slow growth, low productivity and labor shortages as more people retire and fewer younger workers take their place, Beck writes. Most developing countries do not need to worry about ageing; even though disease has taken many lives, their populations are still young. Some countries are spending about eight percent of their gross domestic product on public pensions--some a lot more. One Washington think-tank expert calculates that if governments do not act, the cost of state pensions in developed countries will nearly double by 2050. In America, even with government programs for the retired, the majority of retirement households will have to rely on their own, often inadequate, savings to get by. The shift to older age groups also may have a profound effect on national security, as the shortage of young adults is likely to make some nations reluctant to commit the few they have to the world's defense efforts. One bright sign is that there may be money to be made in the ageing market. America's AARP magazine for people over age 50 is bursting with ads for products and services designed for older people. Beck ends with a quote by Ronald Lee, director of ageing at the University of California-Berkeley: "We don't really know what population ageing will be like because nobody has done it yet." Online links to articles available at [http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=13888045](http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=13888045)

Kapstein, Ethan AFRICA'S CAPITALIST REVOLUTION (Foreign Affairs, vol. 88, no. 4, July/August 2009, pp. 119-130)

Kapstein, with the Center for Global Development in Washington, DC, notes that in recent years, Africa has experienced a major economic transformation; since 2004, economic activity in Africa has grown at a rate of about six percent a year, and the continent is attracting more foreign investment. This is a marked change from much of the previous half-century, which was characterized by stagnant economic conditions, and poor governance and monopolistic regimes led by dictators; few foreign investors were interested in Africa. Kapstein writes that one virtue of urbanization in Africa is that "it has forced members of different tribes to interact on a regular basis in ways that remain unusual in more rural settings;" this regular contact is necessary to the development of market economies and democratic institutions, because it helps erode the patrimonial relationships, in which a command economy is controlled by tribal chiefs. Kapstein predicts that the global financial crisis will slow down Africa's progress, although the continent has been relatively insulated from the current economic downturn. Africa remains relatively open to global trade, and Kapstein says that the West must help them by avoiding its own protectionist impulses. He writes: "Africans have already taken up the shovel to dig themselves out of a half-century-old hole of poor economic management and bad governance. It is now up to the United States and its European allies to help them complete the job."

Levy, Steven BOOTING UP BAGHDAD (Wired, vol. 17, no. 8, August 2009, pg. 102-107)

Nine executives from information technology companies traveled to Baghdad earlier this year, hoping to spark some ideas on how a new wave of development and innovation might be kick-started in the war-ravaged economy. Executives from companies such as Google, MeetUp, Twitter, and YouTube were invited on the trip by the State Department because of the inspiration they might provide for breakthrough ideas. Levy's assessment of the delegation's impact is subdued at best -- in meetings with the delegation, Iraqi officials seemed to have little grasp of the self-starting ethic which has been key to the success of these companies in the Western world. Even talented Iraqi young people who in another country might be fired up with brash, optimistic energy expressed a preference to find careers and security in government jobs, rather than pursuing an entrepreneurial idea of their own. But members of the delegation still came away with optimism about Iraq's future in information technology, and take pride in one of the few

deliverables of their trip — Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih is now on Twitter. Currently available online at [http://www.wired.com/politics/security/magazine/17-08/ff\\_iraq](http://www.wired.com/politics/security/magazine/17-08/ff_iraq)

Mousseau, Frederic TOWARD A FUTURE WITHOUT WANT (World Policy Journal, vol. 26, no. 2, Summer 2009, pp. 73-81)

With food riots, high food prices, increasing number of the world's hungry and declining food production in developing countries, the world has to change its agriculture and food policies drastically, says the author, a policy adviser for Oxfam Great Britain. He argues against strategies supported by many developed countries, such as genetically engineered crop varieties, a free-market approach to food production and distribution, and the World Bank's proposal to create a global food reserve. He writes that genetically modified crops have been largely irrelevant to most farmers in the developing world. Governmental support for and protection of farmers against market fluctuations, including floor prices for certain commodities, have in fact worked in Brazil and Indonesia. In his view, the food crisis should be addressed at the local, national and regional levels rather than through creation of a new global mechanism. Mousseau concludes that each nation must find the right combination of policies and interventions adapted to its specific context. Currently available online at <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/wopj.2009.26.2.73>

Naím, Moisés MINILATERALISM: THE MAGIC NUMBER TO GET REAL INTERNATIONAL ACTION (Foreign Policy, no. 137, July/August 2009, pp. 136-137)

