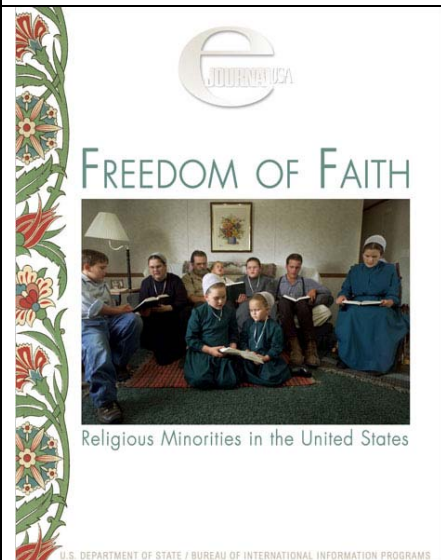




## IRC WHAT'S NEW September 2008, Issue 1

### Electronic Journals – all e-journals



#### Freedom of Faith

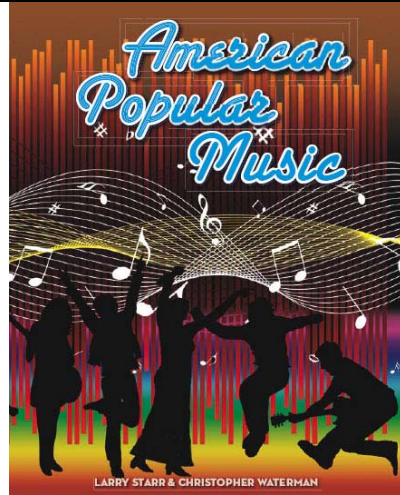
The principle of religious freedom is a cherished right in the United States, one that has historical roots older than the formation of the nation itself. In the 21st century, the United States pulses with a unique cultural chemistry brought on by a wave of immigration which has brought followers of more diverse faiths to many communities. This edition of eJournal USA examines how the nation adjusts to these demographic changes to remain true to the principles of freedom of faith.



#### The Electoral College

More than 100 million voters are likely to cast ballots in nationwide U.S. elections November 4. But only 538 men and women will elect the next president of the United States, and those elections will take place in 50 state capitals and in Washington, D.C., December 15. This indirect election system, called the Electoral College and devised in 1787 by the framers of the Constitution, puzzles Americans and non-Americans alike. It reflects the federal governing system of allocating powers not only to a national government and to the people but also to the states. We hope that this issue of eJournal USA will improve your understanding of the historical reasons for the Electoral College system and how it functions.

## IIP Publications – all publications



### **American Popular Music**

American popular music is a kaleidoscopic mélange of styles and dreams. Its vibrancy reflects the mating of cultural diversity to artistic and creative freedom. The stories in this book illustrate how Americans, borrowing from diverse musical traditions, have contributed to humanity's universal language.

### **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.

### **Blogs**

<http://blogs.america.gov/>  
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.

## SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS

ANALYSES AND EFFECTS OF GLOBAL CHANGE ON HUMAN HEALTH AND WELFARE AND HUMAN SYSTEMS. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Janet L. Gamble et al. Web posted July 19, 2008.

The report discusses the potential impacts of climate change on human health, human welfare, and communities. The factors include the elderly, the poor, children, and people with chronic medical conditions. The report also identifies adaptation strategies to help respond to the challenges of a changing climate and identifies near- and long-term research goals for addressing data and knowledge gaps.

<http://downloads.climate-science.gov/sap/sap4-6/sap4-6-final-all.pdf> [PDF format, 284 pages].

APPEASING CHINA: RESTRICTING THE RIGHTS OF TIBETANS IN NEPAL. Human Rights Watch. July 2008.

The report documents violations of human rights by the Nepali authorities, particularly the police, against Tibetans involved in peaceful demonstrations in Kathmandu, including: unnecessary and excessive use of force; arbitrary arrest; sexual assault of women during arrest; arbitrary and preventive detention; beatings in detention; unlawful threats to deport Tibetans to China; restrictions on freedom of movement in the Kathmandu Valley; harassment of Tibetan and foreign journalists; and harassment of Nepali, Tibetan, and foreign human rights defenders. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://hrw.org/reports/2008/tibetnepal0708/tibetnepal0708web.pdf> [PDF format, 64 pages].

BOMBERS, BANK ACCOUNTS, & BLEEDOUT. Combating Terrorism Center, West Point. Peter Bergen et al. August 2008.

The report analyzes alQa`ida in Iraq's (AQI) operations from spring 2006 to summer 2007 and is being issued with a trove of documents captured by coalition forces near Sinjar, Iraq. The documents include almost 600 AQI personnel records for foreign fighters crossing into Iraq, AQI contracts for suicide bombers, AQI contracts for fighters leaving Iraq, narratives written by alQa`ida's Syrian smugglers, and AQI financial records. The CTC also acquired demographic information on all Third Country Nationals (TCNs) in detention at Camp Bucca, Iraq. Saudi Arabia contributed the highest number of foreign fighters to alQa`ida's fight in Iraq between August 2006 and August 2007, followed by Libya. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.ctc.usma.edu/harmony/pdf/Sinjar\\_2\\_July\\_23.pdf](http://www.ctc.usma.edu/harmony/pdf/Sinjar_2_July_23.pdf) [PDF format, 126 pages].

