



IRC WHAT'S NEW September 2008, Issue 2

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SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2007: 50 YEARS OF ATOMS FOR PEACE. [International Atomic Energy Agency. August 2008.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has issued its Annual Report for 2007. According to the IAEA, more countries are seeking technical assistance in applications of nuclear science and technology, including nuclear power for electricity generation. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Reports/Anrep2007/anrep2007_full.pdf [PDF format, 112 pages].

BIOFUELS AND THE FOOD PRICE CRISIS: A SURVEY OF THE ISSUES. Center for Global Development. Kimberly Elliott. Web posted August 11, 2008.

While the precise contribution of bio-fuels to surging food prices is difficult to know, policies promoting production of the bio-fuels are not achieving objectives of increased energy independence or reduced greenhouse gas emissions. It has been known that the net energy and greenhouse gas emission benefits of corn-based ethanol are relatively small because its production is energy-intensive. Recent scientific studies suggest that the current generation of bio-fuels, including bio-diesel made from palm oil, soybeans, and rapeseed, as well as corn-based ethanol, actually add to greenhouse gas emissions relative to petroleum-based fuels when land use changes are taken into account. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/16499?print=1&id=16499&datatype=5> [Link to the PDF document].

CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION AT E-WASTE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL SITES IN ACCRA AND KORFORIDUA, GHANA. Greenpeace. Kevin Brigden et al. Web posted August 15, 2008.

The global market for electrical and electronic equipment continues to expand, while the lifespan of many products becomes shorter. Consequently, the waste stream of obsolete electrical and electronic products, commonly called “e-waste”, is also vast and growing, with estimates of 20-50 million tons per year being generated worldwide. Many of the products contain numerous hazardous chemicals and materials, and therefore the recycling and disposal of e-waste poses a threat to the environment and to human health. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/chemical-contamination-at-e-wa.pdf> [PDF format, 24 pages].

CLIMATE RESILIENT CITIES: 2008 PRIMER. World Bank. Web posted August 6, 2008.

Climate change is a current reality when loss from flooding and hurricanes is too frequent occurrence in many countries in the East Asia Region, particularly in cities where people and assets are concentrated. Urban centers need to be prepared with specialized tools to deal with climate change impacts and early warning systems. Moreover, given the potential devastation associated with future climate change-related disasters, it is vital to change the way people build and manage the cities, which account for 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions today. The report is a tool for city governments in the East Asia Region to better understand how to plan for climate change impacts and impending natural disasters through sound urban planning to reduce vulnerabilities. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/Resources/climatecities_fullreport.pdf [PDF format, 176 pages].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEF: EGYPT. Energy Information Administration. August 2008.

In 2007, Egypt produced 664,000 barrels of oil per day (bbl/d) continuing its fall from a high of 950,000 bbl/d in 1995. Yet having consumed 653,000 b/d in 2007, production was sufficient to prevent Egypt from becoming a net importer of oil as some had predicted. Production and consumption of natural gas continue to rise with a total of 1.9 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) produced and 1.3 Tcf consumed in 2006, making Egypt a net gas exporter. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Egypt/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 7 pages].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS: TAIWAN. Energy Information Administration. August 2008. Taiwan does not have substantial domestic energy resources and must import the vast majority of its needs. Taiwan has encouraged investment in domestic oil and natural gas projects in light of a need to obtain a secure supply, including partnerships with mainland Chinese companies and overseas ventures. Nearly half of total energy consumption in Taiwan is from oil (45 percent), followed by coal (36 percent), although Taiwan no longer has any domestic coal production. <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Taiwan/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

CUBA: U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL AND REMITTANCES. Congressional Research Service, RL31139, Library of Congress. Mark P. Sullivan. Web posted August 10, 2008. Restrictions on travel to Cuba have been a key in United States efforts to isolate the communist government of Fidel Castro for much of the past 40 years. Over time, there have been numerous changes to the restrictions, and for five years, from 1977 until 1982, there were no restrictions on travel to Cuba. The House Appropriations Committee reported its version of the FY2009 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill on June 25, 2008, with provisions that would ease restrictions on family travel. It would allow for such travel once a year, instead of the current restriction of once every three years, to visit aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and first cousins in addition to immediate family. http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL31139_20080730.pdf [PDF format, 35 pages].

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. [United Nations]. Web posted August 17, 2008. The report provides a summary of the replies received from governments on the topics related to information security and security of global information and telecommunications systems. [Note: contains copyrighted material] http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/63/139 [PDF format, 8 pages].

DRUG CONTROL: COOPERATION WITH MANY MAJOR DRUG TRANSIT COUNTRIES HAS IMPROVED, BUT BETTER PERFORMANCE REPORTING AND SUSTAINABILITY PLANS ARE NEEDED. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Web posted August 14, 2008. Each year, criminal organizations transport hundreds of tons of illegal drugs from South America to the United States through a 6 million square mile "transit zone" including Central America, the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the eastern Pacific Ocean. Since fiscal year 2003, the United States has provided over \$950 million to support counter narcotics efforts in transit zone countries, which historically lacked the capacity to interdict drugs. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08784.pdf> [PDF format, 65 pages].