Not only globalization is falling out of favor in many countries but multilateralism is going through a crisis too, says the author, editor-in-chief of the magazine. The need for effective multicountry collaboration on such issues as climate change, nuclear proliferation and pandemics has soared, but related multilateral talks have failed or execution of agreed solutions has stalled. Naím proposes what he views as a smarter, more targeted approach: bringing to the table the smallest possible number of countries needed to have the largest possible impact on solving a particular problem. The magic number will vary greatly depending on the problem, but the author suggests that between a dozen and 20 countries should be able to effectively handle all important global problems. Countries not invited to such "minilateral" talks will denounce this approach as undemocratic and exclusionary, but Naím notes that agreements reached in smaller groups can provide the foundation on which more-inclusive deals can be subsequently built. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/06/18/minilateralism>

Salam, Reihan THE DEATH OF MACHO (Foreign Policy, July/August 2009, pp. 65-70)

The author, a fellow at the New America Foundation, contends that "the era of male dominance is coming to an end." The current recession is having a disproportionate impact on males — more than 80 percent of those who have lost jobs since November have been men. Three-fifths of college graduates in the United States are women. People are realizing that the aggressive, risk-seeking behavior of the "cult of macho" has proven to be destructive and unsustainable in a globalized world. The U.S. economic stimulus package is investing heavily in education, healthcare, and social services — all fields dominated by women. How this changing situation unfolds will depend on how men react. They can choose to adapt to the changes or they can resist. Resistance is personified in Russia, which is still adjusting to the fall of Soviet Union, and where a higher percentage of working-age women are employed than in nearly any other country, but at only half the wages previously paid men for the same work. China is also trying to contain the damage caused by the loss of manufacturing jobs and to manage the threat posed by the country's massive male migrant population. Writes Salam, "the axis of global conflict in this century ... will be gender. We have no precedent for a world after the death of macho. But we can expect the transition to be wrenching, uneven, and possibly very violent." Currently available online at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/06/18/the\\_death\\_of\\_macho](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/06/18/the_death_of_macho)

Stix, Gary THE SCIENCE OF ECONOMIC BUBBLES AND BUSTS (Scientific American, July 2009)

The worst economic crisis since the Great Depression has prompted a reassessment of how financial markets work and how people make decisions about money. The worldwide financial meltdown has caused a new examination of why markets sometimes become overheated and then come crashing down. The dot-com blowup and the subsequent housing and credit crises highlight how psychological quirks sometimes trump rationality in investment decision making. Understanding these behaviors elucidates the genesis of booms and busts. New models of market dynamics try to protect against financial blowups by mirroring more accurately how markets work. Meanwhile, more intelligent regulation may gently steer the home buyer or the retirement saver away from bad decisions. Currently available online at <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=the-science-of-economic-bubbles>

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Bauer, John W. UNLOCKING RUSSIAN INTERESTS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA (Parameters, vol. 39, no. 2, Summer 2009, pp. 52-62)

According to the author, a strategist for Special Operations Command Korea, the changing dynamics of the Russian relationships with North and South Korea may present an opportunity to work together to resolve the decades-long standoff on the peninsula. Despite the close relationship that once existed between Pyongyang and Moscow, there is reason to believe that they now share little in common. Russia's national and economic interests now favor South Korea over the North; Russia is energy-rich and South Korea is energy-hungry. Russian support for the North has been waning since its 1990 recognition of South Korea and its reduction of military and technical aid to the North; Russia very likely would not support the North militarily in the event of war. The Russians and South Koreans have been trying to establish a railroad connection passing through the North, but plans have been stalled by Pyongyang, leading to an agreement to build an exclusive-use South Korean port facility near Vladivostok. The Chinese, however, have not been enthusiastic about North Korean economic transformation and the potential for reunification because they are content to have a territorial buffer between them and the Republic of Korea, a U.S. ally. Russia's desire to establish a long-term economic relationship with South Korea is thus changing the strategic calculus on the peninsula, and creating an opportunity which the author notes "may be missed if not carefully nurtured now, before war or crisis occurs in North Korea." Available online at <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/Parameters/09summer/bauer.pdf>

Bennett, Stephen; Flickinger, Richard AMERICANS' KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. MILITARY DEATHS IN IRAQ, APRIL 2004 TO APRIL 2008 (Armed Forces & Society, vol. 35, no. 3, April 2009, pp. 587-604)

The authors discuss the American public's aversion to battle-related military casualties, and note that estimates of military deaths may have influenced public support for past U.S. military efforts. They review the accuracy of estimates for Iraq and three twentieth-century conflicts, finding that the public's estimates were more likely to be on target for Iraq, using five polls from the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. Gender and age emerge as significant factors that affect what people know about public affairs, as well as education and attention to the news. The authors conclude that the public attitude toward the levels of military deaths in Iraq have direct consequences for opinions about U.S. policies there.