BUILDING AN INTERAGENCY CADRE OF NATIONAL SECURITY PROFESSIONALS: PROPOSALS, RECENT EXPERIENCE, AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS. Congressional Research Service, RL34565, Library of Congress. Catherine Dale. July 2008.

There is a growing consensus among many national security practitioners and scholars across the political spectrum broadly in favor of reforming the interagency system to encourage a more effective application of all elements of national power. The reform debates have included proposals to establish and foster an interagency cadre of national security specialists from all relevant departments and agencies. According to proponents, cadre members, through a long-term career development program that might include education, training, and exchange tours in

other agencies, would gain a better understanding of the mandates, capabilities, and cultures of other agencies.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34565\\_20080708.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34565_20080708.pdf) [PDF format, 30 pages].

A CALL FOR A STRATEGIC U.S. APPROACH TO THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Web posted July 31, 2008.

In response to the growing global food crisis, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) launched a task force to assess the rising humanitarian, security, developmental, and market impacts of rising food costs and shortages. It argues for modernizing and doubling emergency assistance, elevating rural development and agricultural productivity to be new foreign policy priorities. It also calls for revising the U.S. approach to bio-fuels so that fuel and food

[http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/080728\\_food\\_security.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/080728_food_security.pdf) [PDF format, 14 pages].

CHINA'S ECONOMIC RISE: FACT AND FICTION. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Albert Keidel. July 2008.

China's economy will surpass that of the United States by 2035 and be twice its size by mid century, the report concludes. China's rapid growth is driven by domestic demand—not exports—and will sustain high single-digit growth rates well into this century. The report examines China's likely economic trajectory and its implications for global commercial, institutional, and military leadership. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/pb61\\_keidel\\_final.pdf](http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/pb61_keidel_final.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages].

CREDIT RISK TRANSFER: DEVELOPMENTS FROM 2006-2007. Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. Web posted August 3, 2008.

The paper explains the causes of the credit market turmoil. It focuses on two financial instruments that have been used widely to transfer credit risk: collateralized debt obligations referencing (CDOs) and collateralized loan obligations (CLOs). [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.bis.org/publ/joint21.pdf?noframes=1> [PDF format, 87 pages].

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN URBAN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES. Tomas Rivera Policy Institute and Asia Pacific American Legal Center. Web posted July 18, 2008.

The study finds that immigrant and limited English proficient populations are not fully incorporated in disaster preparedness educational efforts and emergency response plans. The study examines selected Latino and Asian immigrant communities in Southern California for disaster education and response preparations. The findings include a lack of disaster preparedness materials in languages other than English that reflect the demographics of the service populations and a shortage of bilingual staff and volunteers among emergency response crews and nonprofits that typically do outreach during emergencies. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.trpi.org/PDFs/DISASTER\\_REPORT\\_Final.pdf](http://www.trpi.org/PDFs/DISASTER_REPORT_Final.pdf) [PDF format, 36 pages].

ENHANCING LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO VICTIMS: A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY STRATEGY. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE. Web posted July 20, 2008.

The study introduces state, local, and tribal law enforcement leaders to the benefits, challenges, methods, and responsibilities for enhancing their response to victims of crime. It discusses the evolution of enhanced victim response, summarizes key principles, identifies the critical needs of

victims, and illustrates the potential of community partnerships in the implementation of the strategy. The strategy has been successfully pilot tested by three police agencies: Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC, Beaverton, OR, and Mundelein, IL. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://www.theiacp.org/documents/pdfs/Publications/EPRVStrategy.pdf> [PDF format, 48 pages].

#### EXPLORING THE LINKS BETWEEN HIV/AIDS, SOCIAL CAPITAL, AND DEVELOPMENT.

World Bank. Antonio C. David and Carmen A. Li. Web posted July 23, 2008.

The study quantifies the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on social capital with cross-country data. Using data from the World Values Survey, the authors estimate reduced-form regressions of prevalence, institutional quality, social distance, and economic indicators, which are the main determinants of social capital controlling for HIV. The results indicate that HIV prevalence affects social capital negatively. Moving from a country with a relatively low level of HIV prevalence, such as Estonia, to a country with a relatively high level, such as Uganda, there is a more than 11 percent point decline in social capital. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/07/23/000158349\\_20080723111217/Rendered/PDF/WPS4679.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/07/23/000158349_20080723111217/Rendered/PDF/WPS4679.pdf) [PDF format, 31 pages].

#### FACT SHEET: TREASURY RELEASES BEST PRACTICES FOR RESIDENTIAL COVERED BONDS. Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Treasury Department. July 2008.

The U.S. Treasury Department aims to encourage additional sources of mortgage finance and to strengthen financial institutions. A covered bond is secured debt instrument that provides funding to a depository institution, collateralized by high-quality mortgage loans that remain on the issuer's balance sheet. Covered bonds have the potential to increase funding for mortgages and to strengthen financial institutions by offering them a new funding source that will diversify their overall funding portfolio.

<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/reports/factsheet.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].

#### FANNIE MAE'S AND FREDDIE MAC'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS. Congressional Research Service, RS22916, Library of Congress. N. Eric Weiss. Web posted July 21, 2008.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac chartered by Congress as government sponsored enterprises (GSEs) and are widely believed to have an implicit guarantee from the federal government. Questions about their roles are covered by the report in light of today's economic environment.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22916\\_20080715.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22916_20080715.pdf) [PDF format, 6 pages].

#### FISHERIES OF THE UNITED STATES, 2007. National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Science and Technology. July 2008.