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION. Congressional Research Service, RS22915, Library of Congress. Julie M. Whittaker. Web posted July 21, 2008. The Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program was created by P.L. 110-252. The new temporary unemployment insurance program provides up to 13 additional weeks of unemployment benefits to certain workers who have exhausted their rights to regular unemployment compensation (UC) benefits. The program effectively begins July 6, 2008, and will terminate on March 28, 2009. No EUC benefit will be paid beyond the week ending July 4, 2009. http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22915_20080711.pdf [PDF format, 5 pages].

FACT SHEET: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EFFORTS TO COMBAT CYBER CRIMES. U.S. Department of Justice. August 5, 2008.

President Bush created an interagency Identity Theft Task Force. After examining government and private sector efforts in the identity theft area, the Task Force issued a report with 31 recommendations to improve our efforts to combat identity theft. These recommendations include protecting personal data in the private and public sector, investigating and prosecuting data breaches and related identity theft, and assisting victims of identity theft. The Task Force has worked to implement the recommendations over the last year across the government and with its private sector and international partners.

http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/pr/press_releases/2008/08/08-05-08_fact-sheet-doj-efrt.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

FOREIGN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRESENCE IN U.S. INSTITUTIONS AND THE LABOR FORCE. Congressional Research Service, 97-746, Library of Congress. Christine M. Matthews. Web posted August 14, 2008.

Foreign scientists and engineers serve the needs of industry at the doctorate level and also have been found to serve in major roles at the masters level in the United States. However, there are charges that U.S. workers are adversely affected by the entry of foreign scientists and engineers, who reportedly accept lower wages than U.S. citizens. Many in the scientific community maintain that in order to compete with countries that are rapidly expanding their scientific and technological capabilities, the country needs to bring to the U.S. those whose skills will benefit society and will enable us to compete in the new-technology based global economy. There are those who believe that the underlying problem of foreign students in graduate science and engineering programs is not necessarily that there are too many foreign-born students, but that there are not enough native-born students pursuing scientific and technical disciplines.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/97-746.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages].

FUTURE U.S. SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS WITH IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN: U.S. AIR FORCE ROLES. RAND Corporation. David E. Thaler et al. Web posted August 12, 2008.

The United States is heavily invested in Iraq and Afghanistan, and developments in these two nations will affect not only their own interests but those of their neighbors and the U.S. as well. The authors emphasize that the U.S. must clarify its long-term intentions to the governments and peoples in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the surrounding regions. They describe possible regional security structures and bilateral U.S. relationships with both countries. The authors recommend that the U.S. provide increased, sustained resources for development of the Iraqi and Afghan airpower, because the greater the emphasis on building these capabilities now, the faster indigenous air forces will be able to operate independently and the operational demands on the U.S. Air Force will diminish. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG681.pdf [PDF format, 183 pages].

GETTING IN SYNC: STATE-LOCAL FISCAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY. PEW Center on the States. Mary Shilton et al. July 2008.

Some offenders need to be put in prison while others can be managed safely on probation in the community. But judges and prosecutors often face the difficult task of figuring out what to do with defendants who don't fit cleanly into either group. When the right choice isn't clear, many court

officers say they feel compelled to send offenders to prison because of a lack of confidence or capacity in their community corrections programs. Escalating state prison populations and costs are spurring fresh interest in partnerships that align state and local finances with policy goals.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/sentencing_and_corrections/fiscal_partnerships.pdf

IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Center for Immigration Studies. Leon Kolankiewicz and Steven A. Camarota. Web posted August 17, 2008.

The findings of the study indicate that future levels of immigration will have a significant impact on efforts to reduce global CO2 emissions. Immigration to the United States significantly increases world-wide CO2 emissions because it transfers population from lower-polluting parts of the world to the United States, which is a higher-polluting country. On average immigrants increase their emissions four-fold by coming to America. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.cis.org/articles/2008/back1008.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

IMPROVING TECHNOLOGY UTILIZATION IN ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT AROUND THE WORLD, 2008. Brookings Institution. Darrell M. West. August 17, 2008.

Electronic government offers the promise of utilizing technology to improve public sector performance as well as employing new advances for democracy itself. Unlike traditional bricks and mortar agencies, digital delivery systems are non-hierarchical, non-linear, interactive and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The non-hierarchical character of Internet delivery permits people to look for information at their own convenience. The interactive aspects of e-government allow both citizens and bureaucrats to send as well as receive information. Digital government has the potential to transform governmental efficiency, transparency, citizen trust and political participation in transitional democracies. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/0817_egovernment_west/0817_egovernment_west.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages].