Boot, Max PIRATES, THEN AND NOW: HOW PIRACY WAS DEFEATED IN THE PAST AND CAN BE AGAIN (Foreign Affairs, vol. 88, no. 4, July/August 2009, pp. 94-107)

The author examines pirate activity in past centuries to see how nations dealt with the problem, and as a way to consider lessons and tactics that may be applicable now. Boot, who is a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, notes that 17th-century governments initially hired private pirate hunters, but later committed more naval assets to the task. From 1650 to 1850 nations took other steps that included convoying merchant ships, chasing pirates on sea and land, blockading and bombing ports used by pirates, and occupying and dismantling pirate lairs. In 2008, he said, less than a half of one percent of the commercial ships passing the Horn of Africa were attacked -- and most of those attempted hijackings were unsuccessful. He notes that some suggest that shipping companies paying ransom to pirates should be denied the right to conduct business in the United States. Boot, meanwhile, advocates using private security firms to patrol alongside vulnerable ships, or, to have armed guards onboard. If past generations succeeded in defeating the Barbary pirates, the Caribbean buccaneers and the marauders of the Red Sea, Boot writes that "surely this generation can defeat the ragtag sea robbers of Somalia" but it will require a robust response by maritime nations. Available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65156/max-boot/pirates-then-and-now> More on Combating Piracy is available at <http://www.america.gov/piracy.html>

Christia, Fotini; Semple, Michael FLIPPING THE TALIBAN (Foreign Affairs, vol. 88, no. 4, July-August 2009)

According to Christia, assistant professor of political science at MIT, and Semple, a regional specialist on Afghanistan and Pakistan, peace in Afghanistan requires the sort of reconciliation that enables insurgents to realign with the Afghan government. That is not so fanciful in Afghanistan, where one of the rules, after decades of war, is to side with the winner. "Thus in Afghanistan, battles have often been decided less by fighting than by defections," the authors say. "Changing sides, realigning, flipping -- whatever one wants to call it -- is the Afghan way of war." Neither the Karzai government nor the U.S. government has made reconciliation a high priority and, worse, both have harassed potential cooperators sufficiently to drive them to the insurgency. A successful reconciliation program would have to offer each fighter a little pay and respectability and recognize the tribal links and traditions of each group. It would not much persuade foot soldiers to put down their arms, but build alliances with commanders and their troops.

Cirincione, Joseph U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY: THE OPEN WINDOW FOR TRANSFORMATION (Harvard International Review, vol. 31, no. 1, Spring 2009, pp. 42-46)

The author, former vice president of National Security and International Policy at the Center of American Progress as well as former director for non-proliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, says that the U.S. has an opportunity to reshape its nuclear policy under the Obama administration. Cirincione says that President Obama needs to be bold in implementing a strategy that would reduce nuclear proliferation and also address the four categories of nuclear threats. Cirincione lists the four most critical threats -- first, the possibility of a terrorist group obtaining a nuclear weapon; second, the chance of "an accidental, unauthorized or intentional" use of a weapon by a nuclear-armed state; third, the emergence of a new armed state; finally, the end of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The author says Obama recognizes the interrelation between these threats and has developed his nuclear policy accordingly. Cirincione, however, warns that damage caused by the Bush doctrine demands that Obama act quickly in implementing his policy. Currently available online at [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_hb137/is\\_1\\_31/ai\\_n31876335/](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_hb137/is_1_31/ai_n31876335/)



Cohen, Roger THE MAKING OF AN IRAN POLICY (New York Times Magazine, August 2, 2009, pp. 36-43)

The author, a New York Times columnist just back from Tehran, discusses the Obama administration's struggle with what he considers its biggest diplomatic challenge. The Bush administration's ideologically driven "axis-of-evil" approach to Iran had failed; Tehran had prospered by expanding its regional influence and was accelerating its nuclear program. The Obama administration believed it was time to seek normalization through a new approach. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, whose instincts on Iran have always been more hawkish than the president's, was pushing for a harder line, supported by Vice President Joe Biden; they did not prevail. The Obama administration's conviction is that Ahmadinejad's election was fraudulent, but in the American interest, it is ready to overlook that and to talk. The White House had been deliberately impartial on the election outcome by directing its diplomatic overture chiefly at Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader. In early May, Obama sent Khamenei a secret personal letter that proposed a framework for talks on the nuclear issue and regional security. The two things it had not planned for, however, were a situation of near-insurrection and Khamenei's shift into explicit alignment with Ahmadinejad. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/02/magazine/02Iran-t.html>