The average American ate 16.3 pounds of fish and shellfish in 2007, a one percent decline from the 2006 consumption figures of 16.5 pounds, according to the study. Americans consumed a total of 4.908 billion pounds of seafood in 2007, slightly less than the 4.944 billion pounds in 2006. The U.S. continues to be ranked the third largest consumer of fish and shellfish, behind China and Japan. The nation imports about 84 percent of its seafood, a steadily increasing proportion. Imports accounted for only 63 percent of U.S. seafood just a decade ago.

[http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/fus/fus07/fus\\_2007.pdf](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/fus/fus07/fus_2007.pdf) [PDF format, 118 pages].

FOREST CARBON MARKETS: POTENTIAL AND DRAWBACKS. Congressional Research Service, RL34560, Library of Congress. Ross W. Gorte and Jonathan L. Ramseur. Web posted July 29, 2008.

Forests are major carbon storehouses and activities that alter forests can release or sequester carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the most common greenhouse gas (GHG). Some carbon markets have been formed under mandatory GHG reduction regimes, such as the Kyoto Protocol and various regional and state initiatives in the United States. Other markets have formed for voluntary efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Forestry activities are among the largest-volume and lowest-cost opportunities for generating offsets. Afforestation, planting trees on open sites, and reforestation, planting trees on recently cleared sites, are the activities most commonly included for offsets. [http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34560\\_20080703.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34560_20080703.pdf) [PDF format, 22 pages].

A FORK IN THE ROAD: OBAMA, MCCAIN, AND HEALTH CARE. CATO Institute. Michael D. Tanner. July 29, 2008.

Senator Obama's approach to health care reform relies heavily on government mandates, regulations, and subsidies. He would mandate that employers provide health care coverage for their workers and parents purchase health insurance for their children. He would significantly increase regulation of the insurance industry, establishing a standard minimum benefits package, and requiring insurers to accept all applicants regardless of their health. In contrast, John McCain emphasizes consumer choice and greater competition in the health care industry. He would move away from our current employment-based insurance system by replacing the current tax exclusion for employer-provided insurance with a refundable tax credit for individuals. At the same time he would sharply deregulate the insurance industry to increase competition. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://cato.org/pubs/bp/bp104.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

HOMEWARD BOUND: RECENT IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND THE DECLINE IN THE ILLEGAL ALIEN POPULATION. Center for Immigration Studies. Steven A. Camarota and Karen Jensenius. Web posted July 31, 2008.

Monthly data collected by the Census Bureau through May 2008 shows a significant decline in the number of less-educated, young Hispanic immigrants in the country. The evidence indicates that the illegal immigrant population may have declined by over one million in the last year. There are indications that immigration enforcement is responsible for at least part of the decline along with the state of the economy. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://www.cis.org/articles/2008/back808.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

INTERNAL FIGHT: PALESTINIAN ABUSES IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK. Human Rights Watch. July 2008.

The report documents human rights abuses over the past year by the competing Palestinian authorities in Gaza and the West Bank, Hamas and Fatah, respectively. Palestinians in both places have suffered serious abuses at the hands of their own security forces, in addition to persistent abuses by the occupying power, Israel. In both Gaza and the West Bank, the human rights abuses documented in the report amount to violations of Palestinian law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

(CAT). Palestinian Authority officials have repeatedly pledged to respect their standards. As a political party and armed group, Hamas has publicly committed itself on numerous occasions to respect international human rights norms. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://hrw.org/reports/2008/iopt0708/iopt0708webwcover.pdf> [PDF format, 115 pages].

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND PROGRAMS AND TUBERCULOSIS OUTCOMES IN POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. PLoS Medicine. David Stuckler et al. Web posted July 23, 2008.

The study finds that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) economic reform programs are associated with worsened tuberculosis incidence, prevalence, and mortality rates in post-communist Eastern European and former Soviet countries, independent of other political, socioeconomic, demographic, and health changes in these countries. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://medicine.plosjournals.org/archive/1549-1676/5/7/pdf/10.1371\\_journal.pmed.0050143-L.pdf](http://medicine.plosjournals.org/archive/1549-1676/5/7/pdf/10.1371_journal.pmed.0050143-L.pdf) [PDF format, 12 pages].

A LOOK AT TERRORIST BEHAVIOR: HOW THEY PREPARE, WHEN THEY STRIKE. National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. Brent Smith. Web posted July 31, 2008.

There is very little information available on terrorists' behavioral patterns. Research has shown that traditional criminals are spontaneous, but terrorists seem to go to great lengths preparing for their attacks and may commit other crimes while doing so. The study finds that most terrorists live close to their selected targets, and they engage in a great deal of preparation, some over the course of months or even years, that have the potential of coming to the attention of local law enforcement.

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/222900.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].

MARKETING FOOD TO CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS. Federal Trade Commission. Web posted August 1, 2008.

The report finds that 44 major food and beverage marketers spent \$1.6 billion to promote their products to children under 12 and adolescents ages 12 to 17 in the United States in 2006. The food advertising to youth is dominated by integrated advertising campaigns that combine traditional media, such as television, with previously unmeasured forms of marketing, such as packaging, in-store advertising, sweepstakes, and Internet. These campaigns often involve cross-promotion with a new movie or popular television program. Analyzing the data, the report calls for all food companies "to adopt and adhere to meaningful, nutrition-based standards for marketing their products to children under 12."