INTELLIGENCE REFORM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY: POLICY ISSUES AND ORGANIZATIONAL ALTERNATIVES. Congressional Research Service, RL34595, Library of Congress. Alfred Cumming. August 12, 2008.

In 2006, Congress temporarily consolidated separate counterintelligence (CI) offices at the Department of Energy and the National Security Administration (NNSA) into a single CI office under DOE control. DOE had complained that the dual office structure was ineffective. At the same time, in 2006, DOE combined its separate Offices of Intelligence, and Counterintelligence into a new DOE office called the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence. The report analyzes both consolidations; the first authorized by Congress at DOE's request and the second initiated by DOE, and examines the impact of each on the effectiveness of the Department's CI program.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/RL34595.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

IS DIETARY KNOWLEDGE ENOUGH?: HUNGER, STRESS, AND OTHER ROADBLOCKS TO HEALTHY EATING. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Lisa Mancino

and Jean Kinsey. August 2008.

Poor diets and rising obesity rates among Americans persist despite increased public awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. The report presents a consumer demand model to illustrate how both long-term health objectives and immediate visceral influences, long intervals between meals and eating away from home, can drive individuals' food choices.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR62/ERR62.pdf> [PDF format, 29 pages].

IS THE COST OF GAS LEADING AMERICANS TO USE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION? [AARP Public Policy Institute]. Laura Skufca. Web posted August 13, 2008.

The survey examines older Americans' perceptions of their communities, their support for complete street policies, and the likelihood of their using alternative transportation as gasoline prices rise. Results from this survey of Americans age 50 and older show, that while many are exploring other means of transportation, neighborhood infrastructure is less than optimal. Four in ten respondents (40%) said they have walked more frequently, rode a bicycle, or used public transportation since gas prices have risen. More than one-quarter of respondents (29%) indicated that they are walking more frequently to get where they need to go. Almost all respondents are concerned about gas prices. More than two-thirds of respondents (67%) have limited their daily driving and more than six in ten (61%) have cut back on other expenses in order to accommodate high gas prices. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/gas_costs.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages].

ISLAMIC FINANCE: OVERVIEW AND POLICY CONCERNS. Congressional Research Service, RS22931, Library of Congress. Shayerah Ilias. Web posted August 15, 2008.

Islamic finance is based on principles of *shariah*, or "Islamic law." Major principles of *shariah* are a ban on interest, a ban on uncertainty, adherence to risk sharing and profit-sharing, promotion of ethical investments that enhance society, and asset-backing. The international market for Islamic finance has grown 10% to 15% annually in recent years. Critics of Islamic finance express concerns about possible ties between Islamic finance and political agendas or terrorist financing and the use of Islamic finance to circumvent U.S. economic sanctions. Proponents argue that Islamic finance presents significant new business opportunities and provides alternate methods for capital formation and economic development.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS22931.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

JOURNALISTS' PRIVILEGE: OVERVIEW OF THE LAW AND LEGISLATION IN THE 109TH AND 110TH CONGRESSES. Congressional Research Service, RL34193, Library of Congress. Henry Cohen and Kathleen Ann Ruane. Web posted August 20, 2008.

The Supreme Court holds that the First Amendment did not provide even a qualified privilege for journalists to refuse "to appear and testify before state or federal grand juries." However, 49 states have adopted a journalists' privilege in various types of proceedings. Journalists have no privilege in federal proceedings. On July 6, 2005, a federal district court in Washington, DC, found Judith Miller of the New York Times in contempt of court for refusing to cooperate in a grand jury investigation relating to the leak of the identity of an undercover CIA agent. The court ordered Ms. Miller to serve time in jail. Ms. Miller spent 85 days in jail. She secured her release only after her informant gave her permission to reveal his identity. Congress has considered creating a journalists' privilege for federal proceedings, and bills to adopt a journalists' privilege have been

introduced in the 109th and 110th Congresses, in both the House and the Senate.
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/secrecy/RL34193.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages].

KEY NEWS AUDIENCES NOW BLEND ONLINE AND TRADITIONAL SOURCES. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 17, 2008.

For more than a decade, the audiences for most traditional news sources have steadily declined, as the number of people getting news online has surged. However, today it is not a choice between traditional sources and the internet for the core elements of today's news audiences. A sizable minority of Americans, who are integrators, those who get the news from both traditional sources and the internet, are a more engaged, sophisticated and demographically sought-after audience segment than those who mostly rely on traditional news sources. They are older, on average, than those who consider the internet their main source of news. Overall, Integrators spend more time with the news on a typical day than do those who rely more on either traditional or internet sources. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/444.pdf> [PDF format, 129 pages].

THE LOOMING CRISIS: DISPLACEMENT AND SECURITY IN IRAQ. Brookings Institute. Elizabeth G. Ferris. August 2008.