Fuhrmann, Matthew SPREADING TEMPTATION: PROLIFERATION AND PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS (International Security, vol. 34, no. 1, Summer 2009, pp. 7-41)

Fuhrmann, assistant professor of political science at the University of South Carolina, notes that "proliferation-proof" nuclear assistance does not exist. Transfer of nuclear technology and know-how for peaceful purposes invariably leads to the development of weapons programs, and countries that have received such assistance are more likely to produce nuclear weapons, especially when facing security threats. A study of two thousand civilian nuclear cooperation agreements over the past half-century bears this out. Fuhrmann writes that the link between civilian nuclear cooperation and proliferation is surprisingly broad, and casts doubt on convention wisdom. He argues that major nuclear suppliers such as the U.S. should reconsider their willingness to assist other countries in peaceful nuclear cooperation. Available online at [http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/project/58/quarterly\\_journal.html](http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/project/58/quarterly_journal.html)

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

According to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs' Global Views 2008 survey, a plurality of U.S. public opinion has downgraded "promoting and defending human rights" from a "very important" to a "somewhat important" goal; a majority wants to "move cautiously," rather than either "aggressively" or "slowly" in promoting human rights abroad. The Obama administration will face human-rights issues at every turn in confronting terrorism, insurgency and ethnic cleansing, from South Asia to Sudan. To tackle these strategic challenges as well as chronic rights abuses, the new administration and nongovernmental advocacy groups need a new, more pragmatic approach. In the past, the strategies of neoconservatives and liberal activists have been long on the rhetoric of freedom and rights, but have fallen short on results. Wary of overpromising, the U.S. public has become skeptical about promoting American ideals abroad. Yet the real lesson of these setbacks should not be to abandon idealistic goals, but to pursue them in more pragmatic ways. Without developing a more effective human-rights policy, the United States will neither recover its tarnished reputation nor accomplish its strategic goals.

## U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Brown, Charles L.; Yff, Belinda; Brown, Charles S. HEALTH INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET: SEEKING THE GOLD STANDARD (Choice, vol. 46, no. 12, August 2009, pp. 2239-2249)

The “gold standard” refers to an assessment algorithm used to identify high-quality health-related sites. In medical lingo, it is also known as a criterion standard, a benchmark, of the best comparison tool currently available. Interest in health-related websites has existed since the beginning of the Internet, and they continue to escalate in the present economic climate, as more Americans experience loss of jobs and medical insurance and turn to online resources for health information. This bibliographical essay describes various health websites, beginning with the substantial amount of material available from the U.S. government, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Library of Medicine; associations and organizations, like the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization; the American Medical Association; websites for medical, allied health and nursing students; and electronic resources and e-books for students and professionals. The most popular commercial consumer health site is WebMD, which provides authoritative, multidimensional health information services.

Byrd, Max THIS IS NOT A MAP (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 33, no. 3, Summer 2009, 26-32)

The author notes that maps are not always “works of dutiful representation ... sometimes they are tickets to flights of the imagination,” along with other childhood mainstays such as model trains and dollhouses. Writers such as Robert Louis Stevenson, Daniel Defoe, Thomas Hardy and A.A. Milne have used maps to create a fictional reality for their characters to live in. Fictional maps, like the one of Brobdingnag in Gulliver’s Travels, are intended to persuade readers that a story is true. One of the most poignant of all maps was drawn by William Blake to illustrate the land of “Allestone,” an amazingly complex world invented by a friend’s son who died young after a long and difficult illness, whose imagined country was an alternative to the painful one he lived in. Storytellers know there is a “powerful connection between a child’s imagination and the blank spaces of earth.”

Debold, Elizabeth CHINA’S SECRET WEAPON? (EnlightenNext, no. 44, June-August 2009, pp. 36-38)

The author, a developmental psychologist, notes that much discussion on China and India has centered on which of the two emerging powers will step onto the world stage and forge a new era. Debold notes that many claim it will be India, but her recent involvement in an independent girls’ school for daughters of newly affluent families from across South and East Asia have made her wonder if the reality is more complicated than that. She says that the school has had a recent influx of teenage girls from mainland China, and remarks that “what I saw in one Chinese student after another took my breath away ... they are unlike any I have ever worked with or known.” The Chinese girls, with barely a couple of months’ immersion into an English-speaking environment, despite broken grammar, have been fearless, taking risks, asking questions, making public presentations, jumping into role-playing exercises — “it’s like watching someone leap off a cliff and begin to soar through the air.” Debold says “this inner liberation ... suggests that this next generation of Chinese may truly give us a run for our money,” and that this spirit may be a more significant determinant than current political or economic conditions.