<http://www.ftc.gov/os/2008/07/P064504foodmktngreport.pdf> [PDF format, 120 pages].

MONEY LAUNDERING IN DIGITAL CURRENCIES. National Drug Intelligence Center, U.S. Department of Justice. Web posted July 21, 2008.

Digital currencies combine the intrinsic value of gold and other precious metals as well as the designated value of national currencies with the worldwide reach of the Internet to create an ideal mechanism for international money laundering. Users can anonymously fund digital currency accounts, send those funds (sometimes in unlimited amounts) to other digital currency accounts worldwide, and effectively exchange the funds for foreign currencies--often while bypassing U.S.

regulatory oversight.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs28/28675/28675p.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

NATURALIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES: 2007. Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Nancy Rytina and Selena Caldera. July 2008.

This report presents information on the number and characteristics of foreign nationals who became American citizens during fiscal year 2007.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/natz\\_fr\\_07.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/natz_fr_07.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages].

NEW ESTIMATES OF FUNDAMENTAL EQUILIBRIUM EXCHANGE RATES. Peterson Institute for International Economics. William R. Cline and John Williamson. Web posted August 7, 2008.

The study concludes that the dollar is still significantly overvalued against a number of Asian currencies, most prominently the Chinese renminbi and the Japanese yen. The renminbi needs to rise by about 30 percent against the dollar and the yen should strengthen by about 20 percent. A number of other Asian currencies also need to appreciate substantially. The study also concludes that the euro and the pound are now overvalued on average. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.petersoninstitute.org/publications/pb/pb08-7.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

AN OLYMPIC LIFT TO U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS. Brookings Institute. Cheng Li et al. August 5, 2008.

The survey in the report shows that the people of both China and the U.S. widely accept the growing importance of the US-China relationship. The polling shows that 52 percent of Americans hold favorable views of China, while 60 percent of Chinese hold favorable views of America. The greatest opportunity is for the 20,000 foreign journalists converging on Beijing, many of whom are fanning out across China, to see and to report on the country in its vast fullness. A broader and more nuanced portrayal of China in the media is critical to the enhancement of Americans' understanding as well as to progress by policymakers. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/0805\\_olympics\\_li.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/0805_olympics_li.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

PREDATORS AS PREY: WHY HEALTHY OCEANS NEED SHARKS. Oceana. July 2008.

The report concludes that sharks are invaluable to maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems. It shows that as shark populations decline, the oceans suffer unpredictable and devastating consequences. Sharks have unfortunately fallen victim to the man-hungry "Jaws" stereotype society has created for them. They now represent the largest group of threatened marine species on the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Red List of threatened species. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/Sharks/Predators\\_as\\_Prey\\_FINAL\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/Sharks/Predators_as_Prey_FINAL_FINAL.pdf) [PDF format, 20 pages].

PROGRESS ON DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION: SPECIAL FOCUS ON SANITATION. World Health Organization, United Nations. Web posted July 20, 2008.

Every day, over 2.5 billion people suffer from a lack of access to reliable sanitation and nearly 1.2 billion practice open defecation, the riskiest sanitary practice of all, according to the report. The report assesses global, regional and country progress using an innovative "ladder" concept. This



shows sanitation practices in greater detail, enabling experts to highlight trends in using improved, shared and unimproved sanitation facilities and the trend in open defecation. Worldwide, however, the number of people who lack access to an improved drinking water source has fallen below one billion for the first time since data were first compiled in 1990. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.wssinfo.org/pdf/JMP\\_08.pdf](http://www.wssinfo.org/pdf/JMP_08.pdf) [PDF format, 58 pages].

PROMOTING FILM AND MEDIA TO ENHANCE STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association. July 15, 2008.

As governors continue exploring innovative strategies to grow their economies, states are increasingly looking to film, television and related media arts productions as a means of attracting high-paying jobs and related high-tech businesses, according to the report. The state and local economic benefits brought by hosting a major motion picture production are numerous. Film, TV and media arts productions help create local jobs by using residents to staff the production, as well as boost local economies by purchasing goods and services from local vendors. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0807PROMOTINGFILMMEDIA.PDF> [PDF format, 30 pages].

RETIREMENT VULNERABILITY OF NEW RETIREES: THE LIKELIHOOD OF OUTLIVING THEIR ASSETS. Ernst & Young, LLP. & Americans for Secure Retirement. July 2008.

Almost three out of five new middle-class retirees will outlive their financial assets if they attempt to maintain their pre-retirement standard of living, according to the study. It also finds that middle-income Americans entering retirement now will have to reduce their standard of living by an average of 24 percent to minimize the likelihood of outliving their financial assets. Those Americans seven years out from retirement are even less prepared and the study estimates that they will have to reduce their standard of living by even more, an average of 37 percent.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.paycheckforlife.org/uploads/2008\\_E\\_Y\\_RRA.pdf](http://www.paycheckforlife.org/uploads/2008_E_Y_RRA.pdf) [PDF format, 26 pages].

RISKS AT HOME: PRIVACY AND SECURITY RISKS IN TELECOMMUTING. Ernst & Young and Center for Democracy & Technology. Web posted July 29, 2008.

According to the report, personal and private information related to both employees and their employers may be compromised by telecommuting staff if privacy risks are not dealt with effectively. It identifies such issues in work-from-home arrangements. It covers the effective approaches and areas in need of improvement in how organizations protect personal and other sensitive company-related information. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.ey.com/Global/assets.nsf/US/Risk\\_at\\_home/\\$file/Riskathome.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Global/assets.nsf/US/Risk_at_home/$file/Riskathome.pdf) [PDF format, 26 pages].