Lost in discussions of the military surge, the pace of troop draw downs, and political benchmarks are millions of displaced Iraqi women, children, and men. Their plight is both a humanitarian tragedy and a strategic crisis that is not being addressed. The U.S. administration officials may acknowledge it as an important issue but lack a serious long-term plan to address the crisis. Present and future Iraqi displacement has the potential to change the Middle East landscape in unpredictably adverse ways. But if the U.S. government, the U.N. system, and the non-governmental world do not think strategically about Iraqi displacement, the implications for security in the region could be equally far-reaching. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/08_iraq_ferris/08_iraq_ferris.pdf [PDF format, 53 pages].

MEDICAL TOURISM: CONSUMERS IN SEARCH OF VALUE. Deloitte Center for Health Solutions. Web posted August 8, 2008.

The impact of rising U.S. health care costs is prompting increasing numbers of consumers to consider outbound medical tourism as a viable care option. In 2007, an estimated 750,000 Americans traveled abroad for medical care; this number is anticipated to increase to 6 million by 2010. Concurrently, inbound medical tourism and medical tourism across state lines continue to present opportunities for specialty hubs offering treatments unavailable elsewhere in the world or in a community setting. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us_chs_MedicalTourismStudy%281%29.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages].

AN OLDER AND MORE DIVERSE NATION BY MIDCENTURY. U.S. Census Bureau. August 14, 2008.

The nation will be more racially and ethnically diverse, as well as much older, by mid-century, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Minorities, now roughly one-third of the U.S. population, are expected to become the majority in 2042, with the nation projected to be 54 percent minority

in 2050. By 2023, minorities will comprise more than half of all children. In 2030, when all of the baby boomers will be 65 and older, nearly one in five U.S. residents is expected to be 65 and older. This age group is projected to increase to 88.5 million in 2050, more than doubling the number in 2008 (38.7 million). Similarly, the 85 and older population is expected to more than triple, from 5.4 million to 19 million between 2008 and 2050.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/012496.html> [HTML format, various paging].

OPEC REVENUES FACT SHEET. Energy Information Administration. Web posted August 12, 2008.

Energy Information Administration estimates that members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) earned \$671 billion in net oil export revenues in 2007, a 10 percent increase from 2006. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$194 billion, representing 29 percent of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earning reached \$1,137, an 8 percent increase from 2006. Through July, OPEC had earned an estimated \$642 billion in net oil export earnings in 2008. [Note: contains copyrighted material] http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/Factsheet.html [HTML format, various paging].

RUSSIA-GEORGIA CONFLICT IN SOUTH OSSETIA: CONTEXT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. INTERESTS. Congressional Research Service, RL34618, Library of Congress. Jim Nichol. August 13, 2008.

In the early 1990s, Georgia and its breakaway South Ossetia region had agreed to a Russian-mediated ceasefire agreement that provided for Russian "peacekeepers" to be stationed in the region. Long-time tensions erupted on August 7, 2008, when South Ossetia and Georgia accused each other of launching intense artillery barrages against each other. Russia launched large-scale air attacks across Georgia and dispatched seasoned troops to South Ossetia that engaged Georgian forces in Tskhinvali later in the day. On August 12, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Joseph Biden warned Russia that its aggression in Georgia jeopardized Congressional support for legislation to collaborate with Russia on nuclear energy production and to repeal the Jackson-Vanik conditions on U.S. trade with Russia.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34618.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

RUSSIAN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SECURITY ISSUES AND U.S. INTERESTS.

Congressional Research Service, RL33407, Library of Congress. Stuart D. Goldman. Web posted August 20, 2008.

Dmitry Medvedev, Putin's chosen successor and long-time protege, was elected President of the Russian Federation on March 2, 2008 with about 70% of the vote. The economic upturn that began in 1999 is continuing. However, some major problems remain with 15% of the population lives below the poverty line and foreign investment is relatively low. Further, inflation, crime, corruption, capital flight, and unemployment remain high. Russian foreign policy has grown more self-confident, assertive and anti-western, fueled by its perceived status as an "energy superpower." Washington and Moscow have found some common ground on the Iranian and North Korean nuclear concerns, but tension increases on other issues such as NATO

enlargement, Kosovo, and proposed U.S. missile defenses in Eastern Europe.
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33407.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

SUITS AGAINST TERRORIST STATES BY VICTIMS OF TERRORISM. Congressional Research Service, RL31258, Library of Congress. Jennifer K. Elsea. Web posted [August 10, 2008](#).

In 1996 Congress amended the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA) to allow U.S. victims of terrorism to sue designated State sponsors of terrorism for their terrorist acts. The courts have handed down large judgments against the terrorist State defendants, generally in default, and successive Administrations have intervened to block the judicial attachment of frozen assets to satisfy judgments. The report provides background on the doctrine of State immunity and the FSIA.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL31258_20080731.pdf [PDF format, 80 pages].

SITUATION REPORT, RUSSO-GEORGIAN CONFLICT. Institute for the Study of War. Frederick W. Kagan. August 11, 2008.