Frail, T.A. THE WRITER’S EYE (Smithsonian, vol. 40, no. 1, April 2009, pp. 84-89)

Eudora Welty, who was born 100 years ago, is one of the great figures in American literature; less well-known is that she was an avid amateur photographer before any of her written work was published. Her pictures, taken in Mississippi in the early-to-mid-1930s, show the rural poor and

convey the worry of the Great Depression. Welty, notes the author, had a remarkable ability to put her subjects at ease, many of whom were African-American; her interest in photography and curiosity and empathy with her subjects inspired her future writings. Welty said that "photography taught me to be able to capture transience ... these were things a story writer needed to know."

Gladwell, Malcolm HOW DAVID BEATS GOLIATH: WHEN UNDERDOGS BREAK THE RULES (New Yorker, May 11, 2009)

Utilizing examples that include a girl's middle school basketball team, Bedouin insurgents led by T.E. Lawrence in Arabia, and David vs. Goliath, Gladwell shows how effort, using a "full-court press" strategy, can succeed against opponents of greater power and ability. Attitude, innovation and the will to operate outside the establishment are keys. "We tell ourselves skill is the precious resource and effort is the commodity ... it's the other way around," he writes. Currently available online at [http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/05/11/090511fa\\_fact\\_gladwell](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/05/11/090511fa_fact_gladwell)

Monan, J. Donald VALUE PROPOSITION (Boston College Magazine, vol. 69, no. 3, Summer 2009, pp. 24-27)

The author, former president of Boston College, addressed a group of higher education leaders at a Boston hotel on the purpose of a liberal arts education. From his perspective, Monan notes that liberal education has been weakened by a variety of factors, including the pressures for specialized skills in a mobilized society and, within the undergraduate college itself, the increasing specialization, departmentalization, and consequent isolation of faculty members and their offerings. Instead, American higher education should be directed almost exclusively at the intellects of students through the communication of truths, skills, habits and qualities of intellect. Liberal education should aspire, at its deepest level of intention, to educate for the enriching and constructive exercise of liberty. Currently available online at [http://bcm.bc.edu/issues/summer\\_2009/features/value-proposition.html](http://bcm.bc.edu/issues/summer_2009/features/value-proposition.html)

Pollan, Michael OUT OF THE KITCHEN, ONTO THE COUCH (New York Times Magazine, August 2, 2009, pp. 26-35, 44, 46-47)

The author notes that the increasing popularity of cooking shows on television has coincided with a decrease in home cooking. The rise of cooking celebrities such as Julia Child, Alice Waters or Martha Stewart has been paralleled by the rise of fast food and home-meal replacements. The decline of home cooking has several causes -- women working outside the home; food companies persuading Americans to let them do the cooking; and advances in technology that made it easier for them to do so. Cooking is no longer obligatory, and for many people that has been a blessing. Ironically, the year Julia Child went on the air, 1963, was the same year Betty Friedan published THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE, the book that taught millions of American women to regard housework and cooking as drudgery. Julia Child, the author notes, never referred to her viewers as "housewives" and never condescended to them; she tried to show that cooking, approached in the proper spirit, offered fulfillment and deserved attention.

Rollyson, Carl AMERICAN LITERARY BIOGRAPHY: HISTORY OF THE GENRE, 1950-2000 (Choice, vol. 46, no. 11, July 2009, pp. 2059-2067)

The author, a biographer and professor of journalism at Baruch College at the City University of New York, notes that literary biography came of age in America after the Second World War, exceeding the output of every other period in America's literary history. Although biographies of American writers appeared before 1950, most of them tended to be scholarly studies aimed at presenting the facts of a literary figure's life and the sources writers used to create their prose and their poetry. Rollyson surveys the literature by decade, beginning with the "Edel/Ellmann Age," with Leon Edel's much-discussed book, HENRY JAMES: THE UNTRIED YEARS, 1843-1870, and Richard Ellmann's well-received biography of James Joyce, both considered the first masterpieces of the genre. The author then heads his discussion into the 1960s and the decades

that followed, including the New Millennium. He evaluates over ninety works, including six biographies of poet Sylvia Plath. As much as some literary critics want to diminish the importance of American literary biography, in fact the genre has grown in importance, highlighting many different kinds of writers, including many academics who a generation ago would most likely not have considered this field of study.

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