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SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY ON AIDS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS. Center for Global Development. Nandini Oomman. August 5, 2008.

Donors spend billions of dollars to fight HIV/AIDS in developing countries, but poor integration between donors and host country health systems risks undermining international efforts to prevent and treat AIDS. The report finds that the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS

Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the World Bank's Multi-Country AIDS Program for Africa have helped establish AIDS-specific systems and processes distinct from those of other health programs. At the same time, these AIDS-specific processes use many of the same resources as a country's broader health system. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/16459> [Download PDF file, 72 pages].

**SLOW-MOTION RECESSION: WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO TO HELP.** Center for Economic and Policy Research. Eileen Appelbaum et al. July 2008.

The report presents several proposals designed to address the nation's current economic slowdown. The authors suggest a second stimulus package, which includes an expanded tax credit for homes and businesses to make energy conserving renovations, subsidies for state and local governments to reduce fares on public transportation, and additional payments to low- and moderate-income households through programs such as Food Stamps, School Lunches and the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program to make it easier for families to cope with rising food and energy prices. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/stimulus2\\_\\_2008\\_07.pdf](http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/stimulus2__2008_07.pdf) [PDF format, 14 pages].

**STEM CELL RESEARCH AROUND THE WORLD.** Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Michelle Ralston. July 17, 2008.

The United States is only one of many countries playing an important role in stem cell research. In the last decade, several European and Asian countries have become leading centers for the study of stem cells and their possible therapeutic uses. These countries, along with countries from other regions of the world, have greatly expanded the scope of stem cell research, creating an array of scientific advances and medical applications. The study lists laws and policies on stem cell research in various countries, as well as their significant research efforts. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://pewforum.org/docs/index.php?DocID=318> [HTML various paging].

**THREATS FROM ABOVE: AIR POLLUTION IMPACTS ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES.** Nature Conservancy and Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Gary M. Lovett and Timothy H. Tear. Web posted July 21, 2008.

No ecosystem type in the eastern United States is free of the effects of air pollution, according to the report. From streams and rivers to forests and wetlands, air pollution reduces the benefits these ecosystems provide to society, and damages human health and economies. Sulfur, nitrogen, mercury and ground-level ozone not only contaminate the air we breathe, they also enter the soil and water, causing a complex set of problems, which is widespread.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.ecostudies.org/Threats\\_from\\_Above.pdf](http://www.ecostudies.org/Threats_from_Above.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages].

**U.S.-JAPAN STRATEGIC DIALOGUE: NEXT GENERATION VIEWS OF THE U.S.-JAPAN ALLIANCE.** Pacific Forum, Center for Strategic and International Studies. August 5, 2008.

Despite a historic strengthening of the U.S.-Japan security alliance throughout the last decade, new strains are emerging in the relationship. A series of developments has triggered concerns in Tokyo about the U.S. commitment to Japan's defense. The U.S. readiness to move forward with

relations with North Korea, despite a lack of progress in Japan-North Korea relations, has stirred fears of abandonment. For U.S. strategists, the U.S. commitment to Japan remains firmly rooted in common values, interests, and a long and enduring history. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/issuesinsights\\_v08n07.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/issuesinsights_v08n07.pdf) [PDF format, 49 pages].

WHAT'S DRIVING FOOD PRICES? Farm Foundation. July 2008.

Understanding the complex and multiple factors influencing food prices today is important as future policy options are debated, according to the study. Economic growth and rising human aspirations are putting greater pressure on the global resource base. The study identifies three broad sets of forces driving food price increases: global changes in production and consumption of key commodities, the depreciation of the U.S. dollar, and growth in the production of bio-fuels. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.farmfoundation.org/news/articlefiles/404-FINAL%20WDFP%20REPORT%207-21-08.pdf> [PDF format, 84 pages].

WILL EMPLOYERS WANT AGING BOOMERS? Urban Institute. Gordon B.T. Mermin et al. July 2008.

Boomers will probably want to work longer than earlier cohorts, but their continued work requires that employers hire and retain them. Employers value older workers for their maturity, experience and work ethic, but worry about out of date skills and high costs. Slower overall labor supply growth will increase demand for older workers and occupations with higher shares of older workers will increase modestly as a share of all jobs. Future jobs will require less physical demands and more cognitive and interpersonal skills, trends that favor educated older workers, but job opportunities for less educated older workers may remain limited. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411705\\_aging\\_boomers.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411705_aging_boomers.pdf) [PDF format, 71 pages].

THE YEAR IN TRADE 2007. U.S. International Trade Commission. Web posted August 6, 2008.

The report provides a practical review of U.S. international trade laws and actions in 2007, a summary of the operation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and an overview of U.S. free trade agreements and negotiations and of U.S. bilateral trade relations with major trading partners. It also includes complete listings of antidumping, countervailing duty, safeguard, intellectual property rights infringement, and section 301 cases undertaken by the U.S. government in 2007.

<http://hotdocs.usitc.gov/docs/pubs/332/pub4026.pdf> [PDF format, 229 pages].