On August 12, President Medvedev told Defense Minister Anatolii Serdiukov and Chief of the General Staff Nikolai Makarov that he has decided to terminate the operation compelling the Georgian forces to peace. Medvedev told Sarkozy, the French President, that “the final resolution of the situation is possible on two conditions: the return of Georgian forces to their starting positions and the signature of a legally binding document about the non-use of force.”

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounders/situation-report-russo-georgian-conflict> [HTML format, various paging].

STANDING DOWN AS IRAQ STANDS UP. Brookings Institute. Stephen Biddle et al. August 7, 2008.

The Iraq war has become one of the most polarizing issues in American politics. Most Democrats, including Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.), want large, early troop cuts; most Republicans, including Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.), want U.S. troops to stay until Iraq’s stability is guaranteed. A series of positive developments in the past year and a half offers hope that the desire of so many Americans to bring the troops home can be fulfilled without leaving Iraq in chaos. The right approach, in other words, can partly square Obama’s goal of redeploying large numbers of U.S. forces sooner rather than later with McCain’s goal of ensuring stability in Iraq.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.brookings.edu/articles/2008/09_iraq_ohanlon.aspx [HTML various paging]. [PDF format, 8 pages].

STATE GOVERNMENTS’ USE OF HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT FUNDS. United States Election Assistance Commission. Web posted July 22, 2008.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission has delivered a report to Congress on state government spending of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds, which amounts to nearly three billion dollars. States have spent 67 percent of it and the 64 percent of the spent went toward acquiring and administering voting system technology.

http://www.eac.gov/election/HAVA%20Funds/docs/2007-report-on-hava-spending-by-states/attachment_download/file [PDF format, 40 pages].

STRONG AS THE WEAKEST LINK: MEDICAL RESPONSE TO A CATASTROPHIC EVENT.

National Health Policy Forum. Eileen Salinsky. Web posted August 14, 2008.

Natural disasters and acts of terrorism have placed a spotlight on the ability of health care providers to surge in response to catastrophic conditions. The paper reviews the status of efforts to develop the capacity and capabilities of the health care system to respond to disasters and other mass casualty events. Strategies for adapting routine medical practices and protocols to the demands posed by extraordinary circumstances and scarce resources are summarized. Existing federal roles, responsibilities, and assets relative to the contributions of state and local government and the private sector are described, including specific programmatic activities such as the Strategic National Stockpile, the National Disaster Medical System, and the Hospital Preparedness Program. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.nhpf.org/pdfs_bp/BP65_SurgeCapacity_08-08-08.pdf [PDF format, 30 pages].

“THEY BEAT ME LIKE A DOG”: POLITICAL PERSECUTION OF OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS AND SUPPORTERS IN ZIMBABWE. Human Rights Watch. Web posted August 12, 2008.

The report is based on eyewitness accounts from newly elected MDC Members of Parliament (MPs), councilors, activists, perceived MDC supporters and others to demonstrate the serious nature of abuses committed by ZANU-PF supporters and government-backed youth militia and “war veterans” in the weeks leading up to the June 27 presidential runoff. These abuses include killings, beatings, abductions and torture. The government has made little effort to dismantle the torture camps and bases that it established in the immediate aftermath of the March 29 elections. The continued existence of these camps and armed ZANU-PF supporters raises the possibility of further violence and highlights the precarious nature of the human rights situation in the country.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://hrw.org/reports/2008/zimbabwe0808/zimbabwe0808web.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages].

THE UNPAID CARE WORK-PAID WORK CONNECTION. Levy Economic Institute, Bard College. Rania Anonopoulos. Web posted August 6, 2008.

The gender-based wage differentials and occupational segregation continue to characterize the division of labor among men and women in paid work. However, unpaid work in social reproduction, subsistence production, family businesses, and the community is often ignored. Beyond the obvious gender inequalities, unpaid work constitutes an integral part of any functioning economy, and as such is linked to economic growth, government policy, migration, and many development issues. The paper concludes that gender equality must be understood through the paid–unpaid work continuum. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_541.pdf [PDF format, 96 pages].

WILDLIFE 2060: WHAT’S AT STAKE FOR FLORIDA? Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Web posted August 15, 2008.

If Florida’s population doubles during the next five decades, as the report predicts, about 7 million additional acres of land could be converted from rural and natural to urban uses. Nearly 3 million acres of existing agricultural lands and 2.7 million acres of native habitat will be claimed by roads,

shopping malls and subdivisions. The addition of 18 million new residents to Florida will intensely heighten the competition between wildlife and humans for land and water resources. For the most part, the animals and fish that currently live in these habitats will disappear. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://myfwc.com/Wildlife2060/Docs/FWC2060.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

YOU DON'T NEED A HOME TO VOTE! National Coalition for the Homeless. Web posted August 20, 2008.