## ARTICLES

### DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Broome, John THE ETHICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: PAY NOW OR PAY MORE LATER? (Scientific American, vol. 298, no. 5, May 2008)

The author notes that future generations will suffer most of the harmful effects of global climate change; yet if the world economy grows, they will be richer than we are. The present generation must decide, with the help of expert advice from economists, whether to aggressively reduce the chances of future harm or to let our descendants largely fend for themselves. Economists cannot avoid making ethical choices in formulating their advice; even the small chance of utter catastrophe from global warming raises special problems for ethical discussion. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-ethics-of-climate-change>

Dickerson, John DON'T FEAR TWITTER (Nieman Reports, Summer 2008)  
Are the 140-word entries on the Web site "Twitter" trivializing journalism? No, says Dickerson, the chief political correspondent for Slate. Twitter, he says, is "informal and approachable and great for conveying a little moment from an event. If written the right way, Twitter entries build a community of readers who find their way to longer articles because they are lured by these moment-by-moment observations." Himself a Twitter reader, Dickerson says Twitter has exposed him to a wider variety of news and "keen political observers and sharp writers who have never practiced journalism." Available online at <http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/reports/08-2NRsummer/p05-dickerson.html>

Garber, Megan CROSSING LINES (Columbia Journalism Review, July-August 2008)  
Michael Happy, a Detroit News sports reporter, is blurring the lines between "objective" reporting and advocacy – and he doesn't care. A former resident of Fletcher Field, a five-acre neighborhood near Detroit's City Airport, Happy launched last year a blog on the newspaper's Web site called "Going Home: A Journal on Detroit's Neighborhoods." Working with community leaders, the blog has served as a voice to the "invisible" poor and a tool for coalition building and advocacy. Current residents, many of whom do not have access to computers, funnel their personal stories to community leaders, who then communicate them to Happy. Fletcher Field is still poor, rundown and extremely dangerous, but changes have been impressive. Thanks to the blog, the neighborhood has gotten attention and help from former residents and city officials who have mobilized to improve the park and overall living conditions. Happy acknowledges that some observers feel the blog "teeters on the line between ethical and unethical journalism," but he adds: "I got into this business to try to help people -- I think the park project, its aftermath and this blog are doing just that." Available online at [http://www.cjr.org/feature/crossing\\_lines.php?page=3](http://www.cjr.org/feature/crossing_lines.php?page=3)

Mooney, Chris CAN A MILLION TONS OF SULFUR DIOXIDE COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE? (Wired, vol. 16, no. 7, July 2008, pp. 128-133)

Reducing greenhouse gases is the strategy most discussed in political circles as means to address climate change. In scientific circles, however, cooling the planet by "salting" the oceans or the atmosphere with substances that might change the chemistry of global warming is gaining increasing attention. These methods are called geoengineering and might involve a vast dispersal of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere to reflect the sun's rays away from Earth. Setting tiny reflectors afloat in the oceans is another planet-cooling strategy that has received some study. Though these ideas sound almost like comic-book plans, serious scientists are weighing the data in the face of the likelihood that humankind can not wean itself from fossil fuels rapidly enough to stop the melting of the glaciers. Mooney focuses on a scientist who has become an unlikely advocate of such strategies. Ken Caldeira was an anti-nuclear activist in the 1980s, but the winding path of his scientific career has led him to the creation of models indicating that spewing millions of tons of sulfur dioxide would deflect enough heat to prevent the melting of ice

caps and the resulting sea level rise. Available online at [http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/magazine/16-07/ff\\_geoengineering](http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/magazine/16-07/ff_geoengineering)

Stix, Gary THE MIGRATION HISTORY OF HUMANS: DNA STUDY TRACES HUMAN ORIGINS ACROSS THE CONTINENTS (Scientific American, July 2008)

DNA furnishes an ever-clearer picture of the multimillennial trek of ancient humans from Africa all the way to the tip of South America. Scientists trace the path of human migrations by using bones, artifacts and DNA. Ancient objects are hard to find; however, DNA from contemporary humans can be compared to determine how long an indigenous population has lived in a region. The latest studies survey swaths of entire genomes and produce maps of human movements across much of the world. They also describe how people's genes have adapted to changes in diet, climate and disease. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-migration-history-of-humans>

## **ECONOMIC SECURITY**

Taibbi, Matt ECONOMIC REALITIES ARE KILLING OUR ERA OF FANTASY POLITICS (AlterNet, posted July 19, 2008)

The author, a writer for Rolling Stone magazine, predicts that during the coming presidential election campaign, the Republican and Democratic candidates and media will feed the American public various storylines couched as the "national debate" that will obscure the most pressing issue -- the disappearance of the American middle class. Writes Taibbi, "median income has declined by almost \$2,500 over the past seven years, we have zero personal savings rate in America for the first time since the Great Depression, and 5 million people have slipped below the poverty level since the beginning of the decade." But he says the national debate will not focus on haves and have-nots, rich and poor, or employers versus employees. The debate will not touch the military contractors who are making huge profits from the war in Iraq, an issue that Taibbi calls "a profound expression of our national priorities, a means of taking money from ordinary, struggling people and redistributing it not downward but upward, to connected insiders, who turn your tax money into pure profit." With the manufacturing sector of the U.S. economy shipped abroad, the service/managerial economy can no longer support a healthy middle class. He says the Democratic Party does not embrace the issue of declining living standards because it is funded by corporate money, just as the Republican Party is. Available online at <http://www.alternet.org/workplace/91927/?page=entire>

## **INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

Jones, Seth HOW TO SAVE KARZAI (Foreign Policy, web exclusive, posted July 2008)

The author, a political scientist at Rand and professor at Georgetown University, writes that Afghan president Hamid Karzai may not be a leader in the mold of George Washington, but "with Afghanistan growing more chaotic by the day, now is no time to throw Hamid Karzai under the bus." Almost seven years after the coalition invasion of Afghanistan, the Taliban and other insurgents are gaining ground, there is endemic corruption in the government, the drug trade has never been higher, and most Afghans are without basic services. This bleak situation has led to calls for the U.S. and its allies to support someone else in the 2009 presidential election. This would be a mistake, says Jones -- Karzai, with all his faults, is still "the best Afghanistan's political class has to offer." As a Pashtun, he enjoys broad multiethnic support and is the country's most popular leader. His greatest need is an effective and loyal police force, and he needs to act to reduce corruption. But he is concerned that a crackdown will worsen the insurgency. Pakistani support for insurgents must be addressed multilaterally, with political, military, and economic synchronization. "Giving up on Karzai will only weaken an already weak state. That is in no one's interest, except perhaps the Taliban's." Currently available online at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=4392](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4392)

Lugar, Richard REVVING UP THE COOPERATIVE NONPROLIFERATION ENGINE (Nonproliferation Review, vol. 15, no. 2, July 2008, pp. 349-352)

Lugar, Republican Senator from Indiana and co-sponsor of legislation that created the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program which helped dismantle nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the former Soviet Union, says the scope of the program should now be expanded. Lugar believes that the program should be expanded beyond strategic weapons and be used to address the threat from conventional systems. He also says the program should continue to expand geographically. Senator Richard Lugar says that breakthrough disarmament talks with North Korea could pave the way for CTR use, but right now the only U.S. program that can be used to help secure and dismantle North Korea's nuclear program is the State Department's Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund. He says the Nunn-Lugar program, as the CTR program is also known, should be given sufficient flexibility so that it, too, can aid in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Lugar writes that a number of nations such as Indonesia and Afghanistan are interested in setting up Nunn-Lugar programs. This article can be found online at

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a793982642~db=all~order=page>

Ross, Dennis MIDDLE EAST MUDDLE (National Interest, no. 92, November/December 2007, pp. 30-39)

Ambassador Dennis Ross, currently at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, offers his views on American military activities in several areas of the Middle East, including Iraq, Iran, and Israeli-Palestinian issues. In each of these areas, Ross feels the help of Saudi Arabia is critical, as they have a significant role to play in the application of statecraft to the region. In Iraq, statecraft means redefining the American objective as containment to prevent instability there from spreading to the rest of the region. For Iran, it would mean using Iran's economic vulnerabilities to change Tehran's behavior on the nuclear issue. The essential objective for American statecraft on Israeli-Palestinian issues should be ensuring that the Palestinian cause remains led by a secular movement and not an Islamist one.

Simon, Jeffrey D. THE FORGOTTEN TERRORISTS: LESSONS FROM THE HISTORY OF TERRORISM (Terrorism and Political Violence, vol. 20, no. 2, April 2008, pp. 195-214)

Noted scholar Jeffrey Simon presents an intriguing analysis of the Galleanists, a group of Italian terrorists who were active in the United States in the early part of the 20th century. The Galleanists introduced tactics, techniques and a strategy that is still being used widely today by terrorists around the world. Simon notes that, in many ways, the group was similar to al-Qaeda, with a charismatic leader and several autonomous cells operating throughout the U.S. This group, he argues, was a significant part of what has been called the First Wave of modern terrorism. The wave theory of terrorism was first presented by David Rapoport in explaining the context and nature of modern terrorism. The Galleanists used the news media to promote their agenda and to find new supporters, Simon says. The group also published its own newspaper and delivered it through the mail. He notes that by studying the Galleanists' history provides some vital insight into the issue of balancing the protection of civil liberties with the need to take tough measures against terrorists.

Stephan, Maria; Chenoweth, Erica WHY CIVIL RESISTANCE WORKS: THE STRATEGIC LOGIC OF NONVIOLENT CONFLICT (International Security, vol. 33, no. 1, Summer 2008, pp. 7-44)

Stephan, Director of Educational Initiatives at the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, and Chenoweth, Professor of Government at Wesleyan University, note that the historical record indicates that nonviolent campaigns have been more successful than armed campaigns in achieving ultimate goals in political struggles, even when used against similar opponents and in the face of repression. Nonviolent campaigns are more likely to win legitimacy, attract widespread domestic and international support, neutralize the opponent's security forces, and compel loyalty shifts among erstwhile opponent supporters than are armed campaigns, which enjoin the active support of a relatively small number of people, offer the opponent a justification for violent counterattacks, and are less likely to prompt loyalty shifts and defections. The authors

test their claims based on data of all known major nonviolent and violent resistance campaigns from 1900 to 2006. They assert that these dynamics are further explored in case studies of resistance campaigns in Southeast Asia that have featured periods of both violent and nonviolent resistance.