Equal access to the right to vote is a crucial part of maintaining a true democracy. Voting allows people to play a part in deciding the direction of their communities by voicing their opinion on issues that are important and relevant to their lives. Each election, low income and homeless individuals vote at a lower rate than people with higher incomes. For years, homeless citizens have had obstacles to registering. The manual provides ideas to help overcome the many obstacles and outlines multiple strategies to register, educate, and mobilize voters. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/vote/Manual_2009.pdf [PDF format, 45 pages].

ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

NEW WORLD ORDER (National Interest, no. 96, July-August 2008, pp. 8-40)

A special series of articles in this issue of National Interest is devoted to the unprecedented challenges facing humanity in the decades ahead. In the introductory article A USER'S GUIDE TO THE CENTURY, Jeffrey D. Sachs believes that this is now a time of shared prosperity and also the risk of global conflict. Population growth, the emergence of the global economy and growing consumption are placing growing strain on the biosphere and natural resources, and are resulting in growing inequalities of wealth and power. Sachs believes that it is urgent to control population growth, introduce sustainable technologies to reduce the consumption of non-renewable resources, protect biodiversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce grinding poverty in vulnerable developing countries, and a new method of governance to address these problems. Daniel Altman in MO' MONEY, MO' PROBLEMS notes that rising incomes have resulted in large increases in food, energy and commodity prices worldwide. In FEEDING FRENZY, Javier Blas writes that the global food crisis has the potential for serious political instability. In PANDEMIC PANDEMONIUM, Josh Ruxin notes that infectious diseases are a continuing threat, due to pressing public-health problems in many parts of the world, porous borders and the unprecedented amount of global travel. Finally, Neil Howe and Richard Jackson in BATTLE OF THE (YOUTH) BULGE look at long-term demographic pressures in the developing world and industrialized countries.

THE CHANGING NEWSROOM (Journalism.org, posted July 21, 2008)

In all aspects, ranging from staffing to content, American newspapers are changing at a dizzying rate. In a survey of more than 250 local and national papers, the Project for Excellence in Journalism details developments such as the decline of independent foreign and national news coverage and the rise of mobile journalists deployed to send in video footage for the paper's Web site. The analysis of its survey results gives a comprehensive look at the state of U.S. newspapers today and a glimpse into their uncertain future. Available online at <http://www.journalism.org/node/11961>

Emmett, Arielle **HANDHELD HEADLINES** (American Journalism Review, vol. 30, no. 4, August/September 2008)

News organizations are pinning their hopes of survival on producing content aimed at consumers using cell phones and other mobile devices, but so far the results of their efforts are inconclusive. Mobile news is currently only a tiny share of the market, and users tend to be young, sophisticated and interested only in information of immediate use to themselves and which is easily attainable with just a few clicks. As of now, the most successful publishers of mobile content are the most focused -- "channelized", in industry jargon -- to the needs of select audiences. Currently available online at <http://www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4582>

Leake, Jonathan **CAPTAINS' LOGS YIELD CLIMATE CLUES** (Sunday Times/London, August 3, 2008)

Thousands of British Royal Navy logbooks that have survived from the 17th century onward are emerging as one of the world's best sources for long-term weather data. The discovery was made by a group of British academics and U.K. Meteorological Office scientists who are seeking new ways to plot historic changes in climate. A preliminary study of 6,000 logbooks has produced results that raise questions about climate change and whether natural variations or people are responsible for short-term warming and cooling. The ships' logs also shed light on extreme weather events like hurricanes. Currently available online at <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article4449527.ece?print=yes&randnum=1217852177312>

Schwartz, Mattathias **MALWEBOLENCE: THE WORLD OF WEB TROLLING** (New York Times Magazine, August 3, 2008, pp. 24-29)

The author explores one of the unfortunate side effects of the Internet, a growing subculture of "trolls" who intentionally disrupt online communities. Incidents of Web trolling increasingly involve harassing strangers and hacking into web sites of nonprofit organizations. To help counter this, U.S. Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-Calif.) introduced the Megan Meier Cyberbullying Prevention Act, which would make it a federal crime to send any communications with intent to cause "substantial emotional distress."

Scocca, Tom **TRUE OR FALSE: CHINA IS FIT TO PLAY HOST** (New York Times Magazine, August 3, 2008, pp. 17-21)

Perhaps the most watched, and controversial, event of 2008 is the Olympic Games in Beijing. Along with thousands of athletes, proponents of very different causes will also be competing for the world's attention, among them advocates for human rights, open media, and environmental quality in China. The author cites the many critics of China's environmental and human-rights record, who believe that China should never have been allowed to host the Olympics; but he notes that some previous Olympic host countries have perpetrated similar abuses. In addressing the charge that China will abandon its efforts to keep the air clean in Beijing after the Games are over, Scocca writes that preparations for the Olympics "are like tidying your house in a hurry before company comes over -- this is not the way you live every day" -- but it could be "you are showing them how you would live, if things were different."