Talmadge, Caitlin CLOSING TIME: ASSESSING THE IRANIAN THREAT TO THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ (International Security, vol. 33, no. 1, Summer 2008, pp: 82-118)

The author, with the political science department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, contemplates how Iran might retaliate in the aftermath of a limited Israeli or U.S. strike; the most economically devastating of Iran's potential responses would be closure of the Strait of Hormuz. According to open-source order-of-battle data, as well as relevant material from military history and GIS maps, Iran does possess significant littoral warfare capabilities, including mines, antiship cruise missiles, and land-based air defense. The author asserts that if Iran were able to properly coordinate its efforts, it could halt or impede traffic in the Strait of Hormuz for a month or more. U.S. attempts to reopen the waterway would escalate rapidly into sustained, large-scale air and naval operations during which Iran could impose significant economic and military costs on the United States. Talmadge believes that the aftermath of limited strikes on Iran would be complicated and costly, suggesting needed changes in U.S. force posture and energy policy.

Thomas, Dylan WINNING OR LOSING? (Economist, July 17, 2008)

Is the United States winning or losing the war against al-Qaeda? There is no clear-cut answer, says the author, which notes that "part of the problem lies in al-Qaeda's diffuse nature. Its core members may number only hundreds, but it has connections of all kinds to militant groups with thousands or even tens of thousands of fighters. Al-Qaeda is a terrorist organization, a militant network and a subculture of rebellion all at the same time." The Internet, Thomas says, helps bind together jihadist groups. But the most immediate global threat, he says, "comes from the ungoverned, undergoverned and ungovernable areas of the Muslim world." These include the Afghan-Pakistani border, parts of Iraq, Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, Yemen, Somalia, and parts of Indonesia and the Philippines. Currently available online at [http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=11701218](http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11701218)

## **U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES**

Bracco, Tara THE INNOVATION IMPERATIVE (American Theatre, July/August 2008, pp. 36-41)

American theater is looking for innovative methods to increase their attendance and solvency. In November of last year, the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) held a two-day event called "Cultivating Innovation: From the Board Room to the Box Office", focusing on new ideas to help non-profit theaters. The author cites the New York Metropolitan Opera, which is increasing opera's audience by transmitting production into several hundred movie theaters in North America and Europe, and is advertising on New York buses and doing telecasts on screens in Times Square and Lincoln Center. Another area ripe for reconsideration is the traditional expectation that 50 to 70 percent of theater's budget should be derived from ticket sales; this is changing, as endowments have grown in size, allowing some theaters to cut ticket prices to attract a younger audience and increase attendance. In the end, each theater company must find its own innovative way to financial stability. Available online at <http://www.tcg.org/publications/at/julyaugust08/fallforum.cfm>

Fischer, Karin; Lindow, Megan AFRICA ATTRACTS RENEWED ATTENTION FROM AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES: THE FOCUS IS ON LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIPS THAT SUPPORT AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES (Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 54, No. 45, July 18, 2008, pp. A21-A23)

The World Bank's advice to African governments in the 1980s and 1990s to give primary and secondary education priority over higher education is now recognized as a mistake, and the Bank, governments and other groups today appreciate the role universities play in economic development. Seven major American foundations have pledged \$350 million since 2000 to

strengthen select universities in nine African countries. American universities say they are now determined to build long-term relationships “that will allow African universities to guide their nations in this century in much the same way Asian universities helped fuel phenomenal regional growth in the 1990s,” say the authors. USAID has offered 20 grants of \$50,000 to American universities to begin planning partnerships; however, a single partnership typically requires USD 1-3 million annually, so more private donors will have to be found. The National Association of State Universities and Land-grant Colleges is leading one of the most ambitious efforts, focusing on such critical fields as agriculture, health care and teacher training. The authors describe two model programs: The University of Pennsylvania’s partnership with the University of Botswana to create the country’s first medical school, and Cornell University’s water-management partnership with Bahir Dar University in the northwestern highlands of Ethiopia. One key decision yet to be made: whether to focus on partnerships with the better-equipped universities or the less stable ones whose needs are actually greatest.

Heffernan, Virginia MY WIRED YOUTH (New York Times Magazine, February 3, 2008, pp. 20-21)

Heffernan remembers her adolescence 25 years ago when she discovered the nascent Internet through Xcaliber, an early social-networking technology developed by Dartmouth College. Using Xcaliber, Virginia discovered Conference XYZ, a live chat option on the network. XYZ became Virginia’s hobby: “For years, I dated, studied, endured heartbreak and hazing and crossed and double-crossed everyone in a mysterious online netherworld called Xcaliber. By the time I turned 13, I was confident I knew every single person online. Xcaliber taught me to type, talk to adults, experiment with fantastic personas and new idioms, spot lechers by their online styles and avoid ideologues who post in all caps.” In all this was an exciting, albeit possibly dangerous online world for a teenager to explore. Having explored an early version of the internet has allowed Virginia to understand and identify with the experiences of today’s teenagers as they chat on the internet, just as she did, 25 years ago.

Mathews, Joe LOOKING FOR THE COUNTRY’S SMARTEST NEWSCASTS? SWITCH TO ESPANOL (Washington Post, May 11, 2008, pp. B1, B4)

The author, fellow at the New America Foundation, writes that Spanish-language broadcast media are becoming increasingly sophisticated and newsworthy, at the same time as English-language television broadcast networks and radio stations are airing more trivial material to try to boost ratings. In a recent survey of Los Angeles-area TV stations, the Spanish-language stations had many more longer and deeply reported pieces, such as an explanation of the ongoing mortgage crisis, local politics and key policy issues in the presidential campaign. While some critics complain that Spanish TV is more advocacy than journalism, the author notes that the “upside of the advocacy approach is serious reporting and newscasts with broader perspectives; viewers are engaged more as citizens than consumers.”

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