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Rubin, Jeff; Buchanan, Peter **OPEC: SOLUTION OR PART OF THE PROBLEM?** (CIBC World Markets, July 30, 2008, pp. 4-7)

The Middle East oil exporters are cutting back their petroleum exports, due to rising domestic consumption, a trend that could squeeze global oil supplies and drive prices up further. Energy analysts Jeff Rubin and Peter Buchanan write that crude exports from the region fell by more than 700,000 barrels per day in 2007. They predict the exports will fall by another 1 million barrels per day by 2012. "If world oil markets are to see future supply growth, it won't be coming from OPEC," they write. The biggest reduction came from Saudi Arabia, more than 600,000 barrels a day, followed by Iran, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Their cuts were offset by modest increases from Iraq, Libya and Algeria. The Middle East exporters are cutting their

exports because of rising domestic demand. Daily consumption in the region climbed by some 300,000 barrels in 2007, similar to the increase by China, with four times the population of the Middle East. Huge water desalination plants in Saudi Arabia, industrialization of the U.A.E., and subsidized electricity and fuel prices are among the factors creating in the region one of the most energy-intensive life-styles in the world. Available online at http://research.cibcwm.com/economic_public/download/feature1.pdf

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Biddle, Stephen; O'Hanlon, Michael; Pollack, Kenneth HOW TO LEAVE A STABLE IRAQ (Foreign Affairs, vol. 87, no. 5, September/October 2008)

The prognosis for positive change in Iraq is much more encouraging these days, the authors say, and the U.S. may be able start cutting back its troop presence starting in 2010. Sunni insurgents and extremists and the Shiite militias have either suffered crippling military defeat or have stood down and agreed to cease-fires. The Iraqi security forces (ISF) have grown more capable, reliable and credible, as has the Iraqi National Police. Although tensions remain severe, Iraqi political life is changing for the better, and the Iraqi people are rejecting the militias. If no longer a "failed state," Iraq is certainly a fragile one. Immediate challenges, the authors say, remain in integrating the Sons of Iraq into the ISF, dealing with returning refugees and internally displaced people, improving the Iraqi central government's administrative capacity and the country's economic progress, and preventing Kurdish-Arabic upheaval in Kirkuk. Given the hopeful circumstances of today, all-out civil war or a wider regional war can be avoided, the authors say. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20080901faessay87503/stephen-biddle-michael-e-o-hanlon-kenneth-m-pollack/how-to-leave-a-stable-iraq.html>

Byman, Daniel ROGUE OPERATORS (National Interest, no. 96, July-August 2008, pp. 52-59) According to Byman, director of the Center for Peace and Security Studies at Georgetown University and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, the terrorist threats the U.S. faces are hard to categorize — they are neither traditional terrorist groups nor state sponsors. Byman notes that the real problem is that "weaknesses within states and their governments' desires to bolster their security often result in an inability to rein in societies' darkest undercurrents." Despite all the talk about non-state actors or networked organizations, states are still at the core of the war on terror; frequently, the problem is passivity or lack of action on the part of governments. Some examples Byman cites of efforts that have backfired are Saudi Arabia's funding of extremist religious institutions; Pakistan's support of the Taliban; Iran funding groups that ended up battling its own favored proxies in Iraq; and jihadist fighters from Yemen returning to Iraq after being arrested and "reeducated". Byman argues that the U.S. has to accept that "state sponsorship" can often be something that occurs at the substate level, and that we need to engage local bureaucracies directly.

Chollet, Derek; Goldgeier, James MCCAIN'S CHOICE (National Interest, no. 96, July/August 2008, pp. 68-72)

While the future direction of American diplomacy hangs in the balance, neoconservatives and realists are battling on the Republican foreign policy agenda. Senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Derek Chollet, and senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, James Goldgeier, offer an inside look at the struggle for the foreign policy strategy of the Republican Party. Presidential candidate John McCain describes himself as a "realistic idealist" and would rely on U.S. leadership of a multilateral organization based on a community of values. Standing up for values should remain an important part of foreign policy, but a future McCain administration must also be willing to compromise in order to make progress in several areas around the globe. Currently available online at <http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=18692>

Friedman, George MEDITERRANEAN FLYOVER: TELEGRAPHING AN ISRAELI PUNCH? (Investors Insight, posted August 7, 2008)

According to Friedman, an analyst at Stratfor, Israel's widely publicized June military exercise using more than 100 aircraft in the eastern Mediterranean raises a number of questions about

U.S. and Israeli intent about attacking Iran. Raising doubts about a number of possible explanations, Friedman speculates that the likeliest explanation is an obvious one that Iran's government itself asserted: The United States and Israel are waging psychological warfare for political reasons, suggesting to Iranians that their President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has led his country into a dangerous situation. Friedman writes, "We tend toward the view that this is psychological warfare for the simple reason that you don't launch a surprise attack of the kind necessary to take out Iran's nuclear program with a media blitz beforehand." Available online at http://www.investorsinsight.com/blogs/john_mauldins_outside_the_box/archive/2008/08/07/mediterranean-flyover-telegraphing-an-israeli-punch.aspx

Potter, William; Mukhatzhanova, Gaukhar DIVINING NUCLEAR INTENTIONS: A REVIEW ESSAY (International Security, vol. 33, no. 1, Summer 2008, pp.139-169)

The authors note that, although projections of nuclear proliferation abound, they rarely are founded on empirical research or guided by theory. Even fewer studies are informed by a comparative perspective. The two books reviewed, THE PSYCHOLOGY OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION: IDENTITY, EMOTIONS, AND FOREIGN POLICY, by Jacques Hymans, and NUCLEAR LOGICS: ALTERNATIVE PATHS IN EAST ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, by Etel Solingen, are welcome exceptions, and represent the cutting edge of nonproliferation research. Both works challenge conventional conceptions of the sources of nuclear weapons decisions and offer new insights into why past predictions of rapid proliferation failed to materialize and why current prognoses about rampant proliferation are similarly flawed. While sharing a number of common features, including a focus on factors determining national behavior, the books differ in their methodology, level of analysis, multi-causal explanations, and assumptions about the rationality of decision-makers and the revolutionary nature of the decision. The authors differ over the importance of the individual leader's national identity conception in determining a state's nuclear path, or whether nuclear decisions are primarily made with regard to the political-economic orientation of the ruling coalition. The books represent the best of contemporary social science research and provide compelling interpretations of nuclear proliferation dynamics of great relevance to scholars and policymakers alike.

Yglesias, Matthew THE ACCIDENTAL FOREIGN POLICY (The Atlantic, vol. 301, no. 5, June 2008, pp. 28-30)

Yglesias, Atlantic Monthly associate editor, focuses on the foreign policy views of 2008 U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama, and on American public opinion of Obama's foreign policy views. Obama demonstrates a new approach to foreign policy by indicating a willingness to hold direct negotiations with leaders of rogue states, commit to eventual global nuclear disarmament, balance American military priorities toward Afghanistan, soften the embargo on Cuba and widen the focus of democracy promotion to include other development goals, with the objective of more effectively preventing terrorist recruitment. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200806/yglesias-obama>

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

END-OF-LIFE CARE: INTO THE SUNSET (Economist, July 31, 2008)

The hospice movement is dedicated to caring for, rather than trying to cure, the terminally ill. This idea of limiting care to physical and emotional pain relief for people with identifiably fatal diseases is widely accepted. But now questions are arising about the appropriate way to deal with elderly people who will never be well, but have no idea when they will die. A common gripe about American nursing homes is that their residents are still all too likely to be rushed off to hospital as they begin to die. Some reasons for this are legal, but all too often nursing home staff do not share "the live-and-let-die convictions of the hospice movement." What is needed, the author says, is honest, extensive discussions on palliative care for the elderly — both among health care workers as well as with the general public. Currently available online at http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11848584

Abramsky, Sasha WHEN PRISON GUARDS GO SOFT (Mother Jones, July/August 2008)
Mike Jimenez, head of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, the nation's largest prison guards' union, says that five years ago, his group was riding high as one of the most powerful labor unions in California. The CCPOA had a tough-on-crime stance, supporting like-minded politicians and backing strong legislation, and derailing campaigns of political candidates that crossed them. However, the CCPOA is at a crossroads; it is recommending stances that it once would have derided as dangerously liberal, such as rolling back some mandatory minimum sentencing, restoring judges' discretion over sentencing, and giving corrections officers more input in setting parole dates. It also advocated spending more on sick and mentally ill inmates, as well as reentry programs for parolees. Jimenez, a stalwart Republican, acknowledges that much of his change of mind came about because of events in his family — his 19-year-old son was involved in drugs and ran afoul of the law. He says that the experience was “assembly-line justice ... Nobody's willing to forgive anymore. And we are willing to lock people up for unreasonable periods of time.” This article is part of a series, SLAMMED, on the U.S. prison system, and can be found online at <http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2008/07/slammed-taming-of-the-screws.html>

Carlson, Scott COLLEGES SHOULD PLAN — AND TEACH — FOR AN OIL-SCARCE WORLD (Chronicle of Higher Education, July 10, 2008)
The looming global energy crisis will affect all facets of modern life — including colleges, points out the author. As with most large institutions, modern colleges are very energy-intensive, are not always closely connected with the local community in which they are located, and draw students from a wide geographic area, resulting in long commutes. Most colleges plan to be around in the next several decades, so Carlson says that they need to fundamentally rethink all aspects of their operations — how buildings are heated and cooled, how food is delivered and prepared, what courses are offered. Coming generations may live in a world vastly different from the present day, so “colleges that offer an education that equips students to live in that world will remain relevant.” Currently available online at <http://chronicle.com/free/2008/07/3746n.htm>

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